

Louise Foley

From: Louise Foley
Sent: Tuesday, 18 September 2018 7:49 AM
To: Peter Power
Cc: Mark Bellaver
Subject: RQ180918.docx
Attachments: RQ180918.docx

Hi Peter

Attached is a short document outlining RQ's parlous situation and plan for a more sustainable future, which – and I know you won't be surprised by this – requires a short sharp injection of funds. Notwithstanding the shortage thereof, there is nonetheless, a very significant current issue that the Government is going to have to deal with. I'd be grateful if you could have a read and give me a call to discuss - later today ideally.

Refused under section 47(3)(a) of the RTI Act. Exempt information under schedule 3, item 2(1)(b) of the RTI Act.

Cheers
Louise



**Queensland
Government**

Louise Foley

Chief of Staff

Office of the Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP

Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

 [E Louise.Foley@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Foley@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

1 William Street Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15009 City East QLD 4002

Louise Foley

From: Louise Foley
Sent: Thursday, 18 October 2018 4:32 PM
To: David Barbagallo; Mark Bellaver
Subject: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance.DOCX
Attachments: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance.DOCX

Hi David and Mark

Attached is a draft letter to the thoroughbred folk for your consideration and discussion.

Cheers



Louise Foley

Chief of Staff

Office of the Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP

Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

 [E Louise.Foley@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Louise.Foley@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

1 William Street Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15009 City East QLD 4002

Our ref: OUT18/6863

Insert name

Insert Title

Organisation <MO to confirm recipients>

Address line 1

SUBURB STATE POSTCODE

Thank you for meeting with us last week and so clearly and passionately articulating the concerns of the thoroughbred racing industry.

At the outset, we would like to express the Palaszczuk Government's appreciation for the industry's united presence at the meeting and your support for the Government's view that a strong, independent, commercially self-sustainable and vibrant racing industry is a worthy aim for all concerned.

The Government fully understands that the most significant issue for your membership is the availability of prize money to stem, what you see as, an exodus of industry participants to southern states.

As a Government, we are committed to working with you on identifying appropriate measures and steps towards achieving financial and industry sustainability.

The competitive tension with other racing jurisdictions is understood by the Palaszczuk Government. However, we know, as you do, that the population and geographic demographics of New South Wales and Victoria make achieving parity unlikely, in the same way as South Australia or Western Australia are unlikely to achieve parity with Queensland.

Nonetheless, the Government anticipates that the Queensland racing industry can achieve a financial position between these two extremes in the mid to long term, as long as appropriate structural and governance improvements continue to be identified and actioned.

As discussed at the meeting, the Palaszczuk Government has decided to provide Racing Queensland (RQ) with a \$20 million grant in 2018-19 to be applied towards two new racing facilities, as well as additional financial support to ensure that there is no negative impact on Queensland's racing industry from the Point of Consumption Tax (POCT).

The Government will also forgive \$17.8 million of debt owed to the State by RQ, putting RQ in a better financial position to address industry needs. This debt was incurred when the then-Board of RQ implemented a series of prize money and spending increases, far above revenue available at that time. The debt was incurred following the signing of a 30-year exclusive wagering agreement in 2014, during the time of the former Government.

By providing RQ with this assistance, the Palaszczuk Government has sought to relieve RQ of several significant financial burdens, in order to free up the organisation's financial capacity to address industry requests.

The quantum of the additional financial support to compensate RQ is commercial-in-confidence. However, we can advise that in 2018-19, the Government will be returning to the racing industry 100 per cent of the value of POCT revenue.

As well as returning the full value of POCT revenue to industry this financial year, a further \$34.4 million has been committed by the Queensland Government to support the industry through the Training Track Subsidy Scheme, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and the Country Racing Package.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed over \$188 million to the racing industry since 2015.

This Government has specifically chosen to invest over \$70 million in country racing, because of its important role in bringing communities together and strengthening towns and cities as tourist destinations. This move not only delivered certainty for country Queensland, but relieved RQ of yet another financial burden, allowing RQ to increase prize money by \$12 million in February this year and increase support for TAB meetings and clubs.

We believe that since 2015, the Government has clearly and consistently demonstrated its commitment to the racing industry, while acknowledging its contribution to the State's economy.

Following last week's meeting, the Government has requested that RQ provide information to the Government to demonstrate that a clear financial path towards financial independence has been identified for Queensland's racing industry.

We are pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk Government has decided to **revisit the decision (???)** with respect to the distribution of POCT revenue, once this information is to hand.

Further, we are pleased to advise that the matters that you have raised are to be considered at the Government's Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Review (MYFER), which is scheduled to occur over the coming weeks. MYFER is an out-of-session budget exercise designed to deal with urgent or suddenly arising needs.

