



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Racing Industry**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.52 am): Racing is a part of the social fabric of Queensland.

**Mr Stevens:** Hear, hear!

**Mr MANDER:** It is a major contributor to the state's economy as is the member for Currumbin—sorry, member for Mermaid Beach.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** The member is a major contributor as well. Racing is a major contributor to the state's economy, an important employer for many hardworking families and is at the heart of our communities. This is why the Crisafulli government is delivering on its election commitment to undertake the state's most comprehensive independent review into all aspects of racing. This is a proactive review and we are committed to ensuring that all three codes of the industry have a viable and strong future.

Two weeks ago I launched a discussion paper as the first step in this review process and announced former chairman of the Australian Turf Club Matthew McGrath to spearhead the review. Mr McGrath is well respected in the industry. He brings with him three decades in business management and is on the board of the Cronulla Sharks. Despite that, I still appointed him!

This review will look to further strengthen the integrity of Queensland's racing industry as well as recommend the necessary steps to deliver modern and fit-for-purpose infrastructure and safeguard the ongoing strength and success of country racing. It will also foster a collaborative relationship among stakeholders to ensure the ongoing viability of each of the racing codes with a high regard for animal welfare standards as well.

The racing industry's impact on the state now exceeds \$2.4 billion per year and is responsible for around 16,000 jobs in Queensland. Importantly, more than half of the economic benefits of racing go straight to regional Queensland communities—communities like Birdsville where the Birdsville Cup attracts around 7,000 fans each year, all the way up to Cooktown, home to the northernmost track on Queensland's coast which will celebrate its 150th race meeting in November. We know that country racing is the lifeblood of our regional communities and is just as important to the members who represent them.

I have already heard from several members about how passionate they are about racing in their electorates including the members for Gregory, Thuringowa, Toowoomba North, Barron River and I had better say the member for Nanango as well. We want to hear from everyone—from the south-east corner of the state to the west and far north, from the trainers, the jockeys, the drivers, the strappers, the breeders, the owners, the punters, the administrators and anyone else who shares an interest in racing. No matter where you live and work in Queensland we want everyone who is passionate about racing to contribute to our discussion paper.

The discussion paper is the first step in our review and in April we will release the terms of reference with the final report to be handed down to the government in September. We will release the findings of the report. Unlike those opposite, we will be transparent with the industry. Unlike the former Labor government, we are not going to spend \$500,000 on a report and keep it secret. We will work with the industry to ensure racing is sustainable well into the future. After a decade under Labor's chaos and crisis, the racing industry cannot afford to be pushed to the side. The Crisafulli government is delivering on a fresh start that our racing industry deserves.