



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Racing Industry

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.01 pm): The Queensland racing industry deserves better than an incompetent minister and a Labor government that have relentlessly talked down Queensland's racing industry, and the minister did it in here again just a few minutes ago. If we look back through the Minister for Sport and Racing's statements in this House, we would be very hard pressed to find a single word of praise amongst the multitude of negative comments. For several months now our racing industry has been under siege from a government intent on tearing it apart, scaremongering and trashing the reputations of many within it. For several months now I have been asking the minister to furnish this House with some proof of his accusations and to table the documents on which he has based his comments of the purported cost blowouts in Racing Queensland's budget, but he was unwilling to share these documents time and again, just as he has been unwilling to meet with stakeholders.

Yesterday, though, with the tabling by the Clerk in this parliament of the annual report for Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board 2014-15, all that gloom and doom along with the fear and smear campaign has now been exposed for what it was—a beat-up. The financial accounts released yesterday for Racing Queensland show total revenue for the organisation was up \$23 million, there is \$3 million cash in the bank and there is no debt, and the Auditor-General signed this off as an unqualified report. When asked about this on the Steve Austin program this morning, the minister answered as followed—

Austin: \$23 million profit. Do you agree with that?

Byrne: I agree.

Austin: Can I get you to confirm Racing Queensland shows no debt?

Byrne: At this point, yes.

Austin: Can you confirm it has \$3 million in cash in the bank?

Byrne: That is true too.

What we have seen here is that the release of these supposed damning budget blowouts are so much more about Labor's agenda to return to the bad old days under a Bentley type regime than about responsible financial management. Labor still has no plan. The LNP on the other hand had a very strong strategy for growth which has been outlined very clearly. Labor has spent the bulk of this year destroying the confidence and reputations of people in the racing fraternity. I now challenge the minister to apologise to the racing fraternity of Queensland for the damage that he has been doing—not once, not twice but on numerous occasions. Quite frankly, this minister has lost the confidence of an industry that brings in \$850 million to this state every year and he has installed so much fear in people's jobs and their futures, and that is disgraceful.