

Submission
No 117

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL
RACECOURSE**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 July 2024

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Inquiry on the Development Proposal for Rosehill Racecourse

Dear Select Committee,

I am writing to express my concerns and considerations regarding the proposed development of Rosehill Racecourse.

I support the proposal for Rosehill Racecourse to be sold and developed for purposes other than racing. My support depends upon the use to which the sale monies are put, particularly those which cause further negative impacts on Thoroughbreds.

I request that the NSW Government intervenes to impose some conditions on the Australian Turf Club (ATC), regarding use of the potential \$10 billion Rosehill sale income. The sale of Rosehill presents an opportunity for NSW racing 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 on the racetrack and off track by replacing current standards of welfare with those based on the 2020 Five Domains Model for animal welfare assessment, and require that members of the racing industry are educated accordingly.
4. Provide a fund to help transition members of the racing industry into professions outside racing.

In addition to my support for the development plans for Rosehill Racecourse, I would like to express my concerns for horse welfare in the racing industry. As a concerned citizen and advocate for ethical treatment of animals, I believe it is essential to address and prioritise the well-being of horses.

Current Concerns

The horse racing industry, while steeped in tradition and cultural significance, faces significant challenges when it comes to animal welfare:

1. **Injuries and Fatalities:** The incidence of injuries and fatalities among racehorses is a pressing concern. High-speed racing, rigorous training regimens, and the competitive nature of the sport contribute to the risk of musculoskeletal injuries, fractures, and catastrophic breakdowns.
2. **Drugs and Medication:** There is ongoing scrutiny regarding the use of drugs and medications in racehorses. While some substances are necessary for therapeutic purposes, misuse or overuse can have detrimental effects on the health and well-being of horses.

3. **Retirement and Aftercare:** The transition and care of racehorses after their racing careers conclude is another critical issue. Ensuring that horses are retired humanely and have access to appropriate aftercare, including rehabilitation, retraining, and adoption programs, is essential to their welfare.
4. **Regulatory Oversight:** There is a need for robust regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to safeguard the welfare of racehorses. This includes monitoring training practices, track conditions, veterinary care standards, and ensuring compliance with animal welfare laws.

In conclusion, addressing the challenges and opportunities within the horse racing industry requires a concerted effort to prioritise and enhance animal welfare. By implementing robust regulations, fostering transparency, and promoting ethical practices, we can ensure that racehorses receive the respect, care, and protection they deserve throughout their careers and beyond.

Thank you for considering these important factors for this inquiry. I look forward to seeing meaningful advancements in animal welfare within the horse racing industry as a result.

Sincerely,

16th July 2024