The approach detailed in this letter will provide the Government with the opportunity to holistically consider your request for supplementary industry assistance.

As those deliberations take place in coming weeks, we will continue to engage with industry stakeholders and keep you informed of developments as they occur.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Louise Foley, Chief of Staff (Office of the Min for Racing) on [REDACTED] or ??????? (Office of the Treasurer) on 3719

Yours sincerely

JACKIE TRAD

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE

Louise Foley

From: Louise Foley
Sent: Monday, 8 October 2018 10:44 AM
To: Mark Bellaver
Subject: Racing industry letter
Attachments: LettertoQldGovt2018.doc; ATT00001.txt



Australian Trainers Association – Qld Branch

President: [REDACTED]

State Executive: Cameron Partington

[REDACTED]
Refused under section 47(3)(b) of the RTI Act

Attn: Minister for Racing
Qld Treasurer
Qld Premier

Thursday 4th October 2018

The four major participant groups involved in racing in Queensland are the Australian Trainers Assoc (Qld Branch), the Queensland Thoroughbred Breeders Association, The Queensland Jockeys Association and the Queensland Race-horse Owners Association. These four groups have formed an alliance to create a united voice at this most critical time for the future financial well-being of racing in Queensland.

As a group which will represent Queensland Trainers, Jockeys, Breeders and Owners we formally advise the Queensland Government of our total dissatisfaction with the lack of both financial and emotional interest in our industry, a concern that has been ongoing for many years but reached an all-time high with the recent announcements on the distribution of the Point of Consumption Tax.

Racing industry participants are in the majority battlers who work long and hard to put on the show that we all know as Thoroughbred Racing. During our Winter and Magic Millions carnivals and through smaller carnivals throughout the State, you the Government are always on hand to share in the focus and attention these events provide. But week in week out the participants keep the show on the road, keeping the communities involved in the social environment of racing, employing thousands of Queenslanders and contributing the local economies throughout the State.

With the advancement of racing in the Southern States leaving us far behind, with that we have been seeing the demise of our own industry. Currently the only positive reason we can offer to have a horse raced in Queensland compared to NSW or VIC is our weather. We understand that reality is we probably never will be as strong as the other states, but whilst we keep losing ground at such a rapid rate the snowball effect will take place and we could soon see our industry plummet to the lows like which are currently seen in Tasmania, South Australia and New Zealand.

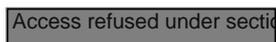
We have taken the approach that discussion and negotiation is no longer viable, and that the only way we can make our point is unfortunately through industrial action which is being requested vocally by our participants. We have planned Saturday October 27th as the day to stand down all industry participants from the race meetings designated for Doomben, Gold Coast and Toowoomba. As a courtesy to the country people we will have them continue with their meetings but there will be some disruptions on these days to ensure our point is made.

We do remain hopeful that this planned industrial action, that will no doubt further negatively impact our fragile industry, will not be required. We will follow this with another stand-down day on Tuesday the 6th of November (Melbourne Cup Day) with further days to occur if a satisfactory outcome is not achieved.

The Government has the chance to avoid this planned industrial action by offering a satisfactory package to allow Racing Queensland to quickly bring a financial boost to the industry through much needed significant prize-money increases and also commit to further increases in the immediate future as the proceeds of the P.O.C tax are collected.

Upon recognition and addressing of our concerns we will consider our position further.

Regards,

 (State Executive of the ATA) on behalf of:

 - President ATA (Qld)
- President QTBA
- President QJA
- President QROA

Louise Foley

From: Mark Bellaver
Sent: Friday, 19 October 2018 12:59 PM
To: Louise Foley; David Barbagallo
Cc: Peter Power
Subject: RE: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance.DOCX
Attachments: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance (002).docx

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sorry with contact added

Mark Bellaver

From: Mark Bellaver
Sent: Friday, 19 October 2018 12:44 PM
To: Louise Foley <Louise.Foley@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; David Barbagallo <David.Barbagallo@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Peter Power <Peter.Power@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance.DOCX

DP has approved use of her electronic signature

Mark Bellaver

From: Mark Bellaver
Sent: Friday, 19 October 2018 11:47 AM
To: Louise Foley <Louise.Foley@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; David Barbagallo <David.Barbagallo@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance.DOCX

I've marked up some changes to the letter attached

Our ref: OUT18/6863

Insert name
Insert Title
Organisation <MO to confirm recipients>
Address line 1
SUBURB STATE POSTCODE

Thank you for meeting with us last week and so clearly and passionately articulating the concerns of the thoroughbred racing industry.

