

## Agriculture and Environment Committee

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**From:** Fox Helicopters [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 January 2016 2:43 PM  
**To:** Agriculture and Environment Committee  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** Tracking Towards Sustainability

Dear Sir/Madam, On behalf of our committee of The Richmond Turf Club, a non-strategic club Richmond North west Qld , I am writing to express our concerns for our Future as a Country Racing club and a central hub for our community and many of its activities. It is our fear that our club and others will be put in a position with infrastructure and compliance standards that maybe arduous and not relative to our situation. It has been noticed that the intention to cut one scheduled race from our clubs calendar reducing us to three meets a year .

The plan to Initiate Methods of income for clubs like ours seems fruitless if we are to reduce the number of meets we are to run also.

Richmond runs numerous events in association with our Racing Calendar , in fact we have a Major event that we cannot receive a sanctioned Race day for, Our Fossil Festival .A Richmond Shire Council Funded Event It appears that the connection with provincial racing and country has been lost and the understanding that although there are the large events like Birdsville and Roma, Townsville and Mackay, the real country racing is somewhat different,

Our Trainers and Jockeys travel more miles on a weekend to take part in our events than most provincial counterparts would do in a year. The costs associated with the industry is mostly not rewarded by prize money as it stands and further reductions will only reduce numbers of racing participants,.

Therefor it is obvious to Me that the Demise of clubs like ours will be inevitable. Our club through years of diligent administration and hard work has a proud history and a relevance to our community and surrounding districts .The support of our local council for us has also enabled the facility we race at to be maintained to an appropriate standard. Many committee though witnessed this reality first hand during the Bentley/Ludwig era the cuts and demise of our Race days and it is with much concern that history seems to be repeating itself. Strong breeding and Racing sector is good for all animal husbandry standards and long term sustainability

Therefore the following maybe of interest

- 1) The ability of a government in a position of minority to pass a bill with the support of independents who hold the balance of power in seats most affected by these proposed changes may be somewhat difficult. As we lie within the Mt Isa Electorate and many of the disaffected do, support from our independent member Mr Rob Katter, and the member for Charters towers Shane Knute would be hard to secure
- 2) The suggestion that small communities already in states of economic hardship and high unemployment should revenue raise is misinformed and not reflecting of a Sustainability plan that will hold non-strategic clubs futures significance in the community.
- 3) People making the decisions on the QR board now and in the future should represent the industry in all its forms,
- 4) Now is an opportunity to make the correct changes if they are to be made, to ensure the balance and integrity of the administration , The models that work our out in the industry now in other states and revenue is increasing
- 5) Negative thinking for the benefit of the bottom line is dangerous in business , and in administration . Look at successful models and not reinvent the old

Please feel free to supply any feedback to the below numbers at anytime

Kind Regards

**David and Patsy Fox**  
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