

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 January 2016 8:15 AM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: QUEENSLAND RACING INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL

Good Morning,

I write in support of the Queensland Racing Unity Group's (QRUG) submission opposing the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Bill.

My comments are based on my experience in the roles of President Longreach Jockey Club and 10 years of commentating on country racing via Radio Tab show Bush Beat covering Country racing in Queensland.

Thoroughbred racing is a state wide industry, a huge employer and a great contributor to the local economy. My observations of country racing in the past two years are that it is the strongest it has been for the past 10 years and in many instances has been the social and economic saviour of country towns with record horse acceptances and crowd attendances. It is an integral part of the social and economic fabric of our towns and cities.

I am of the opinion that should this Bill be passed there will be a devastating impact on racing, country race clubs, jockeys, trainers, strappers, owners and local businesses as any disruption to the current schedule of racing will undermine the sustainability of the industry as participants will not have the continuity of race meetings to remain viable. The negative flow on effect especially in country and regional centres will be disastrous especially in areas already struggling with drought conditions.

In Central West and North West Queensland participants already travel up to 1000-1500 kilometre round trips to survive in the industry and any further reductions in the current schedule would drive people from the industry as it would not be sustainable. The geographical location of these areas means that if participants were forced to access racing through the nearest TAB racing venue they would be required to regularly do 2000 kilometre round trips just to participate let alone survive in the industry.

Therefore I am of the opinion this Bill should not be passed.

Kind Regards

Rob Luck

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