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2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2011

Mr. Stuart Wright  
Committee Secretary  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Sir,

Re: Submission in relation to Tasracing Inquiry

Legislative Council Select Committee Terms of Reference

Item 1 The financial performance of Tasracing taking into account their half yearly Financial Report.

Item 2 Update of matters noted by the Auditor-general (Report No 2 of 2010, Vol 3, pp130-134)

Item 3 Factors impacting on the ongoing profitability and sustainability of Tasracing.

Item 4 Review of the respective roles of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) and Tasracing in relation to the administration of the Tasmanian racing industry.

The Launceston Greyhound Racing Club wish to make brief comments relating to Items 1, 3 and 4 of the Terms of Reference.

Items 1 and 3

We are aware that the major portion of Tasracing's income comes from the Tasmanian Government through the Funding Deed, now about to enter its third year. However, this portion of income is planned to progressively decrease through the 20 year life of the Deed.



Proud Sponsor of The Tote Racing Centre

Racefields fees, sponsorship and other income are necessary for Tasracing to perform its required functions of the provision of prize money, financial contributions to race clubs and maintenance of racing infrastructure. This year, (2010/11), racefields fees have only been able to be collected after 1 November 2010 due to delays in legislation, so it is not surprising that Tasracing has a financial deficit.

We realise that racing needs to become more self sufficient in funding, and expect that the greyhound code will be a major contributor to that. In Tasmania, greyhound racing has been responsible for 30 – 40% of national wagering turnover on Tasmanian racing during the past decade. This compares with 40 – 50% for thoroughbreds, and around 20% for the harness racing code. During the last couple of years, wagering on greyhounds has been around 40%, with thoroughbreds only about 2% ahead.

On the cost side, greyhound racing has lower costs than both codes, and particularly than the thoroughbreds. The result is that the return on investment to Tasracing through greyhound racing is almost twice that from the other codes.

It is to Tasracing's credit that the Board has passed an improved funding formula for allocation of stakes which recognizes to some degree the contribution of greyhound racing, and its need for improved funding. Tasracing through this decision has shown recognition of a situation which has been ignored by the past couple of decades of racing administrators.

We believe that the future of Tasmanian racing faces plenty of threats, but we have the enthusiasm and determination needed to work hard for its success.

#### Item 4

We understand the separate functions of Tasracing and Racing Services Tasmania, and in general believe that both function well and for the best interests of racing. However in some matters such as improvements or changes in track design, they do not appear to be as well in touch as they could be. For example, the installation of the new 710 metre start boxes at Tattersall's Park in Hobart is currently behind schedule, and this may be due to slow communication between Tasracing and RST.

Yours faithfully,



RICHARD STAMFORD  
Liaison Officer