




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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RACING INTEGRITY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.39 pm): Following on from that contribution from the member for Nanango, I just remark to those opposite—who in a conga line are coming through and saying that this has taken too long and has been too long in the making—that they have had every opportunity to introduce a private member's bill into this House—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms BOYD: It is your job. I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Pine Rivers—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Currumbin, member for Lytton and member for Aspley, I called order twice. You are all warned under the standing orders. Member for Pine Rivers, I remind you please to direct your comments through the chair.

Ms BOYD: I certainly will, Mr Deputy Speaker. Thank you so much for your guidance. I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. Yes, it is the job of the opposition to come up with policy. Yes, it is the job of the opposition to pick up a pen and create a private member's bill and bring it into this place. If we have an opposition that is effectively working, it is an opposition that is contributing new ideas, not just slamming a government day after day. If those opposite want to be an effective opposition, they can do so by creating legislation through private members' bills and bringing them into this House. It is rich to be lectured to by those opposite that we are not working fast enough in government and that the government of the day is not doing all of the work and making the change they expect to see, yet they are not making any contribution in that space at all.

This is a bill that I am very proud to support. It demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment through our budget in 2022 to long-term funding to the Queensland racing industry, especially the country racing industry, through a new sustainable funding model. It is recognition of the significant changes that have occurred in the racing industry and the important role that country clubs play in their regional communities.

I spoke recently at the LGAQ Bush Councils Convention where I got to report that there are 125 racing clubs across Queensland and that, for 85 of those clubs, a race meeting is the biggest or second biggest event in the community each year. It just goes to show how many of these clubs are in the bush. We know how important these gatherings are to the social fabric of Queensland, particularly in our regions. We are determined to ensure that the industry thrives for outback communities and communities right across Queensland.

This is something I recently experienced firsthand with the member for Maryborough when we were invited by North-West Queensland mayors to join them for a day at the races in Cloncurry. It was a Friday and the Cloncurry community had a half day so the community actually downed tools for the

afternoon and went along to an afternoon at the races. It was a tremendous event and I congratulate all of those involved. Sadly, I did not have a win but I understand the mayor of Richmond's horse came in first in the last race of the day. Congratulations to Mayor Wharton on that.

This bill continues to deliver reform in the racing sector. It will reform the review processes for decisions made by stewards under the rules of racing by: replacing the current internal and external review processes for decisions made by racing stewards under the rules of racing with review by an independent panel; ensuring reviews are finalised within a reasonable timeframe; and reducing serious welfare, human safety or integrity risks from being stayed pending hearing of an appeal by QCAT. It also has a policy objective of providing for the publication of stewards' reports and other reports online.

The racing industry supports more than 12,600 full-time jobs and almost 40,000 participants. This includes more than 7,850 volunteers across all three codes. I commend the minister, and I will also add my voice to those saying she is the best racing minister that Queensland has seen. I commend the minister on bringing—

Mr Mander: What about the member for Sandgate?

Mr Power: She wins by a nose.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. I commend the minister on bringing forward this important reform. It is reform that will continue to support the livelihoods of those in the industry, the humane treatment of animals and the integrity and transparency of the racing sector. I commend the bill to the House.