

**Submission
No 13**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

Name: Mr Graham Reed

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Firstly, I would like to give you a brief overview of my background and racing knowledge and experience.

I graduated from Macquarie University with a B.A Dip.Ed. degree in 1975 and embarked on a career as a senior secondary mathematics teacher. In 1989 I took leave, after accepting a position in the Commercial Sector, where I worked as the Contracts and Credit Manager for a national manufacturing company for a 5-year period.

In 1994 I accepted a private teaching position in the Parramatta area, where I worked until taking leave in 2004. From 2004 to 2022, I worked on a casual and temporary teaching basis in both Government and Private schools.

RACING AND BOOKMAKING EXPERIENCE :

I purchased my first share in a racehorse in the late 70's through Hyperion Thoroughbreds. Horses I have part-owned include Quilonie, Prince Vanquish, and the most successful being Targlish who won the group 1 Galaxy at Randwick in 1989.

I have been a keen Form Analyst, Price Assessor and Punter all my life,

BOOKMAKER: Licensed 1986-94 (Guaranteed by NSW Bookmakers Co-Operative)

After many years with an interest in horse racing, form analysis and punting, I took out a bookmaker's clerk's licence and worked as a clerk for a short time before taking out my own Bookmakers Licence in 1986. I worked in the main interstate betting ring, operating on the away galloping meetings at the Bathurst, Lithgow and Wyong (5 years) Greyhounds, every Saturday until 1994. Also, midweek Provincial Galloping meetings at Wyong and Gosford. I handed in my Licence and resigned from the NSW Bookmakers Co-Operative due to poor patronage, dropping turnover and the rise of the TAB.

MEMBER AUSTRALIAN TURF CLUB:

I have been an active member of the Australian Turf Club (previously the STC), since 1981. This is now my 44th consecutive year as a club member.

Every year now, I attend most functions, and all race meetings at Rosehill Gardens.

Over the years I have attended race meeting up and down the east coast of NSW, and west of the Sydney Metropolitan area.

In short, I have a deep love and understanding of how racing works best for genuine racing enthusiasts.

THE PROPOSED SALE OF ROSEHILL RACECOURSE:

Let me start with the proposal to destroy what should be, without doubt, a heritage listed site. The first race run in 1885!!! The history of the horses, the group races, the trainers, the jockeys, the bookmakers, the crowds and more. One hundred and forty years of racing history and heritage gone in a heartbeat!!!

Why? because of Governmental lack of planning and the solution they have come up with is a proposed 5-billion-dollar BRIBE through the sale of Rosehill and that is an absolute disgrace!

This board and Mr. Peter McGauran, together with government officials who have been deceiving our members and the general public on what's really been taking place, should hang their collective heads in shame.

They proposed four Member Forums and only got through two, before it became painfully obvious that this whole idea was a complete disaster.

The emotions and feelings in the room, at the 1st forum were overwhelmingly to ABORT this sale, and the sooner the better! The 2nd forum was much the same. God bless Chris Waller, Gai Waterhouse and others, for speaking the truth at those forums. The proposals put forward on how the funds would be used to ensure Racings longevity into the future, were quickly exposed and torpedoed by those with real Racing expertise, including Chris Waller and Gay Waterhouse.

It is clear that the members, trainers, owners and all racing enthusiasts should have been consulted first!!! NOT after this preliminary proposal was conveyed to the members, as a done deal!!!

Mr. McGauran has categorically stated that this sale can only go-ahead if a majority of members vote for the sale!!! We are now hearing rumours that the Government is working on ways of getting around this stipulation!!!

AND everyone I talk too, was under the impression that this WAS a done deal. This whole process, so far, has been so deceptive and misleading to all and sundry.

The left-wing media releases, that have been orchestrated by Peter McGauran and government, have also done an enormous amount of harm to the racing industry.

No-one I know has any faith in the Board and Chairman anymore!!!! If racing, according to them, is on the decline, then ask them to go and have a look in the mirror and start doing their job. It's their job to manage Racing properly and liaise with Racing NSW to ensure the Longevity of the Sport. Not doing what most Bureaucrats do, start selling the ASSETS!!!

If Rosehill goes, it's the end of metropolitan racing in Sydney as we know it today, and the beginning of the end. All racecourses have unique qualities that genuine racing people recognise and understand. They cannot be replicated by supposedly building a new racecourse. In Sydney, where? and at what cost? and by whom? and in what time frame. This would be Racings, "Snowy Hydro 2.0"!!! A pipedream that will achieve little if anything and cost a fortune!!! We already have the best racecourse in NSW!!!

Our membership will go into freefall in western Sydney and that's a given!!!

As well, the supposed development of a new housing precinct, overlooking the Silverwater industrial area at Rosehill, will ensure further congestion to our already appalling traffic grid, schools, hospitals, shops and parklands!!!! Not to mention the loss of such an iconic venue that hosts countless shows, events, displays and much more, enhancing and promoting western Sydney for all to enjoy.

All of this proposal can be attributed to poor governmental management, and the shortcomings of Racing NSW in the distribution of prizemoney and racecourse maintenance.

This proposed sale is not a solution to anything. It's a home-grown disaster for the racing industry, and western Sydney.