



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard 24 October 2002

RACING BILL

Ms MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (2.53 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the Racing Bill. The Racing Animal Welfare and Integrity Board will replace the current Racing Codes Advisory Board. It will be an independent statutory board consisting of persons with specified scientific skills and will provide advice to the chief executive on issues relating to drug control, welfare and disease management of licensed animals. Control bodies will be required to enter into an agreement with a facility accredited by the chief executive on advice from the integrity board for the provision of drug control and scientific services.

The Racing Science Centre, a branch of the Department of Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading, which is currently providing drug control services to control bodies, will need to apply for accreditation. As is the case currently, the proposed act makes it an offence to use prohibited things including drugs on a licensed animal. The current Racing Appeals Authority, which hears appeals from the decisions of first level appeal committees, control bodies and stewards, will be renamed the Racing Appeals Tribunal. Currently, only the thoroughbred code has first level appeals from decisions of stewards which relieves the Racing Appeals Authority from having to hear appeals involving minor penalties.

It will not be mandatory for all control bodies to establish first level appeals committees. However, if a control body decides to establish first level appeals committees certain requirements first must be met. For example, the appeal committee must consist of three individuals. One must be a lawyer, one must have a thorough knowledge of the rules of racing for the code and the third must be from either of these categories. The proposed act limits first level appeals committees to hearing appeals against decisions of stewards which relate to a suspension of a person for up to three months and fines of between \$100 and \$2,000. Racing associations and the Queensland Regional Racing Council for the thoroughbred code and provisions regarding control body disciplinary processes for clubs contained in amendments to the Racing and Betting Act 1980 in December 2001 have been retained.

The Queensland Regional Racing Council was established in April 2002 and is comprised of one representative from each regional racing association. The council is responsible for developing and recommending to the QTRB the racing calendar for non-TABQ races—that is, races on which the TABQ does not or is unlikely to offer wagering in each region; planning and recommending to the QTRB the distribution strategy for prize money and other funding required for conducting non-TABQ races; monitoring and reporting to the QTRB on the performance of the allocated racing calendar for non-TABQ races in respect to encouraging racing in each region; and encouraging dialogue and planning between the clubs of the various regional racing associations.

Provisions of the current act relating to racing bookmakers are replicated in the proposed act. In accordance with government policy to devolve responsibility for operational issues to the industry, control bodies rather than the chief executive will be responsible for approving and supervising a telephone bookmaking system. Bookmakers may only conduct bookmaking while the racing bookmaker is present at a racing venue during a race meeting or a betting meeting. Advertising restrictions on racing bookmakers are to be removed from legislation. This will allow racing bookmakers to advertise their services. It is an offence under the proposed act to advertise unlawful betting, betting or bookmaking. Offence and penalty provisions for unlawful betting and unlawful bookmaking have been retained and will be vigorously enforced.

I congratulate Minister Rose for showing leadership. Indeed, the racing industry is all the better for her interest and ministry in what must be a difficult portfolio at times. Her department and advisers are also to be congratulated on putting all of this together.