

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: WINDEMERE STUD [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 January 2016 10:29 PM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Qld Racing Integrity Bill

Att : Research Director

We would like to lodge our strongest opposition to the proposed Qld Racing Integrity Bill and the Racing QLD Tracking to sustainability paper.

We conduct both breeding and racing operations from properties west of Toowoomba As well as owned 'on course' stable premises at Clifford Park racecourse in Toowoomba.

We run approx 15 brood mares and currently have 16 our our own racehorses in training with another crop of yearlings planned to be broken in.

Until recently we supported stallions in the Hunter Valley with resultant yearlings sold at Magic Millions Sales destined mostly for southern states where the racing industries are very strong and prizemoney levels high. In more recent years and with the revitalisation of the QTIS scheme we have elected to support Queensland stallions and race the progeny ourselves in Queensland. We employ 4 full time staff between the 2 operations as well as some casuals and a number of track work riders.

We believe if this bill passes it will have a drastic negative effect on our industry resulting in many job loses. The QLD racing industry employs approx 30000 people directly not including ancillary businesses such as horse transport companies, farriers , chiropractors, feed merchants, saddlery shops to mention only a few.

We believe the previous structure where board members who understand this complex industry was the best model. The decisions made recently by government seem to be more political than practical and have used the unacceptable behaviour in the greyhound industry as justification for wholesale change to all racing codes.

We can say certainly that we will not be able to continue our involvement at the same level if this bill is passed. It will we believe result in job losses not only from within our operation but I can see where people employed in this industry will need to move interstate to gain employment where the racing and breeding industries are thriving.

Yours Faithfully

Steve Tregua
Windemere Stud

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