

3659 West Tamar Highway

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1.07.11

Dear M/s Forrest

Chester Bullock passed on the letter dated 27.6.11 to the NTLHA, of which I am a committee member. The LCGAC "A" Inquiry into Tas Racing is receiving scant recognition, because, I believe quite frankly that many stake holders have given up. **Tas Racing was forced upon us, they take no notice of any advice to improve the industry, they have taken money from harness racing and when the announcement was made, they went into hiding.**

I am 69 this year – I entered harness racing at age 17 – my grandfather was involved as a galloping trainer (Tom Barker) – my uncle Arthur Barker was one of the states premier breeders and stood a leading sire of Australia in "Chamfer" who sired an Interdominion winner and the dam of an Interdominion winner, the only stallion to do so, even today. Another uncle, Fred Barker, was a top rider when pacers were ridden and trained up to when he died in his late seventies. My father, Stan Barker, trained up until his death at 56. My wife Pauline was the first woman to win against the men in Tasmania and has won the Edgar Tatlow medal for services to Harness Racing – the only woman to do so. My eldest daughter out-drove her claim quickly and represented Tasmania in NSW, she also dead-heated in the Youngbloods series.

My wife and I are exiting the 'breeding for sale' side of things. This year, we have 11 mares in foal. Our best 4 mares will be sold at auction in Victoria in September that includes 2 recent Tas Broodmares of the Year. We also tried to sell the others, but no takers, so we will keep the foals and give the mares away and keep 2 or 3 to breed for our own use. This decision was made after taking 5 yearlings to the sale in January, needing \$9,000 per head to break even (including commission). We had bids of \$7500 down to \$3500 so we bought them back and we will no longer support the Tasmanian sale. We have had to take out an overdraft to survive – this has to stop and we must reduce costs and although we will also reduce income, the bottom line is 2 or 3 mares can't be expected to look after 11 mares.

The yearlings we keep, we will lease out – this could affect the Tas yearling sale as a trainer might recommend to the owner to try one of Barker's yearlings on lease rather than buy. How would this be better for me? As a breeder I would still get bonuses – also one-third of stakes and I can put a buyout of \$20,000 on the yearling and if the horse turns okay, I will get that. Of the 9 yearlings we bred that are now 2-year-olds, three have won and a good chance another will, as a 2yo. However, 3 out of 9 (33.1/3%) is a high percentage in sales to 2yo winners.

In all my years in Harness Racing only the Bacon-Lennon combination has benefited Harness Racing. I'm a Liberal voter, but I and many like me voted Labour that year and subsequent years, especially when we feared the Rundle Government in Racing. Unfortunately, I believe, the Giddings/Green government is that much on the nose, the Liberals need to do nothing and promise nothing to win the next election. Who knows whether they will be any good for Harness Racing. If Tas Racing remains in its present form and attitude, probably not. It is quite possible that Tasmania will end up a training ground for racing harness horses and when they make the grade, send them to the

mainland. If that happens, the last 50 years will have been for nothing, because that's the way it was when I entered harness racing.

Yours faithfully,

Fred Barker