



22 January 2016

Our ref: PB:KM
Your ref:

Submission to the Agriculture and Environment Committee
Via email – aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,


RE: SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE SUNSHINE COAST TURF CLUB IN RELATION TO THE RACING INTEGRITY BILL 2015



Our view is that the Racing Integrity Bill should be withdrawn and/or defeated for the following reasons:-

1. The enquiry that was undertaken by Commissioner MacSporran was in relation to a very minute part of the Racing industry as a whole.
2. As you know it was in respect of the Greyhounds only and he has made recommendations in respect of the Greyhound industry based on his enquiry.
3. There has been no inquiry and no findings made in respect of the Harness and/or Thoroughbred Racing industries.
4. The Thoroughbred industry has been branded, as has the Harness industry been branded with requirements that really relate to the integrity of the Greyhound Racing industry.
5. On this basis the Government has unwisely adopted all of the findings of MacSporran and decided to apply them across the board to all aspects of the Racing industry. This is grossly unfair and unjust to the industry.
6. There are a number of options that might be available to the Government and they are as follows:-
 - a. To keep the existing All Codes structure in place.
 - b. To vary the All Codes structure which it is purporting to do by this Bill but has really failed to take into account that the industry needs to be in control and have control on its own issues.

- c. Integrity needs funding and could be properly funded without the necessity of this elaborate Bill.
 - d. It is possible even for the Government to consider separating the various Codes so that they stand alone.
7. There has been no sufficient or adequate time put into any of these processes.
 8. There is also the current concern that the appointment of former Justice Muir and Ian Hall is not lawful.
 9. In addition to this there is then the concern that the Bill requires the Integrity Commission which is to be set up is to be funded by the Codes. This is just plainly wrong because it is not only the Codes that are subject to the Integrity Commission but its amalgamation of a number of the powers and responsibilities for a number of areas under different Acts and also amalgamation of a Section of the Police Service who all work for the Integrity Commission.
 10. Those costs should be funded by Government as this is an Integrity Commission set up by the State and should not be subjected to funding from the Racing industry. This is a Government cost and the Government should make sure that the Integrity Commission is completely independent. At this stage the Minister can give directions to the Integrity Commission which is simply wrong and opens up the Commission to a view that it is clearly not independent.
 11. There has been no proper or adequate costings of these proposed reforms which are said to be bought about by the Racing Integrity Bill. That is a recipe for disaster and as we know the Racing industry needs to be able to compete with its interstate competitors because if we cannot then the Racing industry will continue to suffer significantly.
 12. The industry needs to have control of itself and if there is to be an Integrity Commission that is a separate arm then that separate arm should be a separate arm of the Government, funded by Government.

These are just some of the matters that are of concern but the real position is that the Bill is not well thought out, has not been the subject to adequate industry consultation before it was prepared and should now be either withdrawn or voted against.

Yours faithfully, 


Peter Boyce
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