

**Submission
No 18**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

Name: Ms Keryn Woolmer

Date Received: 13 July 2024

13th July 2024

**Submission to the Inquiry into the
Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse**

Dear Select Committee

I would like to make a submission to the inquiry regarding the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse.

I believe that the course may sell for ~\$10billion and worry that the funds will be used to expand the racing industry without sufficient funds allocated to the welfare of the thoroughbreds.

The industry has shown token ventures to project an ongoing care for the welfare of retired racehorses and my concern is that the money gained will simply expand the industry in ways that will not benefit the horses.

Painful or constraining gear and forceful handling are an accepted course of action against horses and are not part of good welfare according to the Five Domains Model. It is a fact that thoroughbreds meet early deaths both on track and at slaughterhouses. In 2023, 168 racehorses died either on track or soon after with nearly 1/3 of these in NSW.

Breeding numbers should be reduced. Roughly 1/3 bred never make it to the track and there is no publicly available records of what happens to breeding mares when "retired" from breeding.

I consider the main objectives to be:-

- Racehorse breeding is a business and therefore should include a "cradle to grave" provision.
- Replace current welfare standards with those based on the 2020 Five Domains Model for animal welfare assessment.
- Ensure people involved in the industry are educated and conform to welfare standards.

Times are changing and all around the world people are taking a stand against the abuse of animals for human entertainment.

I ask the NSW government to please implement some conditions on the use of the potential \$10billion proceeds to move the industry forward into a compassionate and respectable enterprise.

Yours faithfully

Keryn Woolmer