

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL
RACECOURSE**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 July 2024

Partially
Confidential

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

Dear Select Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission regarding the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse, and for including the subject of horse welfare in the Terms of Reference.

I will address the Terms of Reference as best I can.

1 (a) – the unsolicited proposal process including associated probity measures – I am not qualified to be exact but my understanding is that the proposal must be value for money, have a return on investment, affordable and have risk allocation. It also must be unique and I believe that this proposal is certainly that. I trust that the powers that be will ensure that risks and measures are appropriately weighed up, not only for the public but also for the main players in the racing industry – the horses.

(b) – the involvement of the government prior to the unsolicited proposal being made – again I am not an expert but I believe government officers are invited to facilitate interest and familiarity with a subsequent proposal. In this instance I trust that the government will look at every aspect of the proposal and not be swayed by the power of the racing industry. On the 23rd May 2024, according to the Sydney Morning Herald, Peter V'Landys stated that Racing NSW will have the final say. "The [SMH.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au) on Thursday reported that V'Landys has said that Racing NSW would have the 'final say; over the outcome of a proposed sale of the racecourse to the NSW State Government, including having the final say over whether the sale goes ahead even if Australian Turf Club members supported the sale." The link to the article [Racing NSW to have the 'final say' on any sale of Rosehill racecourse. > Australia and International Horse Racing news updated daily \(thoroughbrednews.com.au\)](https://www.thoroughbrednews.com.au) My question is, who will have the final say? The government who is elected to do what's best by the NSW people, (which includes providing housing) or the Racing Industry?

(c) – the role of the proposal in meeting housing targets – I believe that, should the redevelopment of Rosehill Racecourse go ahead, it will allow for the construction of 25,000 dwellings. There is drastic housing shortage Australia wide, including NSW. Should the redevelopment of Rosehill go ahead that will be a step towards alleviating the housing crisis in NSW. The basic right for NSW residents to have a roof over their heads must take precedence over a racecourse and the NSW Racing industry.

(d) – impacts on the cost and delivery of the Sydney Metro - I am unaware of the potential costs but should the redevelopment go ahead, I believe it would support higher density redevelopment in other metro station precincts. This would be in the best interests of the general public rather than just the interests of those in, or supporting, the racing industry.

(e) – potential impacts on parkland in western Sydney – I am unaware of the answer to this point.

(f) – impacts on the racing industry in NSW – it is my understanding that the Australian Turf Club (ATC) is likely to benefit by up to \$10 billion from the sale of Rosehill should it go ahead. It is also

my understanding that the proposal includes plans that would allow the ATC to develop a Centre of Excellence training and stabling facility at Horsley Park, upgrade existing facilities at Warwick Farm, Canterbury Park and Royal Randwick, and potentially create a new racetrack elsewhere in Sydney. I am concerned that these plans would allow the racing industry to expand even further and intensify its operations in ways that may negatively impact the lives of thoroughbreds. I would hope that the ATC will view the sale funds as an opportunity to improve the welfare of NSW racehorses rather than contribute to more suffering. The reputation of the racing “industry” is continually becoming more tarnished in the minds of the general public. Should the industry use the proceeds of the sale for the welfare of the horses it would be beneficial to not only the horses but the industry itself.

(g) – the impact on animal welfare and any integrity concerns associated with the proposal which relate to animal welfare – this is where my primary thoughts and objections lie and I will take the liberty of addressing them one by one.

