

## Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 677  
**Submitted by:** Thoroughbred Breeders Queensland Association  
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**Submitter Comments:**



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### **THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATION (TBQA)**

SUBMISSION TO: STATE DEVELOPMENT & REGIONAL INDUSTRIES  
COMMITTEE (SDRIC)

THE BILL: The Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

GENERAL: The TBQA wishes to express its support for the general purpose of this bill.

MATTER OF CONCERN: PART 5 Clause 47  
Amendment of section 63 (Purpose of Licensing Schemes)  
Section 63 – insert  
(d) the responsible breeding of horses for racing.

TBQA POSITION: The TBQA believes and will point out below that the registration of Thoroughbred Horse Breeders will have the below effects.

- Unnecessary due to the high amount of regulation already
- Detrimental to the industry participation
- Reduce investment in the industry
- Human rights issues, including privacy rights
- Unwieldly and difficult to administrate

UNNECESSARY: The thoroughbred breeding industry is already the most regulated sector of the thoroughbred world. The rules and controls instituted by Racing Australia and the Stud Book are very rigorous and comprehensive, including, the recording of every activity and part of a mare or stallions' life, including:

- Every service by a stallion
- Every service to a mare
- Regular and often involvement of vets and the vets reporting obligations
- Tracking of the particular horses' whereabouts
- Recording of every successful pregnancy
- Recording of the birth, successful or not, of every foal
- Annual returns for Mares not used for breeding in that year

- Recording and tracking of every move of every foal up to the point of going into training
- Very thorough and comprehensive checking and recording of pedigrees of every foal

All of these requirements cause much time, expense and fees.

**UNNECESSARY:** All of the protections and legislation of the Animal Care & Protection Act already apply. All properties and stud farms can be entered and inspected by inspectors and Police if someone thinks there is inappropriate treatment or conduct.

**DETRIMENTAL:** AgriFutures Australia in their June 2021 report, AgriFutures Thoroughbred Horses, states:

- 76% of thoroughbred breeders have just one or two mares (page 12)
- More than half of all mares are owned by breeders with five or fewer horses (page 12)
- Thoroughbred Breeders Australia has a membership of 4200 breeders
- TBQA has a membership of 1200

Therefore, most breeders are small-scale to hobby horse lovers who TBQA are afraid will be resistant to further paperwork and cost invading their private pursuits.

**REDUCE INVESTMENT:** The facts quoted in DETRIMENTAL above show that the investment by these small-scale breeders is vital to the industry. Many of these people become breeders after owning and racing a mare which they then retain and race the foal. They do not want to be further regulated, registered, and incur further cost. Practically none of these people own stallions on their properties. The breeding happens at the stallion farms which are already highly regulated. Further interference such as registration of small-scale investors could cause a 'why would I bother' attitude.

**HUMAN RIGHTS:** Human rights issues, especially privacy rights, could be impinged by the registration of thoroughbred breeders.

The Statement of Compatibility  
Privacy & Reputation (page 5)  
(a) nature of the right

section 25 of the HR act protects the right to privacy and reputation.

4<sup>TH</sup> LINE

This right protects the privacy of people in Queensland from 'unlawful' or 'arbitrary' interference. Arbitrary interference includes when something is lawful, but also unreasonable, unnecessary or disproportionate.

TBQA would argue that given the vast amount of regulation already in place for breeders, the regular involvement of vets and the Animal Care & Protection Act, provide more than sufficient control. TBQA therefore feels that the registration of breeders falls in the area of 'arbitrary' interference, which is unreasonable, unnecessary and disproportionate.

UNWIELDLY:

Due to the number of breeders and the many various different arrangements and agreements, both commercial and hobby, between stallion owners, stud farms, mare owners and other participants, any registration regulation would be very difficult to administrate.

There are 3000-4000 foals born in Queensland every year depending on climatic and economic conditions. The vast majority, over 85 per cent, go on to be active racehorses. Many mares travel to and from Queensland for the purpose of breeding.

TBQA STANCE:

The rules, regulations, reporting and legislation now in place are all for the protection of the horse, and are more than sufficient. Breeders and mare owners are totally committed to the welfare of their horses and incur considerable expense in the pursuit of their love of the horse and racing.

TBQA fully supports the general purpose of the bill and the protection of all animals.

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