

Submission
No 105

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL
RACECOURSE**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 6 August 2024

Partially
Confidential

Local resident of Canterbury and a member of a family who has been associated with Racing Industry for many decades in various capacities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a submission to the Rosehill Gardens N.S.W Parliament Enquiry.

My family has been previously impacted by the AJC/STC restrictions placed on Canterbury Park Racecourse.

Local trainers in Canterbury were forced to sell up and relocate to other tracks. While a few trainers decided to hand in their licences. But the decision to have Race Day use only classification and the occasional trial at Canterbury Park Racecourse had a huge impact on small trainers, local businesses and local racing industry employees.

The only winners in the downgrading of Canterbury Park Racecourse appears to be the overseas horses and their connections. Our local track has been turned into an overseas Horse Quarantine centre. The overseas horses are housed at Canterbury Park Racecourse to prepare for the big Sydney Races.

The local lost appears to be the overseas connections gain.

Thank you for your consideration of my points.

Discussion Points for the Rosehill Gardens Racecourse N.S.W Parliament Enquiry.

Proposing the destruction of a Group 1 Sydney Metropolitan Racecourse and Training Facility asset, is unbelievable for a number of reasons:

1. **Economic.** Millions of dollars have been spent on new grandstands, horse pool, Race Day Stables, relocating trainers from surrounding streets to the race track precinct.
2. **General Public Perception of Destruction.** Destroying facilities that the general public have helped pay for in recent times is not a good look. Public confidence in authorities is undermined.
3. **Trainers Relocation.** When Canterbury Park Racecourse was closed to trainers for six months for renovations, a promise was given at a public meeting that all trainers would be welcomed back to work on the track. After the allocated time, trainers were informed Canterbury Park Racecourse was to be a race Day only track, no training. Canterbury Park Racing Officials didn't want to acknowledge the previous promise made at a Public Meeting. Consequences of Canterbury Park Racecourse Race Day Only Use: A number of local trainers had to sell their homes and stables and relocate to Rosehill or Warick Farm. A few trainers handed in their licences. The industry lost many local stable blocks, one local trainer had ninety stables. From a personal perspective, our family at the time of closure of the track had three race horses stabled locally but were forced to relinquish ownership and none of the family members have

purchased another race horse. Thus, trainers have experienced AJC relocation previously and the current proposal once again advocates the trainers upheaval with very little return. Outcomes of the past are good indicators of future outcomes.

4. **Staff Well Being.** Trainers are experiencing more issues in retaining and hiring qualified staff. Travelling time on Race Day between home stables and the Race Day track has become a major concern of trainers. Staff Rosters create major pressures for trainers and staff members. Long work days regularly places huge pressures on all stakeholders. The two hours requirement before the commence of the first race and the time of the last race on the race card all contribute to long work days. Plus, the added requirement of horses being swabbed after the last race. One needs to highlight the fact; a number of horses are not very cooperative. The swabbing process can be a very long and frustrating process at the end of a very long day. Night racing brings its own challenges in regard to late nights and early starts Saturday morning. Staff rosters in a big staff provide big challenges but in small stables, trainers are being placed under enormous stress. **Travelling time** is an important consideration between race tracks. Work days become even longer when Sydney Metropolitan Racecourses are not being utilised, Race Day.
5. **Public Loyalty to a Venue.** Previously, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse Brand had been for decades carefully and skilfully built on its strong public tie/followers. In bygone years, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse management strove to imbed the racecourse within the local community. The Proposal to relocate the racecourse disrupts loyalty connection with the public. (Forced Disruption of trade by outside parties). **Harold Park Trotting Paceway at Glebe highlights the folly of relocating metropolitan tracks to outer areas.** Patronage is impacted by distance and ease of commute. Harold Park Paceway is a prime example of what happens to an industry when managed poorly. Short term gains- money alone does not nurture the long-term good health of an industry.
6. **The Voice of the Members who Own the Rosehill Gardens Racecourse is being Ignored.** Why? Is disrespect or complete arrogance the reason the membership is being sidelined in the proposal for relocation?
7. **The Proposal is a dangerous one.** Members have a fundamental right to decide on the fate of their core asset. Removing the members right to vote on the future of Rose Hill Gardens Racecourse, sets a precedent for the future. Are we setting up the future without legal rights for individuals or groups? Are principles, legal obligations to be replaced by expediency? Some would have us believe the Proposal is a very complex one but by providing all the information and the opportunity for the membership to vote on the future of their core asset obstacles melt away. Once the vote result is known, a transparent process can be developed to the satisfaction of **all stakeholders.**
8. **A Narrow Business model Focussing on a small number of Races and Property Acquisitions.** A wider view pertaining to spreading the available prize money more equally among more races is required and a broader definition of the role of racecourses within communities. Country racecourses are imbedded within their communities and their executive management understands the role they play locally. Catering to the top tier of the industry with huge prize money, does little to nurture the grass roots of the Racing Industry. Fairer distribution of prize money is required and the role of Racing N.S.W needs redefining.