



Queensland Legislative Assembly  
Number: 5618T1678  
18 OCT 2018  
MP: Mr Stevens  
Clerk's Signature:

Tabled   
By Leave

Licensed by Copyright Agency.  
You may only copy or  
communicate this work with a  
licence.

# Industry in dire straits

**NATHAN EXELBY**  
RACING EDITOR

RACING Minister Stirling Hinchliffe is set to cut short his holiday to meet an alliance of thoroughbred representatives tomorrow, with the group seeking a commitment of money that can immediately be used to boost prizemoney.

Members from each of the four bodies representing jockeys, trainers, owners and breeders will meet the Minister and they have also requested that State Treasurer Jackie Trad and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk attend.

It is uncertain yet whether any representatives from Racing Queensland will be there.

The Minister has been advised that the only way to halt planned industrial action will be with a "satisfactory financial injection immediately into prizemoney", along with continuing commitments.

Former champion jockey Chris Munce, now president of the state branch of the Australian Trainers' Association, hopes the Government will realise how dire the situation has become in Queensland.

"It seems to me (the Government) just want mediocre racing up here where we are racing for ribbons," he said.

"They have to come back with something for us.

"I just hope they can see what a dire situation we are in.

"It's got to the point now, with the other states going so well, that it's almost impossible to run a business and survive here. It's just so expensive for owners to race here by way of prizemoney comparisons.

"If nothing happens, businesses are just going to shut

down."

Multiple premierships-winning rider Larry Cassidy said jockeys would remain 100 per

cent behind the industry's planned industrial action if nothing changed in the next fortnight.

"There's disappointment and frustration across the whole industry about the result given to them," Cassidy said.

The already flagging industry is seeking a cash injection from point of consumption receipts.

The tax is expected to have a detrimental effect on existing wagering returns to the industry.

Racing Queensland chief executive Brendan Parnell conceded the introduction of

the tax would affect overall revenue returned to the control body, over and above the "make good" aspect of the POC deal, pointing to South Australia (which led the country in introducing this tax) as an example.

"I don't believe it will be as extreme as it was in South Australia, because there are significantly more customers in Queensland, but we are expecting a downturn because of it," Parnell said.

"This will do damage and the finances will be impacted.

"The timing is also very poor for Queensland.

"The next three months are the biggest betting months of the year and we are now an outlier, because NSW and Victoria's POC doesn't come in until January 1."



FRUSTRATED: Chris Munce.