- **The number of horses bred** – this applies not only in NSW but Australia wide. Why is it acceptable to breed hundreds of foals each year and take no ongoing responsibility for them? It is just a number game with some studs, they are breeding in the hope of selling yearlings, and even weanlings, for tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars. However, some foals and weanlings don’t make the grade and don’t make it to the “prestigious sales” or, if they do make it, they may not sell. Many then make it to the Inglis online sale, often unreserved, and if they don’t sell there they often go into lower grade online sales, such as on Bloodstock.com.au, usually unreserved. These foals and yearlings appear to be unwanted, entered in sales unreserved with no care as to where they end up. Many don’t even get a bid and remain unwanted. What happens to them? Do they just disappear? That is a question that needs to be asked.
- **Unnamed horses** – What procedures are in place for the traceability of unnamed horses? There are studs that have bred hundreds of foals of which large percentages never even named. Why are these foals bred and why aren’t the studs questioned as to why they are breeding them? Are the foals too poor a quality to make the grade or is there another reason? There needs to be traceability of these horses to see what has happened to them. They are born into an industry and that industry owes them safety. The breeders must be accountable for the foals they breed.
- **Broodmares** – broodmares appear to be a commodity to largely be disposed of as soon as they become unproductive. It has been proven, beyond all doubt, that a percentage, have gone straight to slaughter. Others are entered in online sales, often in foal and, more often than not, unreserved. You only have to look at their breeding history to see that many are discarded as soon as they reach an age that where their breeding days are numbered or they have missed or slipped. Sometimes it appears that even if they can still breed, if their offspring haven’t performed, or if they are the mother of some of the unwanted weanlings or yearlings that appear in the online sales, they get sold, or possibly worse. In the first 6 months of this year alone there have been over 2,600 broodmares entered in thoroughbred specific sales, the majority of those sales being the Inglis twice monthly online sales and the Bloodstock weekly online sales. The majority of the broodmares in these sales have been unreserved and a large percentage received no bids. What has happened to them since then? Does anyone (other than the studs who dispose of them without a

second thought) even know or care? These mares have given their bodies to be foal incubators and deserve recognition and protection, both during their breeding years and after. There have been mares that have primarily raced in NSW that have been entered in the Andrew Wilson online sale (a sale approved by Racing NSW) that have been unreserved and sold for next to nothing. Do these mares not get the supposed protection of Racing NSW's rules?

- **Horse status on Racing Australia** – the majority of horses that have finished racing, or named horses that didn't make it to the track, are recorded as "retired" on the Racing Australia website. However, there are many named horses that have not raced at all, or have not raced for many years, that are still listed as "active", "spelling" or "transferred". Why are the last owners and/or trainers not followed up and held accountable when the racing's own rules state that statuses must be updated within 7 days? Where are the horses and where is the accountability? Where is the traceability? Where is the care for what has happened to the horses?
- **2 year old racing** – it is beyond my comprehension that it is considered acceptable for 2 year olds to be racing. Not only are they racing at 2 years old, many are broken in well before they turn two. Trainers publicly acknowledge that yearlings are in work. The filly below for example, is not yet even named, is 23 months old and in work, the proof being in the photos below. She was _____ in the 2024 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale where she sold for \$120,000. How long will she race for? That is assuming she makes it to the track.

Posted on Facebook on _____ in work with NSW trainer _____ even though she is not yet 2 and not even officially named. How long has she been in work and what will happen if she doesn't get to the named stage? Will she just disappear?

Her status in the studbook (as of 15/7/2024)

Another example of a yearling that appears to be in work is

he was lot in the 2024 Adelaide Yearling Sale and sold for \$60,000. While the industry will say he is two on the 1st August, in reality he won't be two until the

. He is listed as an "active" 1yo on Racing Australia with his trainer being was, in disqualified by Racing NSW for a period of 10 months for having a horse with a prohibited substance in his system entered into a race.

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Image Not Available

Status Active

Owner's Details

Stewards Embargoes None on record

Last Gear Change* None on record.

Trainer

Racing Colours

Career

Summary: 0-0-0-0 Prizemoney: \$0
1st Up: 0-0-0-0 2nd Up: 0-0-0-0
Firm: 0-0-0-0 Good: 0-0-0-0 Soft: 0-0-0-0 Heavy: 0-0-0-0 Synthetic: 0-0-0-0

Like the unnamed filly, every year there are many horses that are officially 2 according to the rules of racing but are, in fact, far from it. For any horse to be racing, or even in work at two years old or younger is unacceptable and is playing Russian roulette with their lives.

According the figures published by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorse, 168 horses died in the 2022/2023 racing year and of these 60 had been raced as two year olds and ten were two years old or younger when they died of a racing injury.

