

# Response to Questions on Notice

Dear Select Committee,

Please find below our post-hearing responses on the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse on 22 July 2024 as requested. I have also provided some additional information for clarification and requested information from The Hon. Mark Latham.

Kind regards,

Elio Celotto  
Campaign Director  
Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses

## **1. A breakdown of the \$110 million versus the \$220 million Racing NSW was given in support.**

### **Context:**

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Thank you for coming here today. You talked a little bit in your opening statement about the amount of money that was applied for federally, and I think you said that they probably only needed \$110million. Can you provide to the Committee, on notice, any kind of information around the break down of those costs to show where that came up to \$110 million versus \$220 million, just to give us a bit more context around that? I don't think it was detailed in your submission. Are you able to give something like that to us on notice?

### **Answer:**

I have attached a spreadsheet which hopefully is self explanatory. The data is obtained from the Racing Australia publication, The Australian Racing Fact Book. The spreadsheet calculates the max. number of horses that were eligible for the CHAPS payments. The max. number of days for both CHAPS 1 and CHAPS 2 is 168 days. The spreadsheet further breaks down the number of country horses compared to metropolitan horses as their payments were slightly different. The end total is a max. of \$115M.

If you have any queries in relation to the spreadsheet, please feel free to contact me.

## **2. General gist of concerns given to CPR from whistle-blowers.**

**Context:**

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** This Committee has looked at concerns with regard to V'landys. Are you able to share some of the concerns that have been brought forward to you?

**ELIO CELOTTO:**

I could, perhaps, in broad terms. But the reality is that a lot of these people still work in the industry and disclosing some of this information might jeopardise their employment, so it is very difficult for these people to come forward.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Broad terms are fine.

**ELIO CELOTTO:** They will often come forward and give us information, but they will only give it on the condition that it doesn't go anywhere, which is unfortunate.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Are you able to give us some broad terms which won't identify any of these people?

**ELIO CELOTTO:** I could do but I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

### 3. Which year was the whip purchased.

**Context:**

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** That's not a padded whip.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Did you buy that brand new?

**ELIO CELOTTO:** I did.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** That's before the rule.

(...)

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Which year did you buy it in? You're very evasive.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** You can take that on notice if you wanted to take that on notice to give the exact year.

**Answer:**

The whip was purchased shortly after the padded whip was introduced in 2009. It was purchased from a racing equipment store known to me as at .

### 4. Request for The Hon. Mark Latham for the information from the stud book.

**Context:**

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** You say at the top of—I don't know what page it is; you haven't numbered it, but it's the section above "Animal Welfare in Racing". You're using data here from New Zealand 30 years ago to say that six out of 10 foals never make it to the racetrack. The recent figures show that it's one in three that don't make it to the racetrack, for various reasons. So you've got to acknowledge that figure is just plain wrong, to present data from 30years ago from New Zealand. Apparently they counted in mares that missed and slipped in that study. You see that "Bourke1995" study. Haven't you got something more—it's as old as your whip.

**ELIO CELOTTO:** There haven't been a lot of recent studies done on it. They're the ones that we're referring to.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** It's available from studbook. Thirty-five percent of foals Australia-wide don't get to racing, but two-thirds do. So that figure is totally wrong.

**Request:**

Since The Hon. Mark Latham kindly provided updated information from the Stud Book that 35% of foals nationwide does not make it into racing, we would like to request access to where that information is available. We have now searched the Stud Book ourselves without success.

## **5. Additional: Recommendations on horse welfare improvements.**

**Context:**

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Lastly, I want to open it up to you to talk further about that proposal in regard to animal welfare. I think that was something that you made a point of in your opening statement as well, that it's so important that some of this money is earmarked. Can you talk us through that and what animal welfare initiatives that should go towards, specifically? I know we've talked a little bit about rehoming, but what would your organisation like to see as the top animal welfare priorities for the money?

**Answer:**

I would like to elaborate on another of our recommendations in our submission, which together with lifelong traceability and safe rehoming of thoroughbreds, should be a top priority for Racing NSW to spend the monies on:

"Instigate immediate action to improve racehorse welfare on the racetrack and off track by replacing current standards of welfare with those based on the 2020 Five Domains Model for animal welfare assessment and require that members of the racing industry are educated accordingly."

**Background:** Racing NSW is a member of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). The IFHA expect their members to use their guidelines, which are based on the 2020 Five Domains Welfare Model, to "establish accepted horse welfare practices in their jurisdiction, and to inform minimum standards of participant behaviour, and drive behavioural change where necessary."

According to the 2020 Five Domains Model, horse welfare must be assessed from the perspective of the horse, and not from what may be most convenient for their owners or trainers.

By implementing standards for horse welfare based on the 2020 Five Domains, most of the serious welfare issues regarding horses in the NSW racing industry would be significantly reduced. It would mean that for horses to have good welfare, they must be allowed to exercise freely in the company of a trusted herd, have 24-hour access to appropriate forage and must be handled without the use of force or painful equipment.

