



July 7, 2011

Legislative Council
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Attention: Ruth Forrest

Dear Ms Forrest

Public Hearing in relation to the Tasracing Inquiry

Devonport Harness Racing Club believed its role to put forward an industry participants they felt best represented the code, with the LCGAC to determine the final group. We believe it to be unrealistic that the harness code ever be able reach a unanimous decision on representatives. History shows that there are a number of very parochial and destructive individuals in administrative roles within the code, who have in the past dominated our controlling bodies.

DHRC wish to cooperate with the inquiry and put forward the following comments for your consideration;

- DHRC feel that most industry participants or club committee members do not have appropriate knowledge of Tasracing's operations to make informed comment on the terms of reference. Too often industry stake holders focus on the negatives and have an unrealistic view of Tasracing's role or fail to cooperate to work in harmony. The role of Tasracing and clubs/associations is an area that requires some clarity.
- Tasracing could benefit from a stronger media presence in promoting the good work or projects that have been achieved.

Comment regarding point 4 of the Terms of Reference; it is quite clear that there are some personality clashes within both organisations (DIER and Tasracing) that do not allow cooperative working relationships and best outcomes for the industry.

DHRC believe we have a sound working relationship with Tasracing. We have been able to address concerns to a satisfactory level in recent time with positive outcomes for the club. We do at times have frustrations with individual staff members and processes, which have been raised with the relevant managers and addressed. We

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do however believe that performance management of staff and appropriate workloads are areas that can be improved.

Our demographic to the Tasracing office has posed an ongoing challenge with the inability to gain regular, important, face to face contact with Tasracing staff across all of its departments.

In closing DHRC believe that Tasracing as a young organisation has achieved an element of professional management the industry required. There have been some very difficult decisions to be made and still need to be made regarding grass roots operations of the industry. While industry participants may not like them now, the long term future of our industry relies on them.

If you require any further information in relation to this please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Claire McDonald
DHRC President

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