



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 16 June 2004

RACING INDUSTRY, GOLD COAST

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (6.46 p.m.): I am very proud to rise in this House tonight to congratulate the Gold Coast Turf Club on the success of Prime Minister's Cup day on 15 May. Once again, the Gold Coast put on all its glitz and glamour for one of the Coast's two premier race days of the year. A record crowd of over seven and a half thousand were on hand to cheer on the cup field. I congratulate the connections of the winner of the 2004 Prime Minister's Cup, Vanquished, and the winner of the AD Hollandale Cup, This Manshood.

A government member: What about the board?

Mr LANGBROEK: I am coming to the board. Gold Coast Turf Club chairman, Bill Millican, was all smiles on the day and in the weeks afterwards, as membership of the club looks set to rise above 3,000. He was proud that the Gold Coast Turf Club is leading the way in shrugging off the image of racing as being the bastion of old stiff-shirted men and is now attracting race-goers of both sexes and all ages. Bill Millican's predecessor, the late great Peter Gallagher, would have been happy to see the success of the day. The Gold Coast Turf Club has come along in leaps and bounds in recent years, although attending the races still has many of the elements it has always had.

My assistant electorate officer and I, being know-it-all punters, managed to pick only a single winner for the day. That aside, it was great to see the people of the Gold Coast in the Surfers Paradise electorate having fun on a glorious autumn day, including my friend and colleague the member for Currumbin. I congratulate the turf club chairman, Bill Millican, and chief executive, Scott Whitman, and all of the committee on their efforts. I note that the committee includes my esteemed colleague, the member for Southport, and my friend and new member of the board, fellow dental surgeon Brian O'Hara.

On-course betting also had a massive day out, with the combined on-course tote and bookmakers turning over in excess of \$3.2 million. Local bookies said that many of the punters were small-time punters who appeared to be enjoying the races for the first time. This is great news for the racing industry. The new corporate image and marketing of many clubs and the upbeat race days have attracted this new and more vibrant crowd.

This was also seen on the Gold coast's biggest race day, the Magic Millions. On that day, fourteen and a half thousand people entered the course and the rooms were bursting at the seams. On that day, on-course betting turned over a whopping \$6.7 million. However, the Magic Millions is not just the Saturday afternoon of racing. There are two other days of racing in the very successful Magic Millions. The 2004 Magic Millions sales were the most successful sales in the history of the Magic Millions. This year, the turnover at the four days of sales was up over 20 per cent from \$53 million to \$64 million in 2004. Very few of the horses were passed in and the sale attracted yearlings from many of the great sires, including the late Danehill, as well as home grown talent like General Nediym.

The next big race day is Wednesday, 18 August for the Carlton Draught Gold Market Handicap. I urge all punters on the Gold Coast and surrounds to go to the turf club. Whilst I would like to join them, and

no doubt the member for Southport would, we will be in this place. I am sure they will have another great race day.