

**WOODWINDS @ BENWERRIN**

Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane Qld 4000

**RE: Submissions to the Agriculture and Environment Committee regarding the Racing Integrity Bill**

Dear Sir/Madam,

My family and staff earn their livelihoods providing education, care and breeding services to the Qld Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding industry. I am the immediate Past Treasurer of the Thoroughbred Breeders Queensland Association and I well understand my industry and it's needs.

I do not support the implementation of the Queensland Racing Integrity Bill. I firmly believe that the Government reacted haphazardly to the greyhound live-baiting scandal to the detriment of the thoroughbred and harness racing industries.

Live-baiting was a national issue, and yet in no other state has the other racing codes been penalised. I also believe that the McSparran recommendations were limited to the greyhound industry, and as such, the thoroughbred and harness industries should not be subject to change.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed structure of the All Codes Board. Any organisation, let alone one dealing with millions and millions of dollars, needs a board of experienced leaders. To suggest that only three of the seven members should have racing experience is ludicrous, and could potentially lead to serious mismanagement issues. The racing industry is very unique, and unless you have experience in the industry, there is no way you can understand the costs and problems associated within the industry, nor could you develop sensible and effective plans to move the industry forward, strengthen and grow it.

Any Racing Queensland Board needs to be of members with racing industry experience, combined with strong business and marketing knowledge.


The QRIB suggests that the racing industry fund the Commission. The State Government has been routing a \$28 million blow-out in the industry and is cutting prizemoney and race meetings to compensate for that. They say the industry is struggling financially, yet expect us to pay for this commission – a commission that no-one in the industry even wants! This is a ludicrous and unrealistic suggestion. Funding should be reinvested in prizemoney and not taken for this commission. It would not happen in any other industry, and should not happen here.

I am also very concerned about the proposal to standardise racing. This is unrealistic and would be unworkable. This does not take into account the different size tracks, attendance rates, TAB/Non-TAB meetings and other circumstances that make each race meeting unique. It will certainly spell the end of racing in many areas.

**IN CONCLUSION**

The racing industry has never before been as unified in any cause as it is in the rejection of this Bill, the rejection of the Tracking Towards Sustainability Plan and the current lack of leadership and on-going mismanagement in Racing Queensland.

Surely the state-wide outcry opposing these issues is enough to send alarm bells ringing that there is something desperately wrong with these plans and the direction the industry is heading. Surely that is enough for the sensible members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee to question this Bill. We implore you to take notice of the industry participants, the stakeholders, the grass roots of racing and please withdraw this Bill.

  
Erica Mavis Bates

  
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