

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Travis Schultz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 January 2016 4:45 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to the AEC

Dear Research Director

I am providing this brief submission regarding the QLD Racing Integrity Commission Bill because of grave concerns that I have regarding the proposed direction that this bill is taking the racing industry in Queensland.

I have been involved in the industry as an owner for 15 years or so and am currently a board member of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club and I am currently the Chair of the Club's Business Development Committee. These observations are however, made in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the club.

My key concerns are with the respect to the idea that people with no experience in the racing industry are best placed to manage and grow the industry. Would BHP appoint a board with no experience in the mining sector? Would a school appoint as its principal a person who had never worked in a school? Does a political party elect as its leader a person who has never before been in politics? We have a serious confidence issue within the industry and if we allow this to continue we will lose investment in the industry by stakeholders to southern states. Now, more than ever, QLD needs to be preserving jobs; not handing them up to southern "competitors".

And why is it that the thoroughbred industry, despite being the biggest contributor to racing revenue and employment in this state are only going to represent 1/7th of the seats on the board? Is that not asking for minority interests to drive their will, contrary to the interests of the majority?

The cost of this new Commission is not something that the industry should shoulder on its own. The industry didn't ask for this expensive model. We have enough challenges outside of our control (but not outside the control of the legislature) with the corporates driving revenue away from racing to sports betting that is more profitable for them but without making a contribution to the industry that matches Ubet. The industry is a major employer in this state – can we afford to give it all away by imposing a crippling financial burden on the industry that it neither requested nor needs?

All we are asking for is common sense and a fair go. This bill in its current form does (in my respectful view) , does neither.

Regards

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