- **Whips** – whips should be banned in horse racing. According to an independent study done in 2020 they do hurt horses and do not aid jockeys
[First conclusive evidence horses hurt by whips, whips don't aid jockeys - The University of Sydney](#)
Not only do whips hurt the horses, but jockeys that flout the inadequate rules that do exist, get minimal penalties. is just one example. He was fined \$50,000

and suspended for 7 meetings for breaching the whip rules but, in my opinion, that was manifestly inadequate, especially seeing he decided when to take the ban and was able to ride in the Cox Plate, Victoria Derby and Melbourne Cup. He more than made up for the fine so it really meant nothing. He is an experienced jockey, he presumably knows how to count, knows the rules yet chose to flout them with no care for his mount or the consequences. That is just one example, mentioned because it was so publicised. You only have to look at stewards reports across the country to know that this was not an isolated case. If jockeys flout whip rules, their mount should be disqualified and they should be banned for a lot longer than 7 meetings of their choosing. While I'm sure the majority of jockeys abide by the (inadequate) rules others don't and it will only be when the penalties hurt their hip pockets, or there are other serious consequences, that those jockeys will abide by the rules.

In my opinion whipping should be banned across the board and across the country. If no horses were whipped it would be a level playing field, the fact that whipping continues is more proof that the welfare of these magnificent animals means nothing to those within the industry.

- **Thoroughbred specific live sales** – the major studs appear to breed in large numbers in the hope that the foals will sell for exorbitant amounts in the “prestigious” Inglis and/or Magic Millions live sales, usually as yearlings but also often as weanlings. Some sell for tens, or even hundreds, of thousands of dollars, a stark contrast to those who aren't good enough and disposed of unreserved in online sales. These horses, both the expensive and inexpensive, are all sentient beings brought into the world by the breeders, yet they are judged so differently by the industry who are only interested in the ones that they perceive can make them money.
- **Thoroughbred specific online sales** – twice monthly there is an Inglis online sale. The majority of the horses entered in this sale are unreserved. These sales do appear to provide information/disclosures on horses entered. Yearlings that have not sold at, or made the grade for, the “prestigious” sales are often entered in the Inglis online sales. Many of the Inglis entries do not sell and are then entered in the Bloodstock online sale which is held weekly. This seems, to me, to be a last ditch effort to offload horses that are not useful and/or or will never be useful to the racing industry. Just one example of an unwanted yearling was unnamed filly –
 . She was withdrawn from the February 2024 Inglis Classic Yearling Sale, and was then passed in, with no bids, in the Inglis (late) May 2024 online sale. It was disclosed that she had surgery on 5/1/2024 for removal of right hind pedal bone sequestrum. The subsequent vet report stated potential for future complications. This was not mentioned when she was entered in the Bloodstock online sale. Despite again being unreserved, she was passed in with no bids. She was not wanted. Where is she now? Ironically the filly's mother, , was disposed of, in the Inglis (early) May 2024 online sale. She was sold as being in foal to whose 2024 stud fee is \$22,000. She sold for just \$1,000. Was she disposed of because her unnamed daughter wasn't perfect and wasn't wanted? (Please note that and her unnamed daughter were from a Victorian breeder but are representative of unwanted horses across Australia, including NSW.)

Unnamed filly –


. Unwanted in any sale.





Another horse discarded, unreserved, in the ending 9th July 2024 was Raced primarily in NSW and last raced 12/6/2024 so less than one month prior to being discarded. She has won \$105,450 for her owners. On Racing Australia she has an embargo “Vet clearance - superficial abrasions to the near hind pastern. Including the results of an endoscopic examination”. This beautiful mare won \$105,450 for her owners before being entered, unreserved, in the . She deserved so much better, where is the care and accountability by the owners? There is none.


was not wanted in the Bloodstock sale, she passed in with no bids.
What will happen to her (and all the others like her) now? Will anyone check?



#3  (AUS)

 Passed In

 0 bid

 0 AUD

- **Non thoroughbred specific live sales** – many thoroughbreds are entered into sales without being identified and it is often only due to people attending the sales that there is any chance of them being identified at all. Of those identified some have been NSW bred and raced horses, horses that should have protected under Racing NSW rules. Since Covid there have not been as many general, live horse sales, however there are still live sales in Queensland, for example Gracemere and Gympie where it is unlikely that thoroughbreds are even known about let alone identified unless a member of the public identifies them. At the live sale at Caboolture the thoroughbreds are generally identified but whether that stops them being sold for meat, especially seeing the organiser of the sale is a meat trader, is unknown. The thoroughbreds that are entered in the Euroa live sale in Victoria are very rarely identified let alone promoted. They are just amongst all the other unidentified horses in pens, usually without so much as even a note or description. It has however been proven by attendees at the sale that thoroughbreds that raced predominantly in NSW have been sold through that sale. In my opinion, no thoroughbred should be allowed to be sold at any sale (Australia wide), whether live or online, without being identified prior to the sale and due diligence done to see if they qualify to be protected under Racing NSW's rules. The organisers of the Euroa sale are hopeful of also having live sales in western Victoria and the Gippsland area. This will mean that even more thoroughbreds, some NSW horses, will be disposed of without any accountability or traceability.

