



Speech by

**PHIL REEVES**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Hansard 31 May 2001

### **RACING AND BETTING AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.31 p.m.): I congratulate the Minister for Tourism and Racing on introducing the Racing and Betting Amendment Bill to alleviate an anomaly. The purpose of the bill is to declare that section 43 of the Racing and Betting Act 1980 did not operate to vacate John Crowley's position as chair and member of the Queensland Harness Racing Board. A technical breach of section 43 of the act occurred when vehicles were purchased by the board from Bryan Byrt Ford, a company in which John Crowley was a shareholder. This caused section 43(1)(f) to operate to automatically vacate John Crowley's position.

While I am on my feet talking about this subject, I have to say that I have an interest in Bryan Byrt Ford. Bryan Byrt Ford is the No. 1 Ford dealership in Australia, and it just happens to be located in the Mansfield electorate. Bryan Byrt Ford has recently moved from Logan Road to Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road to a brand-new premises. It has just set up a new service division at Wecker Road in Mansfield which employs many people who live within my electorate. Despite the advent of the new busway, I hope that the sale of cars continues to stay at a steady rate. The great public transport system that Queensland now has might have an impact on the Bryan Byrt Ford dealership and the sale of cars, because people are getting out of their cars and on to the buses.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr REEVES:** There is a link in everything. There was no impropriety on the part of any person, particularly John Crowley. The national competition policy report on the Racing and Betting Act 1980 released in November 2000 identified the need to repeal the act and replace it with more current legislation. The sections of the act that caused the automatic vacation of John Crowley's position on the board are outdated provisions.

The bill provides certainty and ensures that existing rights are maintained by validating decisions of the board made while John Crowley's position on the board was vacated as a result of the technical breach. The bill also replaces outdated conflict of interest provisions for the Harness Racing Board and the Greyhound Racing Authority with new provisions that require a member to disclose an interest to the board and outlines a procedure to be followed by both the member and other members of the board. Many people were consulted on this bill, including the Criminal Justice Commission and the Crown Law office.

While talking about the Racing and Betting Amendment Bill—and I notice that the member for Algester is in the chamber—the Rocklea trots is one of the greatest local suburban tracks. I am glad that the Leader of the House changed this year's sitting pattern, because last Melbourne Cup day the member for Algester and I had a pleasant day at the Rocklea trots. I am sure that is probably on the agenda again this year. The facility is just outside the electorate of the member for Algester but in the electorate of the Employment Minister. If anyone is on the south side on a Saturday afternoon and wants a good afternoon's entertainment, I would suggest the Rocklea trots. It is even good to go there on Melbourne Cup day. I support the bill.