

11-1-8

From: Peter Fletcher <abaceo@optusnet.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 November 2012 10:32 AM
To: Health and Community Services Committee
Subject: [SPAM ?] Support for Racing and other legislation Amendment Bill 2012

Importance: Low

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this email as formal notification of the full support of the Australian Bookmakers' Association for the proposed amendments to racing and betting legislation contained within this Bill.

Our national representative body, along with the Queensland Bookmakers Association has advocated these amendments to internet betting access for on-course bookmakers in Queensland as well as access to off-course office / premises service options that will allow Queensland bookmakers to compete on a more level basis with their interstate competitors, and in particular corporate bookmaking companies licensed in the Northern Territory.

Access to internet betting is already available to on-course bookmakers in other Australian jurisdictions and is a vital option for bookmakers to be able to utilise to do business and retain their clients.

In respect of off-course betting office capabilities (for telephone and internet betting only), this option has been available to NSW bookmakers for 2 years now and has operated without problems or detractors. Victorian bookmakers will soon also be granted this option, and most other States are also expected to follow in the near term. This option has operated successfully as an adjunct to bookmakers' pre-existing on-course operations and has encouraged a number of bookmakers to continue to attend race meetings and to support their local racing industry.

In summary the proposed betting amendments will help on-course bookmakers in Queensland to regain a level of commercial viability in what has become an intensely competitive national wagering market. These additional options will help Queensland bookmakers to continue to support the Queensland racing industry via their continuing presence on Queensland racecourses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Should you require any clarifications or have other enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Bookmakers' Association.

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12 NOV 2012
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