



Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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RELEASE OF COMMITTEE REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO THE PERFORMANCE OF TASRACING

A Legislative Council Committee investigating the performance of Tasracing has recommended Government reconsider the most appropriate model to administer and fund the racing industry into the future and that consideration should be given to funding being tied to performance and return on investment.

The report into the performance of Tasracing was finalised earlier this week and was tabled in the Legislative Council today.

Committee Chairperson Ruth Forrest MLC said the Committee had a range of concerns in relation to the model that was established to administer and fund the racing industry in Tasmania and the ability of Tasracing to remain a going concern without significant ongoing financial support from Government. Ms Forrest said that there was no evidence that Tasracing's significant reliance on Government funding would alter in the future and that the difficulties associated with the funding arrangements first emerged following the initial failed sale offer of TOTE Tasmania.

"The Committee has made a number of recommendations, which has included that Government reconsider the most appropriate model to administer and fund the racing industry. The Government has a significant and ongoing liability to fund the industry which is unlikely to alter in the future. Tasracing will only remain a going concern with this funding remaining in place indefinitely. The option of the industry being funded through revenue generated by TOTE Tasmania now appears to be at an end following the recent sale of the business, which has left an ongoing financial burden to the State" Ms Forrest stated.

Ms Forrest said that regardless of the model that was settled upon, the Committee had made a number of other recommendations, which included a review of the *Racing Regulations Act 2004* in light of a disagreement between Tasracing and the Director of Racing about the interpretation of their functions under the Act. Ms Forrest said that the Committee has also recommended the need for each industry code to be required to establish and maintain a peak body under the Act, to assist Tasracing in meeting its obligations to consult with industry codes.

“The Committee has identified certain issues with the current Act. This includes ongoing difficulties with stakeholders effectively engaging with the industry given the lack of peak bodies amongst some code participants. The Committee experienced these difficulties first hand during the course of the inquiry when attempting to discuss the performance of Tasracing with code participants, which led to one industry code not participating in an inquiry hearing. This is unacceptable given the level of Government funding the industry receives”.

Ms Forrest said the Inquiry into the performance of Tasracing would provide a range of updated information and recommendations for Government to consider the most appropriate way forward in relation to industry funding and performance into the future.

Further information about the Inquiry including terms of reference, transcripts, published evidence and the Inquiry Report are available at:

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminA.htm>

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Ruth Forrest MLC on 0419879524