

Question on Notice
No. 989
Asked on Friday, 8 June 2007

MR DEMPSEY asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER) –

QUESTION:

With reference to Bundaberg Race Club's cut-back of meetings to eight per year in the Queensland Government's rationalisation of the horse racing industry in the State, after it had been reduced previously from 55 to 27 then to 12 over the previous years—

When are Bundaberg and other viable country race clubs going to be reallocated extra dates to a level of at least a monthly meeting, so that the club can attract more horses, owners, trainers, jockeys, strappers, furriers etcetera, so that these people do not have to incur extra expensive travelling costs, and the many horse racing lovers can experience the thrill of an Australian icon on a more regular basis?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has never allocated thoroughbred race meetings and did not conduct a "rationalisation of the horse racing industry in the State".

Under the *Racing Act 2002* and the Australian Rules of Racing, the body responsible for the allocation of thoroughbred race meetings in Queensland is Queensland Racing Limited.

The Government sought to ensure country race clubs were given input into the allocation of race dates by legislating for the establishment of eight Country Racing Associations, which includes representatives of every non-TAB race club, local jockeys, trainers and bookmakers. The Country Racing Associations are then represented on the Queensland Country Racing Committee, which is the reference group for non-TAB racing for Queensland Racing Limited.

If the Bundaberg Race Club, or any other country race club, wishes to conduct more race meetings, it must make its case with its local Country Racing Association and the Queensland Country Racing Committee.

As a further support for country racing in Queensland, by law, Queensland Racing Limited must direct 7% of the revenue from its commercial agreement with UNiTAB Limited, to non-TAB prize money.

Queensland currently conducts the highest level of non-TAB race meetings of any State as a gross number, as a percentage of race meetings conducted, and in terms of prize money allocation.