



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Racing Industry**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.35 pm): This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. Right now, the Crisafulli government is delivering a comprehensive review of the Queensland racing industry. All I have seen since taking on this portfolio is broken promises and budget blowouts left behind by those opposite.

Under Labor's watch, the Bundaberg greyhound industry was left on life support by a failed promise to build a new sand track; the Toowoomba turf Club lights were left on their last legs, leaving participants in danger; the harness industry was promised a new home but 1,200 days of Olympic venue chaos saw the project come to a screeching halt; millions have been spent on country racetracks that have barely been raced on in years; the Racing Integrity Commission was left unfunded—and the list goes on. Labor spent too much time in the marquee and not enough time keeping the industry on track.

It is true that those opposite had their own reactive review last year. However, I can only assume that the outcome highlighted their own gross mismanagement of the industry, as they were too ashamed to release it. Our review will be critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability and success of the Queensland racing industry, and the findings will be made public.

From the Gold Coast to Birdsville, Brisbane to Cooktown and everywhere in between, racing runs through the reins—the veins as well—of Queenslanders. I have seen this firsthand when visiting racetracks at Goondiwindi, Longreach, Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Redcliffe and of course Brisbane. This is why we must get this review right—and we will.

Queensland's racing is a diverse and decentralised industry. Whether it is Saturday's Stradbroke at Eagle Farm, where we will be cheering on the five Queensland horses; or last weekend's iconic Mount Isa Cup; or the looming Inter Dominion, which will be held in Brisbane for the next three years; or greyhounds flying around The Q in tomorrow night's Origin Greyhound Series—go the Maroons!—racing is part of the fabric of Queensland.

Just last week, I announced the latest data, demonstrating racing's \$2.5 billion annual contribution to the Queensland economy. More than half of the \$2.5 billion is realised in regional economies. Almost 600,000 Queenslanders visited the races in rural or regional Queensland alone last year. All three codes are having an impact in communities right across the state. Racing helps generate \$75 million for the Townsville region—

**Mrs Poole:** Giddy-up!

**Mr MANDER:** You just pinched my punchline by the way—\$58 million for the Cairns region, \$81 million for Central Queensland, \$40 million for Mackay and \$35 million for the Outback. Racing supports our regions, and our regions back racing.

Review chair Matt McGrath, who headed up one of Australia's largest race clubs, continues to travel across the state and has been welcomed with open arms by the industry, because this industry is determined to ensure their sport is set up to prosper in the years ahead. The racing industry deserves a government that works collaboratively to ensure its success. The Crisafulli government will get this industry on the right track.