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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES COMMITTEE



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12 November 2012

Peter Dowling MP  
Chair  
Health and Community Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Peter

**YOUR REF: 11.1.8 6/11/12**  
**RACING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012**

Thank you for contacting our Club, and the invitation for submissions on the Bill.

Our Club is largely in favour of the objectives of the Bill and supports that there needs to be changes made to the way Racing is currently run and administered in Queensland.

As the Minister outlined when he presented the Bill for amendment to Parliament, key aspects of racing had been "brought to its knees" [REDACTED]

Gold Coast Harness Racing Club(GCHRC) will be enormously affected, to our Club's and Harness Racing's detriment [REDACTED] to the extent that we have been advised to cease operations at our current venue, Parklands Gold Coast by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

This is an astonishing decision, being that the Parklands Harness facility is the best harness racing and training facility in Queensland, and until recently when new tracks have been built interstate, was considered the best in Australia.

Yet RQL failed to include the Gold Coast facility as being required for racing in its Infrastructure Plan.

We believe the amendments should include directions that the Government, RQL or the new All-codes Board, cannot close down any Racetracks and racing and training facilities of any code(including Parklands Gold Coast). This direction should remain in force until after the new boards have been put in place, and each code has identified their codes 'needs', both present and future.

The Minister has already highlighted at Industry consultation, and reaffirmed by Mr Kelly at the Public Briefing, that each Control Board would be responsible for developing a five-year rolling infrastructure plan for their specific code of racing.

To enforce the closure of this track before the 'new' plans have even been conceptualised, is at best counterproductive, and will have a detrimental effect on Harness Racing both immediately and into the future.

The loss of Parklands as a racing and training venue is the single biggest issue currently facing Harness Racing in Queensland and must be addressed in the legislation.

GCHRC by way of a forced acquisition of freehold land, contributed millions of dollars to the original development at Parklands. This loss of the original freehold property, replacement of land and buildings, building fittings and infrastructure, would be value at \$55 million currently.

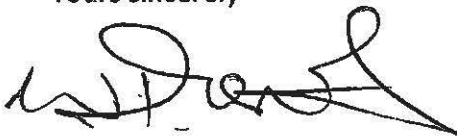
In addition to the loss of the property, loss of revenue through breaking of our legitimate long term lease, amounts to \$20 million.

This loss should not be forced upon GCHRC and Harness Racing.

The legislation must include provision for full restitution to GCHRC, as to date this matter has not been conclusively addressed by Government in any other way.

An increase to the funding percentage of the Racing Industry Capital Development Scheme above the current 50%, and beyond 2015, could provide both funding options and certainty to both Government and the Racing industry, and allow for the GCHRC situation.

Yours sincerely



WAYNE DOSSETTO  
Secretary

