

**Submission
No 90**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

Name: Oliver Tait

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NSW Legislative Council

Select Committee on the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse

To Whom It May Concern

This email is a submission to the Select Committee on the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse. I am a resident of New South Wales and my wife and I own and operate Twin Hills Stud, located at Cootamundra in Southern New South Wales. Our business employs 25 people. Its existence almost entirely relies on the health of the thoroughbred industry in New South Wales. I also am a lifelong racing fan, have been a Member of the Australian Turf Club for 30 years and currently serve on the Board of Thoroughbred Breeders New South Wales.

I strongly oppose the proposed development of Rosehill Racecourse, on the following grounds.

1. Rosehill Racecourse is a core industry asset that is vital to the operation of the thoroughbred industry in New South Wales, via its role as a place to train and race thoroughbreds. It is the home to New South Wales' most important and prestigious race, the Golden Slipper. It is fanciful to think that a replacement track would be either functionally better or improve the "brand" of thoroughbred horse racing. The proposed sale, were it to happen, would be detrimental to the function and development of horse racing in New South Wales.

2. Neither Racing NSW (which is the regulator of horse racing in New South Wales) nor the Australian Turf Club (the convenor of Sydney racing and the owner of Rosehill Racecourse) have the purpose nor the board / executive experience to effectively move this asset from being for the use of horse racing to a commercial property divestment.

3. Racing NSW has been widely reported as being a driving force behind the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse and its CEO has been quoted that "The ATC still needs our approval if they go ahead with it. It's not just the members. We licence the club and we're the regulator, so there would have to be some agreement". In my opinion, Racing NSW should act in a manner that is consistent with being a regulator, rather than a promoter or an investor. Racing NSW appears to be promoting this idea and indeed, per the minutes of a meeting between Racing NSW and the Premier's office, are advocating governance reform of the ATC via legislation to assist in the endeavour of the development. This goes well beyond what their remit as the regulator should be. Rosehill Racecourse is an asset that belongs to the Australian Turf Club and anything in relation to it should be subject to the existing ATC governance structure.

Naturally, I am happy to expand on the above should it be helpful. I urge the Committee to give close consideration to all views that are aired and recognise the importance of Rosehill Racecourse to the New South Wales thoroughbred industry.

Yours

Oliver Tait

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Twin Hills Stud