




Speech by

Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Hansard Wednesday, 28 November 2012

RACING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.23 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in support of the Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. I congratulate the Minister for Racing for bringing racing back to the country—how it should be for Queensland country racing. It is great to see a government that actually delivers on its promises.

We have promised the Queensland people that we will rejuvenate Queensland's racing industry, because we recognise the enormous value that the three codes of racing—thoroughbred, harness and greyhound—have in our economy, our society and our community. The valuable racing industry employs more than 30,000 people and supports 130 community based clubs. Several of these clubs, and one of the most important clubs in Queensland, are actually based in the Nanango electorate, hence why I thought it essential that I speak on this bill. The Nanango electorate is home to the great race clubs of Kilcoy, Esk, Nanango and Kumbia and the Burrandowan Picnic Race Club—fantastic country race clubs that are in the position they are because of the hardworking community members who are the good constituents of my electorate.

When I put up my name as a candidate to represent the Nanango electorate I met some amazing people. One of the first couples I met was Tammy and Craig Fritz from the Maringandan produce store. This couple said to me that their little business of training up horses for harness racing had been stripped under the Bentley administration. Then I went down to Esk and I met Darren and Rebecca Ebert, who have the butcher shop there. They are also involved in the harness-racing industry. They felt that their industry had been completely stripped under Racing Queensland Ltd.

I had discussions with great people who had built up race clubs like the Esk race club. People like Dr Tony Fitzgerald have worked tirelessly for that club, which was stripped bare and left with just one race meeting per year. I thank the minister for giving the Esk race club another meeting, which will be held on 22 December. As part of getting in the Christmas spirit, I encourage everyone to come along. Esk is not that far away from this chamber. That race day will be a fantastic day on which we can celebrate in the lead-up to Christmas.

I also congratulate hardworking people like Con Serle and the race club at Kilcoy, which has also been very lucky to get a much needed extra race day. It is wonderful. The minister has already attended a Kilcoy race day and was very well received. Everyone on that day was congratulating him for seeing the importance of country racing and appreciating what it does for our community. It brings people back. People from all over the state come back for our country race days.

I also want to congratulate the Kumbia Race Club. As everyone knows, at the recent Kumbia races we were fortunate enough to have in attendance the Premier, the racing minister and several other ministers including our Attorney-General, who entered the Fashions on the Field. The lovely wife of the Minister for Local Government judged the Fashions on the Field, hence why the Attorney-General unfortunately could not win! The wonderful thing about that is that we were able to show this government how important country race days are. Thousands of people turn up and spend money, whether it be in the

dress shops or other local shops or even just getting their hair done. It all helps our community. Kumbia now has not only the Melbourne Cup feature race day but also a race meeting to be held on 1 June 2013. I encourage everyone to get out to Kumbia to enjoy a special race day.

This bill will remove Racing Queensland Ltd—what a fantastic idea of the minister and this government—and establish a code-specific board for each of the three codes of racing. The new three-person control boards—the Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board, the Queensland Harness Racing Board and the Queensland Greyhound Racing Board—will be provided with powers and functions to assist the new Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board to properly manage these three codes of racing. As a previous speaker has said in this House today, there is a wonderful opportunity to get people from the regions onto these boards. We have amazing people in the regions who have spent their lives supporting their community through their local race club. I encourage the minister to embrace regional people who put up their hands to go onto these boards so that we can cover the whole of Queensland.

I do not need to repeat—but I will—that after 20 years the tired Labor government abandoned country racing. It abandoned every form of racing and completely destroyed the racing industry, and we are building it back up again. Already within this first short period we have been in government we have seen the rejuvenation of country racing, and I can only congratulate the minister and our government for that. The amendments proposed in this bill will restore confidence in this industry in Queensland. It is a wonderful feat. Amendments to the Wagering Act will extend funding for the Racing Industry Capital Development Scheme from 2014-15 to ensure that our government can deliver our \$110 million infrastructure promise for racing venues across Queensland. This will provide a much needed economic boost for this important industry. Again, I congratulate the minister for this very important bill that will do so much for my electorate of Nanango. I commend this bill to the House.