

Sub No. 2

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12 NOV 2012

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES COMMITTEE

9th November 2012

**QJA SUBMISSION TO THE HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE**

RACING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

The QJA is pleased to be invited to lodge a submission on the proposed changes to the Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (the Bill).

The following are points we wish to highlight:

- The creation of separate Boards for each Code is something that has been discussed for a number of years and is more than welcomed. It means that the each Code can be in control of their destiny with the participants having a voice. Previously the participants felt dominated by Racing Queensland under the previous Government pulling the strings. The Industry had lost direction and the participants lost hope.
- More importantly the process of having applicants that have the support of licensees, racing clubs, industry associations or relevant stakeholders as members of the Thoroughbred Racing Board is a plus. This works very well in other jurisdictions i.e. Tasracing has the highly respected Des Gleeson (ex RVL Chairman of Stewards) representing Associations such as Trainers and Jockeys and other licensees in the Industry.
- The function of the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board (QACRIB) is a must. The Thoroughbred Industry needs this body in place as the Principal Racing Authority to function as a body on the Australian Racing Board to give the Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Industry a vice and representation on National Issues that affect racing in Queensland. Also to act as a body to ratify the Australian Racing Rules, along with the other States and Territories.
- The QACRIB responsibility on strategic issues such as wagering negotiations and television rights is a must. These initiatives are a given if racing in Queensland is to thrive on the National and International stage and also to develop the financial prosperity of the Racing Industry.
- As the overseeing Body, the QACRIB can fairly oversee harmony amongst the three Codes. They can assist the development and direction of the three Codes.
- The transfer of racing integrity services to the Government and the appointment of a Racing Integrity Commissioner ensures the independence of decisions surrounding integrity issues in racing. This maintains a high level of accountability and transparent process. The Commissioner is answerable to the Minister for Racing.
- We are of the understanding that the responsibilities of the Commissioner will be aimed at:



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1. Regulating and controlling racing to ensure that it is conducted with integrity;
 2. Monitoring the administration of racing;
 3. Researching and investigating racing integrity and related matters;
 4. Advising the Minister on racing integrity and related matters and making appropriate policy recommendations for the development of racing;
 5. Liaising with authorities and persons responsible for racing and related matters in this State.
- The establishment of the Racing Disciplinary Board is a step to a better and fairer Appeal System. This system will make the appellant feel less obligated to obtain legal representation. Under the present system the Control Body hold all the “aces” in obtaining legal representation or expert representatives as a result of their financial advantage compared to the average appellant, even though he/she cannot afford the cost feel obligated to also obtain legal representation.
 - We feel that the RVL Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board is the best system of Appeals nationally. The panel consists of the Chair or Deputy Chair, who are qualified lawyers of not less than seven years standing plus two other members of expert experience in racing matters and running and handling matters. This Board not only deals with Appeals but also inquiries of serious matters that are taken away from Stewards e.g. running and handling matters such as AR 135(b); misconduct inquiries. This takes the onus away from the Stewards and moved to a completely removed panel
These Appeals and Inquiries are held in a very relaxed atmosphere, whereby all parties are assisted by the Board with advice and questioning to obtain the best and fairest result.

Overall the QJA feel that the objectives of the proposed Bill is a step in the right direction to restore a positive atmosphere back to the Industry, thereby giving hope for the future to the participants.

Yours Sincerely

Glen Prentice
President
QJA

