

FACT SHEET

RACING REGULATION AMENDMENT (RACE FIELDS) AMENDMENT BILL 2009

The purpose of this Bill is to incorporate legislative changes recommended by the Solicitor-General to address deficiencies identified with the existing race fields legislation as the result of a Court challenge to similar interstate legislation.

The rationale for race fields legislation is to require wagering operators to pay a fee for using racing events as a platform for their gambling services from which they profit.

This income has been identified as a future funding source for the industry which, it is envisaged, will help safeguard the industry's sustainability over the longer term in an increasingly competitive market.

When Parliament passed race fields amending legislation in 2008, a decision was made not to implement it immediately, in order to monitor developments in other jurisdictions.

The national landscape with respect to race fields continues to evolve. The past 12 months has seen the majority of States enacting legislation to either introduce a race fields regime in their respective jurisdiction or amend their existing legislation as a consequence of legal challenges.

It is with this in mind that the Government is planning to implement the race fields legislation, but is signaling its intention to quarantine the income generated from the publication of Tasmanian race field information until such time that the active legal challenges have been adequately resolved.

It is proposed to implement the race fields regime, effective 1 July 2009.