

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL  
RACECOURSE**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 10 July 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

**To: The Select Committee on the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Gardens Racecourse**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this Inquiry.

I would like to provide my comments under Items (f) and (g) in your Terms of Reference.

I am totally in favour of our NSW Government seeking areas for housing to combat our critical shortage and I support the concept of this development.

I understand that the Australian Turf Club is requesting a replacement racecourse should the Rosehill Gardens development proceed and that possible a site at Olympic Park/Homebush has been suggested. My belief is that the existing main Sydney racecourses of Royal Randwick and Warwick Farm take up enough of Sydney's landmass for a "sport" which only supports severe animal abuse and fuels the massive gambling industry and the resultant criminal elements.

I understand that some of the funds raised by the sale of this land will be used to upgrade facilities at Horsley Park, Royal Randwick and Warwick Farm. Funds desperately need to be directed towards formulating a plan for the horses themselves once they are no longer racing. The only retirement plan that is available to these horses at the moment is a trip to the knackery. This should not be considered normal practice. Too many horses are bred in this industry for a rehoming program to be successful.

Unfortunately, self-regulated animal-related industries such as the horse racing industry lack accountability, oversight and integrity. Just because an industry has been around in Sydney for over two centuries, it does not mean that everything is right with the industry. The world has changed and people are more aware of the cruel sports which use animals. It is so important for animal industries to observe the Five Freedoms – Hunger and Thirst; Discomfort; Pain, Injury or Disease; Normal Behaviour and Fear and Distress. I believe that operators in this industry abide by the first Freedom of hunger and thirst, but I think they fail badly on the rest of the Freedoms.

The skeleton of a horse is not fully developed until it is four or five years of age. Therefore, all races for yearlings and two-year-olds need to be banned. Most of the 168 horses killed on Australian racetracks in the 2022-2023 race year were under five years old.

The use of whips needs to be banned. This has been done in some countries in Europe and it has been shown that whipping makes no difference to the horse's performance. It causes pain, draws blood and contravenes the third of the Five Freedoms.

The use of Jiggers and illegal substances are still of major concern. Heavy penalties need to be imposed on these illegal acts.

The NSW Government needs to introduce an animal welfare commission similar to that for the Greyhound Racing industry. Hard-working inspectors visit training facilities and are able to charge operators with illegal actions, sometimes even banning these people from the industry for life. A Commission for the horse racing industry should be co-funded by the Australian Turf Club.

In summary, I fully support converting the massive Rosehill Gardens property into housing and amenities for western Sydney. I fully support better animal welfare outcomes for the horses in this industry and I fully support the establishment of a Commission to oversee animal welfare and integrity in the industry.

Thank you for considering the points made in this submission.