At the outset, we would like to express the Palaszczuk Government's appreciation for the industry's united presence at the meeting and your support for the Government's view that a strong, independent, commercially self-sustainable and vibrant racing industry is a worthy aim for all concerned.

The Government fully understands that the most significant issue for your membership is the availability of prize money to stem, what you see as, an exodus of industry participants to southern states.

We acknowledge the view that you put to us at our meeting that the current situation facing the racing industry has a number of causes that date back many years. As a Government, we are committed to working with you on identifying appropriate measures and steps towards achieving financial and industry sustainability.

The competitive tension with other racing jurisdictions is understood by the Palaszczuk Government. However, we know, as you do, that the population and geographic demographics of New South Wales and Victoria make achieving parity unlikely, in the same way as South Australia or Western Australia are unlikely to achieve parity with Queensland.

Nonetheless, the Government anticipates that the Queensland racing industry can achieve a financial position between these two extremes in the mid to long term, as long as appropriate structural and governance improvements continue to be identified and actioned.

As discussed at the meeting, the Palaszczuk Government has decided to provide Racing Queensland (RQ) with a \$20 million grant in 2018-19 to be applied towards two new racing facilities, as well as additional financial support to ensure that there is no negative impact on Queensland's racing industry from the Point of Consumption Tax (POCT).

The Government will also forgive \$17.8 million of debt owed to the State by RQ, putting RQ in a better financial position to address industry needs. This debt was incurred when the then-Board of RQ implemented a series of prize money and spending increases, far above revenue available at that time. The debt was incurred following the signing of a 30-year exclusive wagering agreement in 2014, during the time of the former Government.

By providing RQ with this assistance, the Palaszczuk Government has sought to relieve RQ of several significant financial burdens, in order to free up the organisation's financial capacity to address industry requests.

The quantum of the additional financial support to compensate RQ is commercial-in-confidence. However, we can advise that in 2018-19, the Government will be returning to the racing industry 100 per cent of the value of POCT revenue.

As well as returning the full value of POCT revenue to industry this financial year, a further \$34.4 million has been committed by the Queensland Government to support the industry through the Training Track Subsidy Scheme, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and the Country Racing Package.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed over \$188 million to the racing industry since 2015.

This Government has specifically chosen to invest over \$70 million in country racing, because of its important role in bringing communities together and strengthening towns and cities as tourist destinations. This move not only delivered certainty for country Queensland, but relieved RQ of yet another financial burden, allowing RQ to increase prize money by \$12 million in February this year and increase support for TAB meetings and clubs.

We believe that since 2015, the Government has clearly and consistently demonstrated its commitment to the racing industry, while acknowledging its contribution to the State's economy.

Following last week's meeting, the Government has requested that RQ provide information to the Government to demonstrate that a clear financial path towards financial independence has been identified for Queensland's racing industry.

The Palaszczuk Government has decided to consider this information along with your requests, once this information is to hand.

~~We are pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk Government has decided to revisit the decision (???) with respect to the distribution of POCT revenue, once this information is to hand.~~

Further, we ~~are pleased to~~ advise that the matters that you have raised are to be considered at the Government's Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Review (MYFER), which is scheduled to occur over the coming weeks. MYFER is an out-of-session budget exercise designed to deal with urgent or suddenly arising needs.

The approach detailed in this letter will provide the Government with the opportunity to holistically consider your request for supplementary industry assistance.

As those deliberations take place in coming weeks, we will continue to engage with industry stakeholders and keep you informed of developments as they occur.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Louise Foley, Chief of Staff (Office of the Min for Racing) on [REDACTED] or ~~????????~~ Mr Mark Bellaver, Chief of Staff (Office of the Deputy Premier Treasurer) on 3719 7100.

Yours sincerely

JACKIE TRAD

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE

Louise Foley

From: Mark Bellaver
Sent: Friday, 19 October 2018 11:47 AM
To: Louise Foley; David Barbagallo
Subject: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance.DOCX
Attachments: PRIORITY - Letter to Thoroughbred Racing Alliance.DOCX

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I've marked up some changes to the letter attached

Our ref: OUT18/6863

Insert name
Insert Title
Organisation <MO to confirm recipients>
Address line 1
SUBURB STATE POSTCODE

Thank you for meeting with us last week and so clearly and passionately articulating the concerns of the thoroughbred racing industry.

At the outset, we would like to express the Palaszczuk Government's appreciation for the industry's united presence at the meeting and your support for the Government's view that a strong, independent, commercially self-sustainable and vibrant racing industry is a worthy aim for all concerned.

The Government fully understands that the most significant issue for your membership is the availability of prize money to stem, what you see as, an exodus of industry participants to southern states.

