

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Robert Heathcote [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 January 2016 4:46 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: QUEENSLAND RACING INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL

Submission to the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hello, I have been a thoroughbred racehorse trainer in Queensland for 19 years. During this time I have seen a number of changes to my industry and unfortunately they have not always been good for the industry.

On this occasion the proposed introduction of the Racing Integrity bill will be the worst decision I have seen since I came into the Industry. I beg this government to come to your senses and not bring this in.

Ok, the Racing Industry was rocked with the Live Baiting Scandal and whilst I agree that drastic measure's had to be taken with that racing code, your dismantling of the Thoroughbred and Harness codes has been disastrous. Address the issues with in the Greyhound code but the systematic dismantling of an entire industry has been unbelievable.

This time last year there was confidence going forward of which I had not seen for many years and this confidence has been seriously eroded by the decisions of this current government and arguably the lack of decisions going forward.

The labor government commissioned the McSporran Report in response to the live baiting scandal but I plead with you not to accept the recommendations of this report as they are simply wrong!

Throw the report in the bin, its ill-conceived by a well-meaning commissioner who simply does not have the understanding or the expertise to help the racing Industry going forward.

Split the 3 racing codes up and allow them to govern and administrate themselves with a board of proven and passionate racing people. The proposed makeup of the new board borders on being childish as well as stupid.

Please allow us to look after our own industry . Government influence has sadly had too much control.

We are passionate about our industry and proud of what it means to the many, many thousands involved both at the front line and the many thousands who indirectly benefit from the industry be it through employment or the pleasure of having a punt.

I believe the racing industry is good for the economy but I simply fail to understand what appears to be the foolish decisions made by this present government and the total undermining of all confidence going forward.

Would you please listen to the industry and do what we want and not stubbornly follow this ill-conceived report because it might not look good for the government.

I employ 20 something staff, I invest heavily in the industry regularly with purchase of new yearlings to bring new owners into the industry which benefits all.....

Why do you want to do the entire industry so much harm?..... Is it because you just don't understand Racing?...

If so, admit your errors, help us fix it? Please listen to us! I purposefully did not want to go into the corporate/governance issues with this bill, just to make my point as a leading participant in the industry that this proposed bill is just WRONG !

Robert Heathcote. Licensed No 1 Thoroughbred trainer Brisbane

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