



Hon Peter Lawlor MP
Member for Southport



Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading

Ref: MN114340
RAC-00398

- 8 JUL 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Sts
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 9 June 2010 enclosing the wording of the Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 1425-10 presented by Mr Ray Stevens MP, Member for Mermaid Beach on behalf of the principal petitioner, Ms Jane McNamara.

Amendments to the *Racing Act 2002* have been passed by Parliament and will come into effect from 1 July 2010.

While the Queensland Country Racing Committee and the Country Racing Associations will no longer be established under the Racing Act, they will continue to exist and will be established under the constitution of the amalgamated control body, Racing Queensland Limited.

As the new amalgamated control body will be responsible for the three codes of racing structure, having thoroughbred-specific bodies set up under the legislation was not considered appropriate. The Country Racing Committee and the eight Country Racing Associations will be established under the constitution of the new control body, Racing Queensland Limited, as advisory committees for non-TAB thoroughbred racing which will perform the same roles as they currently perform. The Queensland Country Racing Committee was briefed on these new arrangements on 22 April 2010 and supported the new arrangements.

Racing Queensland's constitution will also provide that should the control body and the Country Racing Committee be unable to reach agreement on the number of days on which country racing meetings are to be held, the number of country race meetings for the year under consideration must not be less than the number of days on which country race meetings were held in the previous racing season. This is the same arrangement that currently exists.

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Racing Queensland will be required to adopt the constitution approved by me and to obtain the ratification in writing of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for racing before implementing any amendment to the company's constitution.

I have made it clear that the constitution of Racing Queensland Limited will not be approved by me unless the country racing safeguards identified above are reflected in the constitution.

The Government acknowledges that the country racing sector needs certainty with regard to its funding and therefore there is no change to the legislation that requires the control body to provide a minimum percent of the net UNiTAB product fee as prize money for non-TAB racing, or for supporting non-TAB racing.

Necessary amendments have been made to reflect that there is no longer a thoroughbred control body, accordingly, Racing Queensland Limited must pay 5.32% of its net UNiTAB product fee in supporting non-TAB thoroughbred racing. The 5.32% of the new control body's net UNiTAB product fee will deliver exactly the same amount as 7% of the current thoroughbred control body's net UNiTAB product fee.

Additional new funding of \$900,000 from the Government's Racing Industry Capital Development Scheme will also be allocated over three years to assist small country clubs in complying with minimum workplace health and safety standards. While this money is not intended to fund all the remedial works required by clubs, it will provide some assistance to clubs that have done all they can to help themselves and have no other option available.

While I understand the issues that have been raised in the Petition, I believe the legislative changes adequately deal with the Petitioners' concerns.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Peter Lawlor MP

Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading