



Speech by

# GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard 3 March 1999

## MINISTER FOR RACING

**Mr NUTTALL** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.42 p.m.): The difficulty with this debate is that the Opposition needs to realise that the racing industry does not revolve around Eagle Farm, Doomben and Albion Park.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr NUTTALL:** The fundamental problem is that the Opposition is listening to the people from that area and it is not listening to people from the other parts of the State. The Opposition members should get out to those areas as this Government has done with its regional Cabinet meetings. The Minister has received deputations from people within the racing industry throughout the State. They are saying that the Queensland Principal Club is making decisions, yet it is not even talking to the rest of the industry. The trouble with the QPC is that it is not listening to the rest of the industry.

**Mr Cooper** interjected.

**Mr NUTTALL:** As I said, one of the problems is that members opposite will not listen to the whole industry. They are being guided by the elite clubs and the elite stakeholders within the industry. What about the backbone of the industry? What about the jockeys? What about the trainers? What about the farriers? What about all of those other people? What about the other 25,000 people who work within the racing industry? They should have as much say in the racing industry and in the future of the racing industry as do the major clubs down here in the south-east corner. They are the people who should be listened to.

The Deagon racecourse is located in my electorate. The Minister acted decisively, listened to the industry and now the Deagon racecourse is a secure training facility for the trainers in the south-east corner of this State.

**Mr Cooper:** You lost all the trainees; they're gone.

**Mr NUTTALL:** No, we have not lost the trainees. That indicates the difficulty that the Opposition has with this matter. The trainees have not gone over the border. If the member opposite reckons that that is the case, I invite him to come to Deagon and have a look at the facilities. A large number of trainers have invested in stables and facilities at Deagon racecourse. They were in a quandary; they did not know whether the training facilities would be staying at Deagon. They had invested a lot of money, but they could not get a decision out of the racing industry. It took this Minister to make the decision to ensure that the training facility at Deagon within my electorate was maintained, simply because people within the QPC and other areas of the racing industry could not make a decision about that facility. That is one of the difficulties that we have.

It needs to be remembered that the 11-member QCPC board is controlled by the major clubs. That is the difficulty.

**Mr Healy:** It's controlled by the regional representatives.

**Mr NUTTALL:** As I say, there is no representation of the other people within the industry. They should have a say in the future of this industry. The members opposite talk about the privatisation of the TAB. I say to those members opposite who like a punt and go to the TAB on a Saturday to have a look at the tote odds. I go there and I have a look at the tote odds.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr NUTTALL:** It is not. If the member looked at the overall tote odds, he would see that the Queensland TAB holds its own against New South Wales, against SuperTAB and all the rest. In the main, it holds its own. The member should not look at just a few races; he should have a look at the full card.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr NUTTALL:** We can do that on the Internet. The member should not blame the sale of the TAB on that. The member knows as well as I do that if people want to have a punt, they can do that on the Internet. The member cannot blame it on that issue. Give us a break!

The privatisation of the TAB is not the be-all and end-all of saving the racing industry in this State. If the factionalised groups within the racing industry get their act together and, instead of looking after their own self-interest they look after the interests of racing, they will save the racing industry.

Time expired.

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