

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 22 January 2016 11:53 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: QUEENSLAND RACING INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL

To whom it may concern

I have been involved in the Queensland thoroughbred industry for the last 10 years.

Prior to that, our family was involved in the NSW thoroughbred industry in the 1960s and 70s.

Currently I breed and race horses, predominately in South East Queensland. We have been successful in this venture. We have won a number of provincial and city races including the Toowoomba Weetwood Handicap.

Recently I was in receipt of news on the developments in the NSW racing industry. That has shown what can be achieved with the co-operation of the NSW Government. Increasing prize money in country NSW to \$20,000 per race is just one of the great achievement and will encourage investment and employment in those areas.

Your Governments actions in response to the 4 Corners program on actions within the greyhound industry, when compared to the response of other states involved, was from my position totally unjustified.

On reading the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Bill, it appears that you have no concept of the value of the Racing Industry to the Queensland Economy and have no appreciation as to what effect your decisions will have on the businesses and employees of this Industry. To put at risk the jobs of a large number of people is something I thought your Government would not do. What other Industry employs between 40,000 and 50,000 people. Many of those people are not suited to any other vocation.

I am aware of the views of the Queensland Racing Unity Group and I would totally support their recommendations.

I would hope that you as a Government would realise that your decisions so far have reduced the business confidence within the Industry and that you work with Groups within the Industry, rather than against them as you are currently doing.

Regards

Graeme Thomas

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