The list is too long to mention every horse so the horses below are just a sample, taken since late last year, of horses that, in my opinion, under Racing NSW rules, should not have been entered/accepted in to these sales.

Euroa 18/11/2023 – the first live sale held in Victoria since 2020. An ongoing bi monthly sale where the majority of the horses, including thoroughbreds, remain unidentified.

– bred in Qld but raced primarily in NSW with 23 of his 25 starts being in NSW. Identified by the public. Sold for \$600, buyer unknown.



Euroa 17/2/2024 –

Unnamed (AUS) 2017 - unnamed and unraced but bred in NSW. Was only identified because his purchaser posted him on The Australian Brand Search Facebook page asking for identification.



Gympie 2/12/2023 –

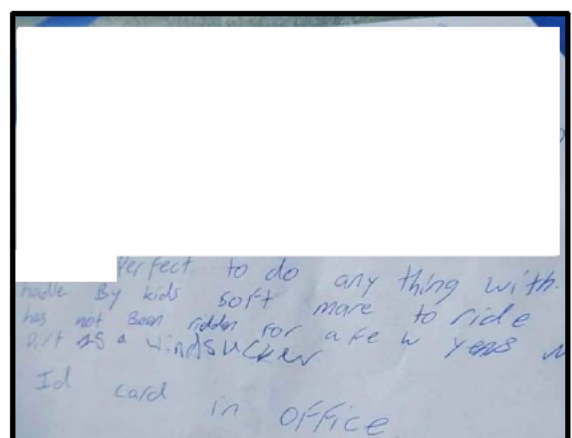
– was bred in NSW, raced 37 times and trialled 5 times, all in NSW. Was only advertised as “chestnut mare” it was only because of the public that she was identified and subsequently withdrawn due to being unfit for sale. Below is what I am aware of about the outcome for this mare, who should not of been in this sale for two reasons: a) her NSW history and b) she was not fit for transport or sale judging by the comments from the people present. She reportedly ended of being sold, behind the scenes, back into the industry to continue being bred with. As she is still listed on Racing Australia as “breeder” it is likely this is true.

This mare was dog lame, she couldn't walk, was laying down and had a swollen hind leg double the size! Her front offside hoof was so sore she couldn't bare weight and she absolutely broke my heart! I couldn't take her home! The first sale I've ever been to were I just had to walk away! The ladies from EVA were working hard behind the scenes to try and place her and for the first time ever they came up empty too!

The apparent outcome for
was that she was
sold back into the industry, it
is unknown if her health and/o
injuries were treated.

Laidley 9/12/2023 – all the horses below, bar one, were bred in NSW and all, bar one unraced horse, raced only in NSW. All, bar one, were identified by members of the public and would otherwise have gone unnoticed. This was the last ever Laidley sale but the same lack of identification is ongoing at other live sales.

(NZ) – born in NZ but bred by – sold for \$85,000 as a yearling, raced 21 times and trialled 6 times, all in NSW. Had 4 foals, the first three were born in NSW. At the time of being entered into Laidley sale her status was “breeder”. It is unknown who bought her or how much she sold for but the fact remains that she should not have been there.



