

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Allan Gee [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 January 2016 1:36 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Racing Queensland Bill submission

Attention Research Director,

[REDACTED]

I would like to put forward my submission/thoughts on the upcoming Bill for Queensland Racing, I do hope it is rejected as proposed and that some more input from more qualified people is included before it gains any legs moving forwards.....

I am a current Board Member of the Toowoomba Turf Club.
 I currently have a minimum of 4 (four) horses in training with Toowoomba/Brisbane horse trainers.
 I currently breed 1 (one) mare per season to a Queensland sire.
 I have been a registered Strapper with Queensland racing for the past 25 years.

My problem with the new bill is as follows.....

1. If prizemoney cuts are bought in across the board (14%), then the industry in Toowoomba will suffer accordingly. Studies have shown over the years that Toowoomba Turf Club is responsible for approx.. 1600 jobs in the Toowoomba region (this number includes associated industry outside of the TTC staff) and if you subtracted 14% from this figure the industry would lose approx. 224 jobs. Many of these jobs revolve around a specialised/unemployable field of people, that would create a large hole in the Toowoomba economy.
2. If Country Racing is included in any funding/prizemoney cuts, the future of Country Racing in Queensland will be in great jeopardy. Currently in Queensland , country racing has been given a boost by previous administrators and that has meant a boon for country trainers/ jockeys and race clubs. Queensland is a vast state, which incorporates many small Country clubs, and with the decimation of country racing, you also see a lot of small country towns be decimated by the end result. Most Queensland country towns rely/incorporate their race meetings as the highlight of their year. Examples are Mitchell, Roma, Longreach, Birdsville, Betoota, Miles, Pentland, Charters Towers and the list goes on.
3. I strongly disagree that a Racing Queensland board be made up of people/members that have no racing experience. Racing Queensland and its participants/stake holders are a very specialised and diverse group of people. From administrators to stable hands, it requires many years/months/weeks/hours of practise and experience to understand. Also, I disagree that 1 (one) board should be in charge of 3 (three) codes of Racing Queensland. As previously expressed in the media and elsewhere, just imagine if 1(one) Board was in charge of NRL, AFL, and Soccer Australia or Tennis Australia, Badminton Australia and Squash Australia, you can see what I am trying to portray.

Please accept my submission as one of a NO vote for the Bill being put forward,

Thank you,

Allan Gee

Allan Gee Dip. FMGT
 Finance/Mortgage Broker

Allan Gee Financial Services

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