



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Racing Queensland

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.15 pm): Allegations made on the *Four Corners* program on 16 February this year about widespread overbreeding, euthanasia and live baiting in Queensland's greyhound industry were abhorrent, sickening and shocking news to Queenslanders. The MacSporran report handed down earlier this week recommended a complete overhaul of the industry and tough accountability measures and found that self-regulation failed the safeguarding of animal welfare and integrity within the industry. Also of concern are actions by this government, particularly since the MacSporran report was handed down with 15 recommendations. Instantly the Palaszczuk government dismissed all racing boards in Queensland, not just the Greyhound Racing Board, and issued a show cause notice to Racing Queensland CEO Darren Condon. While the Premier stated that the 15 recommendations were under consideration, the government could not wait to terminate positions of all racing board members who were appointed by the LNP.

As I mentioned on 612 ABC Brisbane yesterday morning on the Steve Austin program, board members were effectively sacked by voicemail messages. Some were lucky enough to receive a phone call from the minister's staff, but there was not a word from the Minister for Sport and Racing himself. This minister, the member for Rockhampton, has been the invisible man for the racing industry in Queensland, barely meeting with anyone in the industry, and lacks the basic respect and courtesy to bother to speak to the board members his government sacked. It is an appalling way to treat people and the minister should hang his head in shame. If these board members were part of a union I am sure it would be a different story. Union bosses would be on the phone making calls to their mates.

Further to these claims, Mr Kevin Dixon, the chair of Racing Queensland, gave an interview to 612 ABC Brisbane this morning and made some startling remarks. Yesterday the Premier said she would be immediately referring the parlous financial state of Racing Queensland to the Auditor-General, but Mr Dixon said that as the Auditor-General sits on the finance committee which meets quarterly he already knows about their finances and that claims by the Premier about a \$21 million black hole in the current first draft of Racing Queensland's budget are fictitious. Considering the first meeting to discuss the budget was scheduled for next week and departmental heads have not yet forwarded their budgets to Racing Queensland, the Premier's comments indicate she has either done this budget herself or is being loose with the truth.

I call on the Premier to table in this House today the evidence that she used to justify statements made in the House yesterday about the financial state of Racing Queensland. The last thing the racing industry in Queensland needs right now is a Premier, a minister and a government trying to score cheap political points on the back of a damning report about animal welfare and integrity concerns in the greyhound industry.

This Saturday is the AAMI Stradbroke Day, one of the most prestigious days of racing in Australia, the grand final of the Channel 7 Brisbane Racing Carnival, and it is a cause for celebration. Instead we have a government more focused on trashing the reputations of decent individuals and making spurious claims that it has failed to show evidence to back up.