

**Submission  
No 66**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE**

**Organisation:** Woppitt Bloodstock Pty Ltd

**Date Received:** 21 July 2024

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The Hon Scott Farlow MLC  
Chair  
Select Committee on the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Sydney NSW.

21 July 2024

Dear Mr Farlow,

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this important inquiry.

I have followed in the footsteps of my grandfather, Walter Ingham and my father, Bob Ingham and my uncle Jack Ingham, who were active members of the Western Sydney community and Sydney racing.

I therefore have a keen interest in the future of Rosehill Gardens. In particular, the proposed sale of this facility and the impact that could have on the western Sydney economy, the local community, and the racing industry.

### **Background**

Ingham Enterprises was founded in 1918 when Walter Ingham Jr. established a fruit and vegetable farm. Walter then moved into poultry, starting with just one cockerel and six hens.

Walter died in 1953, leaving his two sons Jack and Bob a small breeding operation who set about building the largest producer of chickens and turkeys in Australia.

The company built its first processing plant at Casula.

The family business and the Western Sydney community grew together and while Inghams became a household name across Australia my father actively supported his local community as it had supported him.

The family's passion for horseracing began when Walter started taking his sons to the track. Along with the poultry business, my father and uncle inherited a broodmare, Valiant Rose. As with the chicken business from this humble beginning they built the largest thoroughbred breeding and racing operation in Australia.

### **Rosehill Gardens**

I am alarmed by the prospect of Rosehill being demolished.

I welcome this inquiry as it provides a transparent process for testing the merits and flaws in the proposal.

To understand the consequences of demolishing Rosehill Gardens the Committee needs to understand how its role has broadened since the first race meeting on 19 April 1885.

First, Rosehill continues to be a major contributor to the local economy and a generator of jobs.

The successful staging of a major race meeting, such as the Golden Slipper, depends on the coordinated efforts of the racing club staff, trainers, breeders, owners, contractors and the volunteers who check tickets at the gate.

Many of these participants at Rosehill have racing specific skills which restricts their employability.

Living close to their place of work is also important for these workers.

Shutting Rosehill puts at risk this pool of skills and experience

Shutting Rosehill will also remove a key vehicle for advancing social harmony in western Sydney. - the races.

It is a common interest across a diverse community.

A mix of backgrounds, religions and ethnicities, brought together by an interest in racing.

Racing is woven into the fabric of Australian life and racing at Rosehill Gardens is woven into the fabric of Greater Western Sydney.

The skills and resources of these participants are combined to produce the end product – race day.

Rosehill is not just a local track it is a key component of NSW racing.

Along with Royal Randwick it is the foundation stone of NSW racing.

Rosehill is one of Sydney's two Group 1 standard racecourses.

Finally, Rosehill as one of several key tracks – others being Randwick, Flemington, the Valley and Caulfield – that underpin Australian Thoroughbred racing, breeding and our multi-billion wagering industry.

In Sydney Warwick Farm and Canterbury Park play supporting roles.

The NSW racing administration together with Rosehill Gardens and Randwick's world class facilities, highly competent staff and, their ability to manage major events such as the Everest, the Championships and Golden Slipper, has elevated NSW to the top racing state.

**Demolishing Rosehill will put all that at risk.**

The NSW Government should find another way of fixing a failed planning regime.

Thanking you  
Yours faithfully

Debra N Kepitis  
WOPPITT BLOODSTOCK PTY LTD  
Director