We acknowledge the view that you put to us at our meeting that the current situation facing the racing industry has a number of causes that date back many years. As a Government, we are committed to working with you on identifying appropriate measures and steps towards achieving financial and industry sustainability.

The competitive tension with other racing jurisdictions is understood by the Palaszczuk Government. However, we know, as you do, that the population and geographic demographics of New South Wales and Victoria make achieving parity unlikely, in the same way as South Australia or Western Australia are unlikely to achieve parity with Queensland.

Nonetheless, the Government anticipates that the Queensland racing industry can achieve a financial position between these two extremes in the mid to long term, as long as appropriate structural and governance improvements continue to be identified and actioned.

As discussed at the meeting, the Palaszczuk Government has decided to provide Racing Queensland (RQ) with a \$20 million grant in 2018-19 to be applied towards two new racing facilities, as well as additional financial support to ensure that there is no negative impact on Queensland's racing industry from the Point of Consumption Tax (POCT).

The Government will also forgive \$17.8 million of debt owed to the State by RQ, putting RQ in a better financial position to address industry needs. This debt was incurred when the then-Board of RQ implemented a series of prize money and spending increases, far above revenue available at that time. The debt was incurred following the signing of a 30-year exclusive wagering agreement in 2014, during the time of the former Government.

By providing RQ with this assistance, the Palaszczuk Government has sought to relieve RQ of several significant financial burdens, in order to free up the organisation's financial capacity to address industry requests.

The quantum of the additional financial support to compensate RQ is commercial-in-confidence. However, we can advise that in 2018-19, the Government will be returning to the racing industry 100 per cent of the value of POCT revenue.

As well as returning the full value of POCT revenue to industry this financial year, a further \$34.4 million has been committed by the Queensland Government to support the industry through the Training Track Subsidy Scheme, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and the Country Racing Package.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed over \$188 million to the racing industry since 2015.

This Government has specifically chosen to invest over \$70 million in country racing, because of its important role in bringing communities together and strengthening towns and cities as tourist destinations. This move not only delivered certainty for country Queensland, but relieved RQ of yet another financial burden, allowing RQ to increase prize money by \$12 million in February this year and increase support for TAB meetings and clubs.

We believe that since 2015, the Government has clearly and consistently demonstrated its commitment to the racing industry, while acknowledging its contribution to the State's economy.

Following last week's meeting, the Government has requested that RQ provide information to the Government to demonstrate that a clear financial path towards financial independence has been identified for Queensland's racing industry.

The Palaszczuk Government has decided to consider this information along with your requests, once this information is to hand.

~~We are pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk Government has decided to revisit the decision (???) with respect to the distribution of POCT revenue, once this information is to hand.~~

Further, we ~~are pleased to~~ advise that the matters that you have raised are to be considered at the Government's Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Review (MYFER), which is scheduled to occur over the coming weeks. MYFER is an out-of-session budget exercise designed to deal with urgent or suddenly arising needs.

The approach detailed in this letter will provide the Government with the opportunity to holistically consider your request for supplementary industry assistance.

As those deliberations take place in coming weeks, we will continue to engage with industry stakeholders and keep you informed of developments as they occur.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Louise Foley, Chief of Staff (Office of the Min for Racing) on [REDACTED] or ???????? (Office of the Treasurer) on 3719

Yours sincerely

JACKIE TRAD

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE

Louise Foley

From: Louise Foley
Sent: Thursday, 11 October 2018 12:18 PM
To: David Barbagallo; Mark Bellaver
Subject: Fwd: Statement to Government from Racing Participants Alliance

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [Refused under section 47(3)(b) of the RTI Act]
Date: 11 October 2018 at 12:07:23 pm AEST
To: <thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au>, <deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>, <lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au>, <louise.foley@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Statement to Government from Racing Participants Alliance

The Racing Industry Participants Alliance have taken the initiative today to put a hold on current plans for industrial action on Cox Plate & Melbourne Cup days.

On the back of a very productive meeting held on Tuesday with the Racing Minister and the Deputy Premier, we feel confident that a positive outcome can be reached, giving thoroughbred racing in Queensland the confidence boost it so desperately needs.

We want to give Racing Queensland clear air to reset its negotiations with Government, and by agreeing to postpone any proposed industrial action, we feel this provides the best atmosphere to obtain the most beneficial result to our financially challenged racing industry.

We feel more comfortable now that our Government better understands the current position of thoroughbred racing in Queensland, and the ever-widening gap to our competitor States; further evidenced by yesterday's announcements from Victoria and Western Australia.

We look forward now to working closely with the Government and look forward to a positive outcome which can fully resolve the situation as soon as possible.

[Redacted signature block]

[Refused under section 47(3)(b) of the RTI Act]