

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

Name: Ms Pam Webber

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My name is Pam Webber. I have worked in the Racing industry continuously since 1981. I trained horses in six countries at the highest level. I was a licensed Metropolitan trainer at Rosehill from 1994 to 2019. I am now retired. I am an ATC member.

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

- (a) There has been a total lack of communication by the ATC board members & officials to the Members regarding the proposal to sell Rosehill Racecourse to the NSW government for housing. Proper consultation with the members on the idea would have identified a consensus of opinion against the sale.
- (b) I was absolutely appalled to read that the NSW Government, Cabinet officials, ATC officials & Racing NSW personnel were secretly making plans, discussing valuations & necessary permissions to effect the sale of Rosehill racecourse prior to notifying members or even asking their opinion & if they would be in favour. The fact that Racing NSW appears to have been the instigator of the proposal & claims to have been given the responsibility of managing the due diligence is quite inappropriate as they have also stated they will control the finances from the sale of a property that they do not own.
- (c) The role of this proposed sale in meeting housing targets is as flawed as the statement by ATC officials "The racecourse has been tested & is not contaminated" I attach two documents indicating the extremely high levels of pollution along Grand Avenue in the groundwater which has undoubtedly leached into the land the racecourse sits on. I quote Dr Bill Ryall "It will take fifty plus years to decontaminate the groundwater."
- (d) Impacts on the cost & delivery of the Sydney Metro. These will no doubt blow out further due to having to build another station to cater for the increase in residential population should the proposal go ahead.
- (e) Potential impacts on Parklands in Western Sydney will be felt across the region due to a huge increase in population with no green space

or parklands nearby only a lot of contaminated industrial land, a large amount of traffic including a large majority of heavy vehicles.

(f) The negative impacts on the Racing industry would be many, serious & irreversible.

- (i) Loss of an internationally renowned premier racetrack, world class facilities & the iconic races held there.
- (ii) Loss of a state of the art fully developed modern training facility.
- (iii) A doubling of the burden of racing onto Randwick racecourse which is already at its maximum races & training quota. The track would not be able to sustain the extra load and the degradation to the track surfaces would mean more injuries to both horses & riders thus threatening the soundness & longevity of each racehorse.
- (iv) More pressure on provincial training tracks which are already struggling with the numbers of horses trained on them.
- (v) Upheaval of living arrangements of hundreds of people, their families & many school age children to an area without the facilities the Parramatta area has.
- (vi) A severe reduction in the number of staff willing to work away from a city area with entertainment & good transport. A lot of the stable staff are international workers & do not have a vehicle.
- (vii) Reduction in the betting turnover in NSW due to a lack of diversity of racetrack & distances. The gambling dollar would go to Victoria.
- (viii) The loss of Rosehill would compromise the future finances of the ATC as it appears Racing NSW will be taking control of the funds from the sale of Rosehill racecourse.

(g) The welfare of the horses would be negatively impacted in many ways including have to spend more time on trucks getting to trials & race meetings. Bad & unprofessional, inexperienced & heavy riders would be the only ones willing to live away from city facilities transport & entertainment. The better riders would choose to work at the premier racecourses around Australia & the world where they are in very great demand & in very short supply.

- (h) Consulting with the ATC Members at the start of this idea would have indicated quite clearly to the board that there is close to zero support for the proposal.
- (i) There will be a severe negative impact on the surrounding businesses, hotels, restaurants & clubs in the Parramatta area that rely on custom not only from the racing but also from the numerous conferences, weddings, exhibitions & shows held at Rosehill for their income.
- (j) The alternative location proposals appear to be totally flawed, hurriedly drafted without costings or time or land purchase proposals.
- (k) We, as members have experienced our wishes being ignored previously on the matter of amalgamation & we are in fear of our wishes being ignored again & a compulsory purchase order being enacted.
- (l) I would like to know how many new members have been brought on board to support the sale but again no transparency from the board on this question.