



**HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
RACING & OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012
SUBMISSION**

CONTENTS



- 1. The Bill Part 1 (new Boards)** Sub No 6.
- 2. TTC Opinion on The Bill Part 1**
- 3. Summary on The Bill Part 1**
- 4. The Bill Part 2 (remainder)**
- 5. TTC Opinion & Summary on The Bill Part 2 (remainder)**

1. THE BILL

Part 1

- remove Racing Queensland Limited (Racing Queensland) as the control body for the thoroughbred, harness and greyhound codes of racing
- establish the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board as a body with responsibilities for strategic issues across the three codes of racing and as the control body for the thoroughbred, harness and greyhound codes of racing
- establish a separate code-specific control board for each of the three codes of racing

2. TOWNSVILLE TURF CLUB OPINION

The Townsville Turf Club agrees in principal with the three (3) summary points, the Club believes that the establishment of the All Codes Racing Industry Board with over-arching strategic control of the entire industry, with the establishment of the three code specific control boards will provide each code a greater opportunity to make decisions that directly impact or are respective to their codes and industry participants and Clubs. The industry covering all three codes, has for too long has been controlled and dictated to as a whole under the current Racing Queensland Limited structure, with the proposed new board establishments providing each code with a greater level of autonomy and input into the direction of their respective code of racing.

The Townsville Turf Club provides comments on the formation and direction for the proposed code-specific board that directly affects Thoroughbred Race Clubs.

Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board (QTRB)

The Townsville Turf Club notes Part 1B of the new legislation "CONTROL BOARDS" in particular we refer to Division 2 Members of control board 9BT Members

'9BT Members

'A control board is to consist of 3 members appointed by the Governor in Council.

The Club is supportive of the new legislation in respect to the development of the new Control Boards for each code, we however note the following:

The proposed legislation changes around the formation of the Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board, does not contain any legislation in respect to the make up or determination of this board other than being appointed by the Governor in Council.

3. TOWNSVILLE TURF CLUB OPINION continued.

The Club believes that it is vitally important that the proposed Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board containing 3 members is made up of at least 1 member from a country/regional location, therefore holding country/regional representation on the new board.

It is important that the Governor in Council consider the following when appointing Members to the QTRB.

- Queensland Thoroughbred Racing is made up of 122 Thoroughbred Race Clubs
- Of these 122 Race Clubs – 9 are classified as TAB Clubs (Excludes Amateur Clubs) with 113 classified as NON TAB Clubs
- Queensland Thoroughbred Racing is broken up into 8 zones as per the following:
 1. South East Queensland – 18 Clubs (4 TAB)
 2. Eastern Downs - 18 Clubs (1 TAB)
 3. Downs - 14 Clubs
 4. Capricornia - 15 Clubs (1 TAB)
 5. Central West - 14 Clubs
 6. Leichardt - 16 Clubs (2 TAB)
 7. North West Queensland - 15 Clubs
 8. Far North Queensland - 12 Clubs (1 TAB)
- The South East Queensland & Downs area contains 36 of the 122 Race Clubs with 5 TAB Clubs ensuring this is the key racing area of Queensland.
- All areas outside of the South East Queensland & Downs area contains 86 Race Clubs with 4 TAB Clubs.
- The large geographical area north of the Capricornia and Central West contains over 1/3rd of Queensland's total Thoroughbred Race Clubs with 43 Race Clubs including 3 TAB Clubs.
- The Leichardt area is key to Racing in Central to North & West Queensland, with 2 TAB Clubs and some 16 Clubs in total only bettered in numbers by South East Queensland and the Eastern Downs areas.

4. SUMMARY ON THE BILL PART 1.

The Townsville Turf Club is renowned as the racing centre of North & North West Queensland, the Club draws industry participants on a regular basis from areas covering between Winton, Mount Isa, Mackay, Atherton, Cairns and all locations in between. Townsville itself is recognised as the capital of North Queensland with a population of nearly 250,000 in the Townsville region. Townsville is the central hub for North Queensland and is strategically positioned with great diversity, resilience, lifestyle and economic potential that will see the area grow to a population of almost 350,000 by 2031. With significant infrastructure growth and a vast array of activities and potential, Townsville is expected to contain over 5% of the state population by 2031. The TTC is of the opinion that this is not an exaggeration due to the fact Townsville enjoys one Federal and three State Members of the coalition, including a very popular Local Government Minister.

Based on the above stats the Townsville Turf Club believes that it is vitally important that the Thoroughbred Racing Board contains at least 1 member representative from a country/regional perspective, with a representative from outside of the South East & Downs area paramount to providing a country and regional voice and opinion on such board.

The Townsville Turf Club submits a request that when formation of the Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board is considered, a representative from the Leichardt/North Queensland region be strongly considered, to provide solid and equitable country and regional representation to this new board. The geographical location and volume of Race Clubs in Central, North and North West Queensland, make this a logical and equitable outcome for the industry as a whole.

5. THE BILL (Remainder)

Part 2

- transfer integrity functions currently undertaken by the control body to government, to be paid for by the industry
- permit bookmakers to use the internet to conduct bookmaking
- ensure that the control body has the necessary powers to manage the three codes of racing
- ensure the code-specific control boards have the necessary powers to assist the control body in managing the three codes of racing
- ensure that the Minister responsible for racing has more involvement in, and power over, the operations of the control body, and

6. OPINION & SUMMARY ON THE BILL PART 2 (Remainder)

The Club has no comments to make in relation to the above points apart from being supportive of the proposed changes and updates to this part of the legislation.