

21 January, 2016.

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Westbrook. 4350.

To Whom it May Concern.

Re: Qld Racing Integrity Commission Bill

I wish to express my concern for the future of racing in Qld if the above Bill is passed by the Qld Government.

Since the announcement of provisions in the Bill it has become obvious that nearly all participants in the industry have completely lost confidence in the future of our industry. The cuts in prizemoney will have a devastating effect on all participants as it feeds down through all sectors who rely on the racing industry for their income. Not just trainers, owners, and jockeys, but also farriers, strappers, float operators and drivers, feed merchants and breeders.

The lack of certainty and continuity has sapped the confidence of all, to the extent that most are now reluctant to make further investment in an industry which seems to have become a plaything for those in control. The timing of these changes are going to have a greater impact leading into the March Yearling Sales where owners and trainers are going to be reluctant to invest, and coming just before the start of the Brisbane Winter Racing Carnival.

The importance of racing to smaller country and regional towns cannot be overstated, and any loss of dates or prizemoney in those areas will be devastating to those communities.

The re-opening of Eagle Farm was set to further revitalise the industry and almost certainly lead to an increase in wagering turnover which would have mitigated against any further decline in Racing Qld's financial position.

I urge all concerned to show restraint in implementing changes to an industry which is one of the state's largest employers, and one which can contribute much to the financial and social fabric of the whole community, particularly in country and regional areas.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Russell.