

26 January 2016

Queensland Jockeys Association  
Glen Prentice, Secretary  
P O Box 14  
Clayfield  
Qld 4011

Phone: 0414 585922

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed Racing Integrity Bill 2016



## Summary

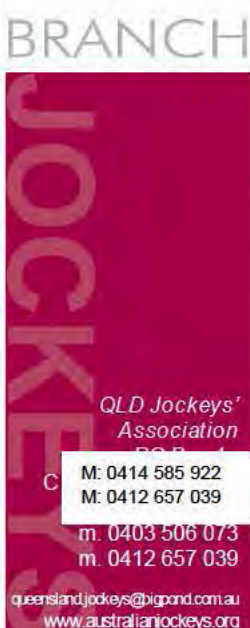
This submission is on behalf of the Queensland Jockeys Association (QJA). The Association represents over 250 members in Queensland and is closely linked to our national body, the Australian Jockeys Association, which represents over 850 members nationally.

The QJA is completely supportive of industry best practices, especially with regards to animal welfare and racing integrity, but not at the cost of the well-being of the hundreds of ethical, hard working, honest and committed participants we represent. Minister Grace has stated that the Government will fund the extra costs relating to the proposed Integrity Bill, but there is no confirmation as to how long these costs will be met by Government. This uncertainty we see as a major concern.

## Points

The McSparran report has included Thoroughbred and Harness into its report when the terms of reference were solely to find out how Live Baiting in Greyhound racing occurred after an investigation exposed these abhorrent practices. Based on the findings of the McSparran report, it is reasonable to conclude that the operating practices for Thoroughbred and Harness were working satisfactorily. As the representative of a significant stakeholder group within the Thoroughbred section of the racing industry, I can convey my members position is that there is not any need to invest somewhere between an additional \$5 and \$8 million relating to Integrity into a section of the industry that has been found to have complied with the rules and regulations that govern it. There appears no potential for a positive return on investment. Any potential benefits that there could possibly result would be outweighed by the enormous additional expenditure that would be incurred should this Bill be adopted.

An area of grave concern would be the proposed methods of reporting, because it appears as though the Industry will have people in charge who have no idea about racing industry practices. This has the potential to be a complete disaster and will be to the detriment of the Industry. There clearly needs to be a Board established comprising people who have a real and strong understanding of the industry. The last thing needed is the establishment





of a body comprising mis-guided “radicals” whose key goal is to ultimately destroy an industry that directly employs 50,000 Queenslanders and indirectly upwards of another 100,000 Queenslanders.

Currently, my members believe we have an Acting CEO whose agenda has been to balance the books to a “nil deficit” by 1 July, 2016. It is our belief that the Acting CEO has displayed little or no regard for the Industry, especially its participants. Our concern is that the cuts to the industry will result in one certain outcome and that will be that it will drive more people away from participating in it. It will not be a sustainable industry and the greatest sufferers will be a large portion of the 50,000 to 150,000 the industry employs directly or indirectly in some capacity. It will put a lot of hard working Queenslanders out of work.

The current position is that we have an Acting CEO who is recommending extraordinary changes to the Industry. These recommendations are being made to a Board comprising just ONE person. The recommendations being made are based on an often reported loss figure of “\$28 million”. However, no evidence of how this figure has been reached has ever been satisfactorily shown or proven to the Industry and its stakeholders. The current position of Racing Qld is that it is operating without a Board. Put as clearly as can be, it is not a democratic or appropriate manner by which to be directing the future of the Queensland Racing Industry and its participants.

The structure of the Board needs to be made with input from the participants of all three codes. It should not be compromised by having Board members included who are bringing an agenda that will lead to a complete downfall of what has been a great industry in Queensland. While there may need to be regulation from outside the Industry, we as participants believe that we are absolutely entitled to be involved in the process of appointing people to the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board and to those key positions relating to the vital role of ensuring the Integrity of Queensland racing.

## Conclusion

This proposed Bill has had no stakeholder input and if it is adopted, yet again Industry participants will have to live with ill-informed people making policy and decisions on vital matters relating to the Integrity of this Industry.

There needs to be far more Industry consultation, where the participants can assist the Integrity Commission with regards to best practice that will result in best outcome. We as participants are the ones who most want the Industry held in the highest regard. We want our product to be considered best practice so as to entice more people into our Industry. When abhorrent acts are viewed by the public, such as the live baiting scandal that rocked racing in Queensland, we support the need for legislation to be introduced by the Government that will rid the industry of participants like this. However, the history of Integrity of the three codes in Queensland has, apart from the Live Baiting scandal, been considered clean and ethical. Everyone in the racing industry is well aware of how imperative it is that there be ethical treatment of racing animals. My members are absolutely aware that our brand is damaged should anyone be involved unethical, dishonest, cruel or fraudulent behavior.

It is the unanimous view of my members here in Queensland, supported by members nationally, that the proposals contained in this Bill will not achieve the goals sought. We strongly believe that persons with experience need to be appointed or there will continue to be ongoing issues that will be to the detriment of the industry and its participants. We believe that as vital stakeholders we should

BRANCH



be provided with an opportunity to be involved in the process. Therefore, the QJA strongly opposes the adoption of the Bill in its current state. There needs to be a clear separation so as not to include the Integrity Bill with the Racing Bill.

Yours faithfully

Glen Prentice  
President  
Queensland Jockeys Association  
0414 585922



QLD  
BRANCH





QLD  
BRANCH

**JOCKEYS'**

*QLD Jockeys' Association*

M: 0414 585 922  
M: 0412 657 039

m. 0403 506 073  
m. 0412 657 039

[queenslandjockeys@bigpond.com.au](mailto:queenslandjockeys@bigpond.com.au)  
[www.australianjockeys.org](http://www.australianjockeys.org)