

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: tony carlton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 21 May 2007 12:38 AM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Subject: [REDACTED] QLD RACING INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Tony Carlton, a licensed bookmaker based at the Gold Coast Turf Club. I have been involved in the Racing Industry all my adult life in various capacities, including bookmaking, bookmaker clerking, organiser of social events based on the race day experience and simply a racing devotee.

I wish to express in the strongest possible terms my thorough dismay and total opposition to the proposed QLD Racing Integrity Commission Bill.

One of my greatest passions in racing is COUNTRY RACING. As a bookmaker I love visiting and fielding at various country racetracks. This is the real fibre of racing. Indeed many small communities rely on racing as the hub of social interaction and community spirit. I have witnessed first hand racing in some of the most remote locations of the state during the 5 years I was based in Mt Isa. My visits to racetracks at places like Cloncurry, Gregory Downs, Birdsville, Julia Creek, Camooweel and of course "The Isa", remain to this day great memories. I fear for places such as these if the proposed bill is passed in its current state. This **WILL** have a devastating effect on these racing communities as many will cease to exist as a racing venue. **THE PRESERVATION OF ALL COUNTRY RACE CLUBS MUST BE A PRIORITY OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION.**

Closer to home proposed prizemoney reductions will savage clubs like the Gold Coast. As you would be aware racing over the border in NSW racing is thriving with the soon to be introduced \$20k minimum per race at every TAB meeting. One does not need to think too hard to imagine the ramifications of this, especially with QLD proposing reduced levels. Leading trainers such as Matthew Dunn will simply target NSW events with their horses, thus significantly reducing field quantity and quality, which ultimately will lead to significant downturn in betting turnover which is the lifeblood of racing.

I urge the current bill proposal to be thoroughly reconsidered.

Yours Sincerely

Tony Carlton
QLD Bookmaker
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