



Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Minister for Racing
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Level 5 Executive Building
100 George St Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
GPO Box 611 Brisbane
Telephone 07 3719 7140
Email EmploymentIR@ministerial.qld.gov.au
racing@ministerial.qld.gov.au
multicultural@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Your Ref: 10.4 Petitions
Our Ref: CTS 09252/16

19 MAY 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 21 April 2016 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2575-16 tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

Under the *Racing Act 2002* (the Racing Act), Racing Queensland (RQ) is the control body for greyhound, harness and thoroughbred racing in Queensland. The control body is responsible for allocating race dates and prize money for races. As the Minister for Racing, I am prevented by the Racing Act from giving a direction to the control body about prize money for races or the allocation of race days for any code of racing.

RQ and the Government released the 'Tracking Towards Sustainability' (TTS) financial recovery plan for the racing industry on 3 December 2015. I am aware that TTS contained a range of initiatives including an amended prize money structure for the three codes of racing across the State. On the same day TTS was released, the Government announced the Country Racing Support Program (CRSP) package, committing to \$21 million over four years to ensure country racing in the regions continues.

The primary focus of the \$21 million package is to offset the amended prize money structure for country racing contained in TTS.

The balance of funds that are not offsetting prize money will be used to enable RQ to assist country race clubs to improve a number of aspects such as the development of business models, identifying alternative funding sources, staff training and enhancement to visitor infrastructure.

The Government's commitment to country racing through the CRSP means that country racing prize money and race meetings will remain at current levels for at least the next two years from 1 July 2016. Further to this, over the course of the next two years I hope to see improvements to the financial position of RQ and more financial opportunities that enhance the sustainability of country racing into the future.

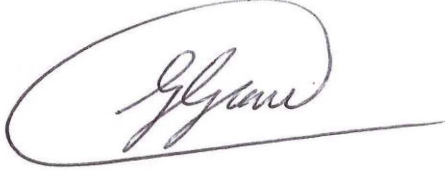
This Government recognises that racing is an integral part of the Queensland economy and plays an important role in the social fabric of the State, particularly in rural and regional areas. The Government is committed to ensuring a strong and sustainable racing industry in Queensland.

If you require further information, you can contact Ms Sharon Durham, Chief of Staff of my office on (07) 3719 7140.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 31 by 19 May 2016.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Grace', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

HON. GRACE GRACE MP

Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations

Minister for Racing

Minister for Multicultural Affairs