

**Submission
No 40**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

Name: Mr Maurie Catt

Date Received: 17 July 2024

Rosehill Racecourse Development Proposal

Submission by Maurice Edmond Catt, racehorse owner and resident of Western Sydney.

Submissions under Terms of Reference.

(a) (b) Not being a member of the ATC, I'm unaware of the probity issues, although it does seem unusual that any organisation would offer to sell such a valuable asset so important to their ability to continue to maintain their business, and perhaps motives need investigating.

(c) Housing Targets are already causing severe discomfort in Western Sydney. Castle Hill and other towns along the Metro such as Bella Vista, Kellyville, etc. have skyscrapers still unfinished, and one development in Norwest Quarter has one building 14 levels (81 apartments), another 23 levels (115 apartments), with another seven apartment blocks planned. And already the roads around the area are car parks in peak hours. Western Sydney are doing the heavy lifting caused by impossible immigration policies, and decentralisation as planned by Prime Minister Whitlam in the 1970s is needed. If one goes to a Golden Slipper meeting, and sees the terrible traffic jams in getting to Rosehill along James Ruse Drive on this one iconic day, one would not even consider putting this type of traffic congestion 365 days a year in an area where trucks are also delivering to industry.

(d) I have no comment on this point.

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(f) I mentioned this briefly in my first paragraph. Long-term impacts could be devastating.

The ATC owns three racecourses in Sydney; Rosehill, Canterbury, and Warwick Farm.

I believe Randwick racecourse is on Crown Land. To run Sydney racing, two large Saturday tracks are needed, and smaller mid week tracks. For Saturday racing only Rosehill of the ATC racecourses is satisfactory, Canterbury is too small, and Warwick Farm is on

a floodplain and is contaminated. That's why I'm against the proposal in the short term. In the long-term after various changes in government, and with Rosehill sold, a government could effectively close down racing by building another huge high-rise suburb on their Crown Land. They have done this before to harness racing and dog racing. Rosehill racecourse is an icon in Sydney's West. It is a place of entertainment for the people and additionally is used for exhibitions and promotional events. The people of Sydney's West will be incredibly disappointed to see it in other hands for other purposes.

(g) I'm surprised this matter is even bought up. I believe that under Racing NSW that the horses are looked after better than in any other State, and even when retired from racing, the owners do their best to find a new home for them and are supported by Racing NSW in their endeavours.

I would suggest that they may be better looked after than some dogs which may be left locked in apartment buildings all day alone by the owners, and certainly better than some of the brumbies culled in the NSW National Park.

(h) the only comment I have on related matters, is that it will be impossible to build sufficient accommodation for the people already here with our current shortage of skilled tradesmen and locally manufactured goods, building materials, and reliable Power and we need to decentralise and to develop appropriate plans, not wish lists.

I thank you for your consideration of these points.