

31 May 2011

Mr Stuart Wright
Secretary
Legislative Council Committee A
Parliament of Tasmania
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Stuart

Please find attached submission in relation to the forthcoming enquiry into Tasracing Performance by your committee.

This submission is lodged on behalf of a group known as the Thoroughbred Industry Consultative Committee, which was formed on the advice for the Minister of Racing the Hon Bryan Greene following an Industry Rally conducted in Launceston on the 9th April this year.

The Thoroughbred Industry Consultative Committee consists of representation from the following organisations:

Tasmanian Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Tasmanian Thoroughbred Owners Association
Tasmanian Thoroughbred Trainers Association
Tasmanian Jockeys Association
Tasmanian Racing Club
Tasmanian Turf Club
Devonport Racing Club

Our submission primarily addresses matters relative to items 3 and 4 of your inquiry's terms of reference namely :

Factors impacting on the on the ongoing profitability and sustainability of Tas Racing.

Review of the respective roles of DIER and Tasracing in relation to the administration of the Tasmanian Racing Industry.

Stuart I will be overseas for 5 weeks therefore should you need further information or clarification of any of the points raised in this submission please contact Mrs Robyn Whishaw, of Armidale Stud, Carrick , she can be contacted via the following

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Business: 0419 100 634
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Yours faithfully
C J (Chris) Taylor

Government Administration Committee "A"

Inquiry into Tasracing Performance

Factors impacting on the ongoing profitability and sustainability of Tas Racing

1. The cost of Tasracing when compared to the previous administrative organisation (Thoroughbred Racing Council) is astronomical and we fail to see the benefits to the industry of Tasracing compared to the Thoroughbred Racing Council.

We would encourage the committee to enquire as to the costs of operation of the present and past administrative bodies particularly in the following areas:

1. Wages
2. Wages on cost, eg Workers Compensation, Superannuation etc
3. Motor vehicles, ie Purchase / lease and running costs
4. Travelling and accommodation
 - 4.1 Overseas
 - 4.2 Nationally
 - 4.3 Locally
5. Office expenses, eg rental, power, furniture, stationery
6. Consultancies

We would like to know how the Thoroughbred industry has benefited from the additional expense incurred by Tasracing and how that additional expense can be justified.

2. It is our belief that since original inception Tasracing has become a grossly overstaffed and ineffective bureaucratic organisation.

We do not believe that the industry can sustain the cost of the current staffing levels which we are informed now comprise of some 75 or so employees.

We request the committee determine whether such staffing levels are necessary and can they be justified on a cost benefit return basis to the industry.

3. Stake money is the life blood of the industry and this has been decreasing in real terms, particularly to local owners and trainers.

Up to now Tasracing have been unsuccessful in marketing Tasmanian Thoroughbred Racing despite the significant amount of time and money that has been directed in this area.

Can the committee secure from Tasracing a creditable explanation as to why they have failed in this area. We feel it may be due to one of the following factors:

- 3.1 Tabcorp were extremely angered by previous Premier Paul Lennon's decision to grant Betfair permission to operate in Tasmania. Sky's distinct lack of interest in our product may well be a retaliatory action.

3.2 Tasracing personnel responsible for negotiating with Sky are not adequately commercially competent to achieve the result necessary for the industry to remain viable.

4. The lack of confidence and trust in Tasracing by a significant majority of industry stakeholders and Tasracing performance to date clearly demonstrates Tasracing's failure to achieve their own goals and ideals as laid out in its Corporate Plan particularly in relation to vision, mission and value.

We would like to know how Tasracing regard their performance compared to the Vision, Mission and Value sections of their corporate plan.