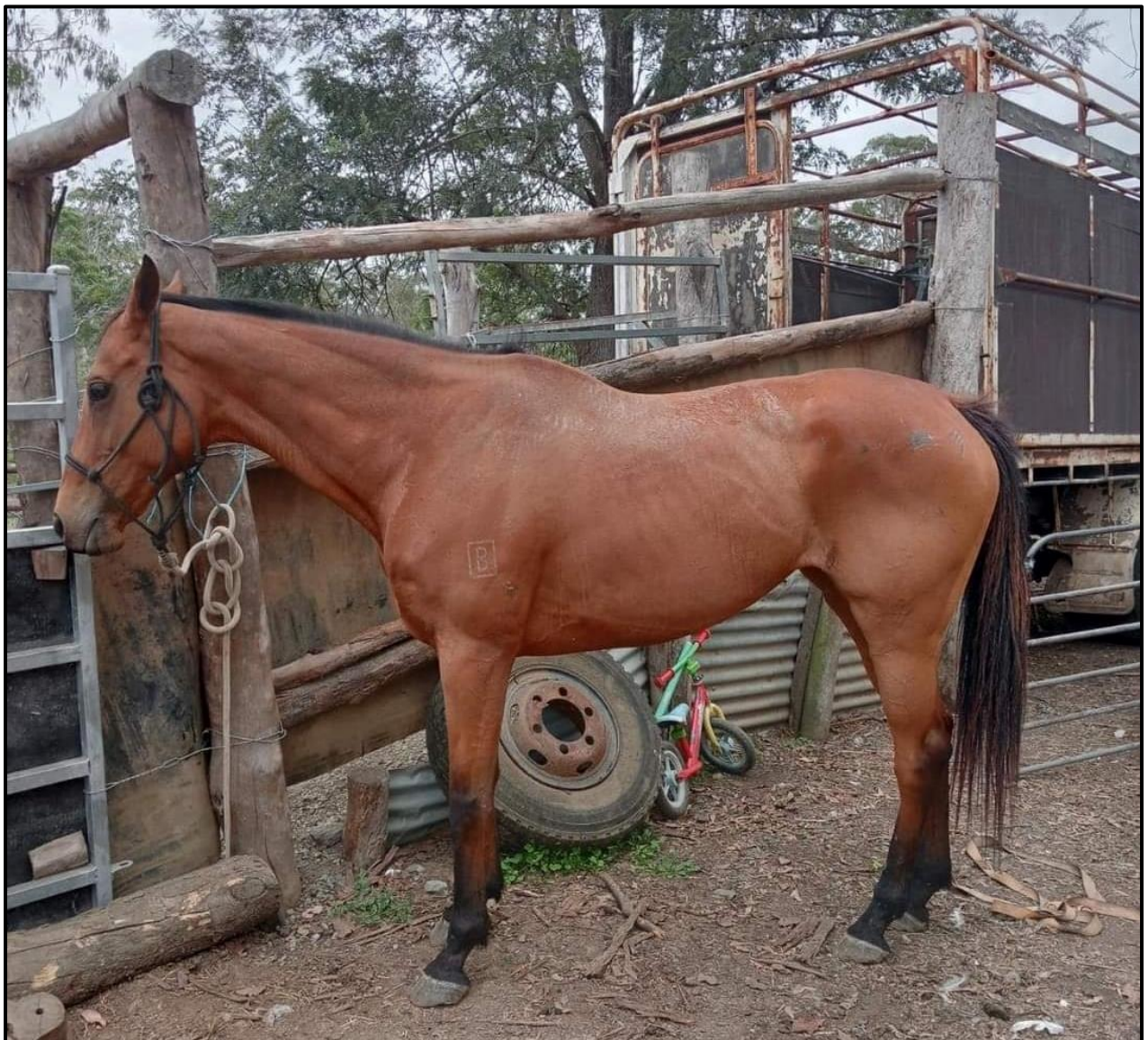
– bred in NSW, raced 8 times and trialled twice, all in NSW. NSW Racing owed him protection, he didn't get it from them. He did end up lucky though, bought by a rescue for \$325 and then rehomed.



– bred in NSW, raced 44 times and trialled twice, all bar two were in NSW. His last race was only one month before he was discarded at the sale that, according to Racing NSW, he should never have been at. It is unknown who bought him or how much he sold for.





– bred in NSW by raced times and trialled 3 times all in NSW. Was
bought by a known dogger/dealer. He, apparently, on sold her to an unknown
buyer.



– unraced but bred in NSW – a comment from a previous owner said “I owned this mare previously and she just isn’t right to ride. She is very hard to get in foal also”. She was bought by _____, a known dogger/dealer. Her fate remains unknown. Why is she still listed as “active”, to this day, on Racing Australia?



