



Speech by

**CHRIS CUMMINS**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Hansard 29 October 2002

### **RACING BILL**

**Mr CUMMINS** (Kawana—ALP) (4.18 p.m.): The purpose of the Racing Bill 2002 is to repeal the Racing and Betting Act 1980 and to provide a modern legislative framework for the management and regulation of the Queensland racing industry. The bill implements the recommendations of the national competition policy review of the Racing and Betting Act 1980 by providing an opportunity for new codes of racing to be approved. It also removes the prohibition on proprietary racing and removes advertising restriction on racing bookmakers.

Proprietary racing, or for-profit racing, was outlawed across Australia in the 1920s in response to the proliferation of illegal betting activities on unregulated racing. The prohibition on proprietary racing has resulted in all race clubs across Queensland being required to operate as not-for-profit organisations. This means that currently race clubs must operate their affairs for the benefit of their members and not distribute profits to the members of the club. I know, Mr Deputy Speaker, that you have a love of racing and the racing industry, but I should also commend Racing Queensland for retaining the stand-alone Saturday race day at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club, its Caloundra Cup. I was a proud member of the Caloundra City Council which has supported the Caloundra Cup. Former mayor Des Dwyer and current mayor Don Aldeus have well supported and continue to support the Sunshine Coast Turf Club at Corbould Park. I know that many members of this House enjoy the surroundings and a visit to Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast to take in a great race day at Corbould Park at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. Former councillors Jock Alcock, Sharyn Bonney, Ian Bryce and present councillors Del Winkler, deputy mayor Don Smith, Chris White and one of Queensland's longest serving and well-respected councillors, Betty Cristado, are also great advocates for what I consider to be Australia's premier racing facility, Corbould Park on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast Turf Club has, in my opinion, a focused, supportive and hardworking committee. Under Les Geeves, chairman, who the minister knows well, a very hard but fair man, a former great footballer—

**Ms Rose** interjected.

**Mr CUMMINS:** I don't know if he was a fair man back in those days, but I know that he was a hard man on the field. Under Les Geeves' chairmanship—and I also pay a compliment to his equally impressive wife, Daphne—I know that the Sunshine Coast Turf Club will continue to go from strength to strength. Having one stand-alone Saturday race day confirmed and hopefully set in stone for the Sunshine Coast is excellent news, but I believe we on the Sunshine Coast should be pushing for a second, as the south coast has. Members would acknowledge with me the tremendously talented general manager, Mick Sullivan. I know that the minister applauds the good work that Mick does up there. My wife and family, visitors and locals alike sincerely thank the Sunshine Coast Turf Club for its marvellous hospitality. They have very entertaining race days.

The dynamic committee of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club includes Neil Mansell, the deputy chairman, a major force in the construction industry via his well recognised Mansell Concrete and Transport business. It is a major Sunshine Coast employer and Neil does put a lot back into the community and into the Sunshine Coast. Mary Henzell is a very well known and highly respected Caloundra identity and a very kind lady who I know also loves her races. Tom Blacklaw is a valuable asset to the Sunshine Coast. Blacklaw and Shadforth is a well-respected business based just outside of my electorate at Forest Glen. Again, they are businesspeople putting a lot back into the community via racing and the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. Mick Mair is very successful in racing circles and is well

known. Mick is a very good voice for owners and trainers in the industry and is a valued member of the Sunshine Coast community and indeed the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. Jan McMillan-Walford is from the northern end of the Sunshine Coast at Noosa, or North Kawana as we sometimes like to call it. Her position shows that the Sunshine Coast Turf Club is a true regional facility. Jan also serves on the RNA. Don Moffat, as the minister would well know, is a great mate of mine who I believe truly deserves life membership of Tourism Sunshine Coast. So, it is crossing over two portfolios. Don has put in years of commitment to Tourism Sunshine Coast and is also a member of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. Don's love of horse racing is very well acknowledged. I do appreciate all of the committee's input in terms of what they often tell me to lobby the minister on.

Dr Bernie Spilsbury is from the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Again, that proves that the turf club is not just Caloundra based but is a true Sunshine Coast based regional facility. I believe that Bernie operates out of a surgery in Mooloolaba. He is making a very positive contribution. Last, but not least, Bill Wendt works with CADET. Bill is also a committee member of the turf club. CADET is a training group which ensures jobs are created on the Sunshine Coast. Bill and his wife, Lorraine, are always happy to host visitors to the Sunshine Coast Turf Club.

The 2000 national competition policy review examined the need for legislative restrictions on the manner in which a race club may conduct its business. The NCP review concluded that, while control bodies need to have control over the manner in which clubs conduct their racing operations to ensure the viability of Queensland racing, it was not necessary to require every race club in Queensland to operate on a not-for-profit basis. At this point, I encourage Caloundra City Council to think a little bit outside the square in a way that can contribute to Queensland racing and indeed the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. There are areas of land around Corbould Park that it should consider rezoning to allow for a racing specific precinct. This would possibly allow for more thoroughbred training facilities and for owners of thoroughbred race horses to be in locations that are more accessible to the race track at the Sunshine Coast. Just over Caloundra Road and to the north is an ideal area, if it were rezoned, for trainers and owners to locate their facilities as there are areas of land large enough to build homes so that they can participate in their love of training and racing thoroughbreds. It is a business. It is one of Queensland's largest businesses and employers. It is something very positive. In my opinion, it is a good, clean, green industry that thousands of people right across the state and indeed Australia participate in and enjoy.

The Racing Bill 2002 contemplates that in the future it will be possible for a control body to register a race club that conducts race meetings for the purpose of making a return to shareholders. To ensure the integrity of races conducted by for-profit clubs, all races conducted by a proprietary race club must be regulated by the control body for the code of racing. Those control bodies will also receive annual accounts from proprietary race clubs which must specify particular information set out in the Racing Bill 2002. In conclusion, I commend the minister, her advisers and indeed the department for showing determination and strength in standing up to what I could call the bully boys in the racing industry. Although a minority of the Queensland industry, their unfounded slander, slurs and criticism are a poor reflection of the bad old days under corrupt conservatives. I commend the minister for her strong stance in taking the industry to a new level and I commend the bill to the House.