Find the IFHA guidelines here:

[https://ifhaonline.org/resources/IFHA\\_Minimum\\_Welfare\\_Guidelines.PDF](https://ifhaonline.org/resources/IFHA_Minimum_Welfare_Guidelines.PDF)

Find the 2020 Five Domains Model here:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344638721\\_The\\_2020\\_Five\\_Domains\\_Model\\_Including\\_Human-Animal\\_Interactions\\_in\\_Assessments\\_of\\_Animal\\_Welfare](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344638721_The_2020_Five_Domains_Model_Including_Human-Animal_Interactions_in_Assessments_of_Animal_Welfare)

Learn to apply the 2020 Five Domains Model for horse welfare assessment in practice: <https://www.openlearning.com/une/courses/une-equine-course/?cl=1>

## 6. Additional: News articles as evidence of V'Landys blocking a ban of the whip.

### Context:

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Have you heard that he specifically tried to stop Racing Victoria from banning the whip?

**ELIO CELOTTO:** I think there's been media articles about him publicly stating that he opposes the whip. We haven't had any communication—

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Opposes the ban on the whip, you mean?

**ELIO CELOTTO:** Opposing the ban of the whip, yes. Sorry. We haven't had any communication with him on that matter directly.

### Answer:

A reference (2023) explaining V'Landys' opposition to phasing out the whip in racing: <https://www.smh.com.au/sport/how-racing-nsw-took-the-whip-to-victoria-and-qld-in-boardroom-power-play-20230320-p5ct15.html>

"NSW Racing supremo Peter V'landys tried to push Victoria and Queensland off the sport's peak national body for supporting rule changes designed to reduce the number of times jockeys whip their horse.

The Racing Australia boardroom power play, confirmed by documents lodged in the NSW Supreme Court, reveals the extent to which the protracted stand-off between NSW and other states is affecting the public image of the sport."

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	<b>Notes</b>								
2	A max 19137 horses were eligible based on number of horses in each state as reported in the Australian Racing Fact Book 2007-2008. As the scheme was only for horses in training and not horses that were spelling or injured, this number was reduced by one third as on average, racehorses are spelled for at least 4 months in any 1 year. This is considered a conservative estimate.								
3	Duration of CHAPS 24-27 weeks								
4	Country horse daily rate \$50 per day								
5	Metropolitan \$60								
6	Provincial \$55								
7									
8	P. Vylandys Interview with sky racing Ray Thomas in April 2016 bragged about leading trainer paying off mortgage								
9									
10									
11		number of racehorses NSW	number of starters	number of races	average horses per race	number of racehorses Qld.	number of starters	number of races	average horses per race
12	2008 and 9 stats According to Racing Australia Fact Book	10977	54800	5414	10.12190617	8160	46060	4728	
13									
14									
15									
16	Number of metropolitan races (total across Australia)	4602	23.68%			4602	23.68%		
17	Number of country races (total across Australia)	14836	76.32%			14836	76.32%		
18	total	19438				19438			
19									
20	Note: According to JG page 167 1097 applications were rejected. Therefore this number needs to be deducted from overall number of horses in NSW who as a maximum were eligible for CHAPS.	10977				8160			
21									
22	Note: This does not account for the horses who would have been spelling, retired or injured. As horses are typically spelled conservatively at least one third of the time. The number of eligible horses should be decreased by a third,	7245				5386			
23									
24	Maximum number of days eligible for CHAPS	168				168			
25									
26	<b>Maximum payments to all NSW horses</b>	<b>No. of Horses</b>	<b>days</b>	<b>Cost per day</b>					
27	Country horses	5530	168	\$52.50	\$48,770,974.32	4111	168	\$52.50	\$36,255,001.41
28	Metropolitan horses	1715	168	\$60.00	\$17,289,529.24	1275	168	\$60.00	\$12,852,560.68
29	<b>Total</b>	<b>7245</b>			<b>\$66,060,503.55</b>	<b>5386</b>			<b>\$49,107,562.08</b>
30									
31				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$115,168,065.64</b>				
32	Note: \$10 per day per horse per day was to be retained by RNSW to distribute to businesses and individuals like track riders, transporters etc.	4977	168	10	\$8,361,360.00	4111	168	10	\$6,906,480.00
33		1544	168	10	\$2,593,920.00	1275	168	10	\$2,142,000.00
34				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,955,280.00</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,048,480.00</b>
35				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$20,003,760.00</b>				
36	<b>Conclusion:</b> 220 Million dollars was handed out directly to RNSW who to this day have not accounted for the money distributed to financially support the racing industry participants through the CHAPS scheme. The very conservative figures on this table have taken into account all horses in both in NSW and Queensland and then has deducted one third of these horses who are the horses that would have been spelling, injured, retired or killed at the time of the EI. Taking that into account, the max. cost should not have been more than 110M dollars and that still includes 20M dollars to be distributed to other businesses and individuals including jockeys etc.								
37									