	
Status	Active
Owner's Details	
Stewards Embargoes	None on record
Last Gear Change*	None on record.
Trainer	
Racing Colours	
Career	Summary: 0-0-0-0 Prizemoney: \$0 1st Up: 0-0-0-0 2nd Up: 0-0-0-0 Firm: 0-0-0-0 Good: 0-0-0-0 Soft: 0-0-0-0 Heavy: 0-0-0-0 Synthetic: 0-0-0-0

– bred in NSW, raced 8 times and trialled twice, all in NSW. Her fate at Laidley is unknown.



Non thoroughbred/general online sales – there are two regular, non-thoroughbred specific online sales. One is the _____ sale and the other is the _____ sale held fortnightly. The thoroughbreds in the _____ are usually identified and the vendors are named as is required by Queensland legislation. This is not a sale approved by Racing NSW yet there are cases where NSW horses have been entered. No one checks and no one cares. Just one example this year –

online sale ending 17/1/2024 -

_____ – called _____ the sale he was bred in NSW, raced 31 times and trialed 12 times. While his last 10 starts and 3 trials were in Queensland, his first 21 starts and 9 trails were in NSW and as such he raced, and resided predominantly in NSW. He was passed in at \$500 but the fact remains that this was not a sale approved by Racing NSW.



The _____ is approved by Racing NSW and horses that have raced or resided predominantly in NSW must, supposedly, have a reserve of at least \$600. There have however been horses that have been bred in, and predominantly raced in, NSW that have been entered unreserved. While _____ caters for all breeds, thoroughbreds make up a large percentage of the total entries, for example there was a total of 74 entries in the sale that ended 28/6/2024 and of those 74, 20 were thoroughbreds, proving once again that of all breeds the greatest oversupply is thoroughbreds. Racing Victoria and Racing NSW are, apparently, supplied with the details of any buyer that purchases a thoroughbred through _____

. That is a positive but are the horses and/or buyers ever checked up on again after that or do they just “disappear”? Are the racing authorities that support this sale concerned about, what appears to be, the dealers that buy and sell through this sale? Are they concerned about what appears to be the dummy bidders who often have the only, or highest bid on horses in what appears to be an attempt to push up prices or show interest in a horse, interest that may not be real? If indeed there are dummy bidders, and the evidence would lead anyone to think that may be the case, do the racing authorities believe it to be ethical? What is

legal is not always ethical. I believe that online sales are far preferable for the horses to live sales, and save them the stress of saleyards, BUT there is even less transparency and even more risk, especially to any prospective purchasers. Just some recent examples of thoroughbreds entered, unreserved, in are -

ending 12/1/2024 –

– called in the sale he was identified as He was bred in NSW, raced 11 times and trialled once, all in NSW. He was entered in the sale, unreserved and sold for \$20. It was later posted that he found a good home but that is irrelevant to the fact that he should have been protected and had a \$600 reserve as per Racing NSW's rules.



THOROUGHBRED...




4 Bids


**Bidding
Closed**

Price
Realized:
20.00 AUD

ending 17/5/2024 –

– bred in NSW, raced 9 times and trialled twice, all in NSW. She sold for \$200. Why didn't she have the mandatory \$600 reserve?






3 Bids

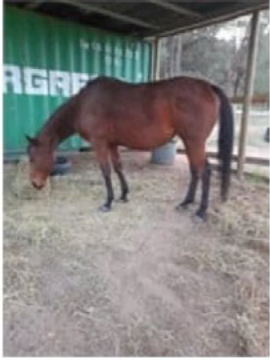
**Bidding
Closed**

Price
Realized:
200.00 AUD

ending 14/6/2024 -

– bred in NSW, raced 28 times and trialled twice. Of those, 19 races and both trials were in NSW and as such she raced predominantly in NSW and should have been protected by a \$600 reserve. She sold for \$40.







8 Bids

Bidding Closed

Price
Realized:
40.00 AUD

– called in sale, she was bred in NSW, raced 4 times and trialled 5 times all in NSW. Has had 5 foals all born in NSW, the last being in 2022. As she was bred in NSW, lived predominantly in NSW and only raced in NSW why wasn't she protected with a \$600 reserve? She was unreserved and sold for \$126.





10 Bids

Bidding Closed

Price
Realized:
**126.00
AUD**

All the above horses are just a sample of the thoroughbreds that have been discarded in sales and a small representation of the many other horses that, in my opinion, should have been protected by Racing NSW's own rules. These horses are sentient beings that have been born into an industry that exists, both literally and figuratively, on the backs of thoroughbred horses, yet all too often, they are discarded once they are of no use to their owners, their worth often less than a fridge or washing machine sold in a whitegoods "scratch and dent" sale. This is just wrong.

