



for

Tabled, by leave,  
• Mr Latham  
.....  
S.West  
Clerk of the Parliaments  
13 / 11 / 2024

THE HON. MARK LATHAM MLC

## THOROUGHBRED RACING AMENDMENT (RACING NSW ACCOUNTABILITY) BILL 2024

### STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

#### Need:

Compelling and consistent evidence has been presented to the Rosehill Select Committee of wrongdoing at Racing NSW. Every conceivable breach of the duties of this regulator has occurred, with a high level of impropriety and corruption.

Accounts have been fabricated, money misappropriated, taxes avoided, regulatory power abused, favouritism dispensed, influence bought, workplace laws broken and racing participants intimidated.

No regulator should be allowed to act this way. The NSW racing industry, with its employment of 50,000 people, directly or indirectly, and \$3.3 billion of economic activity per annum, deserves much better.

Stakeholders have been scared in coming forward, worried about the culture of retribution at Racing NSW, but their evidence has been invaluable. For the first time they have had an outlet for identifying problems that have been accumulating over the past 20 years.

#### Objectives:

The Bill will, for the first time, make Racing NSW accountable to the NSW Parliament (Budget Estimates and SO52), the Auditor-General and ICAC, as well as ensuring the statute is reviewed regularly, so the problems identified at the Select Committee do not recur. This accountability is much needed at a racing regulator which has lost its way.

#### Options:

Similar reforms were proposed arising from the Government's attempt to extend the term of the Chair of Racing NSW in November 2023, but nothing was legislated due to disagreement between the two Houses.

#### Analysis:

The Bill is considered the most effective way of making Racing NSW accountable and ending its abuse of power. Other than the Minister for Racing sacking the Board and senior management and starting again, there is no other feasible pathway.

#### Pathway:

The proposed amendments come into effect upon proclamation.

**Consultation:**

The Select Committee has been a very effective forum for industry consultation, especially in the protection of whistleblowers.

The problems at Racing NSW have occurred due to a lack of transparency and accountability, and this Bill corrects that oversight in the original legislation.