- **Transparency from the racing authorities** – Racing NSW pride themselves on their equine welfare, but where their responsibilities end is unclear and misunderstood by the public. There seems to be a different set of rules, even when situations are similar. Why? In the Andrew Wilson sale for example, some horses that have been out of the industry for many years have, according to the auction house, the \$600 reserve because it is mandatory under Racing NSW's rules, while others, such as those previously listed in my submission do not have a reserve at all. Is that a decision made by Andrew Wilson or Racing NSW?

Why do Racing NSW help some people in trouble with their horses but not others who are in a similar situation? Racing NSW's rules lead people to believe that LR114 applies to ALL thoroughbreds who have been domiciled or raced predominantly in NSW, and that it covers them for LIFE, yet over and over this has been proven to not be the case. People have asked for help and received answers such as "it's too long since the horse raced, we can't help". There needs to be clear clarification of LR 114 which states "LR 114 (1) The purpose and objective of this Local Rule 114 is to ensure the welfare of thoroughbred horses from birth, during their racing careers and on retirement." Does that mean the rule only applies on the immediate retirement of the horse, and not thereafter, or does it mean for life as most people assume? Does it apply to broodmares that were bred in, raced in and reproduced predominantly in NSW? If not, why not?

The Excluded Person list, states "(ii) that horse is not to be transferred, sold or gifted upon retirement or thereafter, to a person who is placed on the Racing NSW Excluded List for rehoming of thoroughbreds." That is the only section in the welfare rules that says on retirement or thereafter. So again, does that mean that all the others sections of the rule only apply on immediate retirement? This must be clarified, must be clear, must be easy to understand and must fully transparent.

What about the properties that are supposed to have been bought to support retired racehorses? Is the purchase of these properties really to help horses or just to build up a property "empire"? The 125 million dollars spent on properties (according to this article [Inside Racing NSW's \\$125 million property empire \(thestraight.com.au\)](https://thestraight.com.au/news/inside-racing-nsws-125-million-property-empire)) is a lot of money. How many horses have been successfully rehabilitated, retrained and successfully

rehomed as a direct result of these properties? Again, there needs to be total transparency.

If Racing NSW and other racing authorities say that they can't possibly oversee the welfare and traceability of every thoroughbred for the term of their life, then that is just another reason to curtail breeding numbers.

- **Conclusion** - I support the proposal for Rosehill Racecourse to be sold and developed for purposes other than racing, the need for housing must take priority over horse racing. I do however, have concerns about the use to which the sale monies will be put, and have particular concerns that the money will cause further negative impacts on thoroughbreds. I request that the NSW Government intervenes to impose some conditions on the ATC, for example, what the potential \$10 billion Rosehill sale income may be used for. The sale of Rosehill presents an opportunity for Racing NSW to make a genuine contribution to the welfare of racehorses. A lack of funds will no longer be an excuse.

I would like to see the sale monies used to benefit thoroughbred racehorses as listed below –

1. Ensure lifelong traceability of every horse in the NSW racing industry.
2. Fund a safe, lifelong retirement for every horse in the NSW racing industry.
3. Instigate immediate action to improve racehorse welfare both on and off the racetrack by replacing current welfare standards with those based on the 2020 Five Domains Model for animal welfare assessment, and request that it is mandated that members of the racing industry be educated accordingly.
4. Provide a fund to help transition members of the racing industry into professions outside racing.

Finally, the reason I have included photos in my submission is to put faces to names, these horses are representative of the thousands of others just like them, those who are used by the industry, often abused by the industry and then discarded by the industry once they are of no value. The industry say's the horses live like kings, the fact is that horses don't want to live like kings, they want to live like horses. They can't do that while racing, the least the industry owes them is the right to be safe, and live a comfortable and safe life (like all horses deserve) in their retirement.

The people of NSW deserve better than to have their housing needs dictated by the racing industry. Please do what is best for those who have no voice, the residents of NSW who need safe housing, especially amidst a housing crisis, and the horses that are the most important part of the industry.

Thank you (in anticipation) for taking the time to read my submission. If there are any points that need further clarification please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully,