

**Submission
No 118**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

Name: Mr Greg Lamphee

Date Received: 17 July 2024

Chair
Rosehill Racecourse Committee
Legislative Council
New South Wales

17 July 2024

Dear Mr Farlow,

I would like to extend my gratitude to you for the opportunity to respond to the Terms of Reference for your Inquiry into the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse.

I write to you as an aggrieved 16-year Australian Turf Club (ATC) member, racehorse ownership participant for the past 15 years and lifetime racing enthusiast.

I'd like to make comment on three of the Terms of Reference:

b) the involvement of the Government prior to the unsolicited proposal being made

I have always understood the ATC to be a membership-based Club. In this respect, for matters impacting ATC members, I appreciate the entitlement to a vote. When the sale of Rosehill Racecourse was first announced late last year, I was completely dismayed by the representations of the Premier of NSW and Chairman of ATC to suggest this was a 'done' deal. Ensuing negative publicity and views of significant industry figures that were presented subsequently led to the Premier and Chairman to publicly state that it would ultimately be up to the ATC members to decide the fate of Rosehill Racecourse. It beggars belief that Racing NSW, racing's regulatory body, has since taken over the due diligence for the sale of Rosehill. I'm in favour of giving the ATC members the opportunity to vote. My ATC membership would amount to nothing should the sale of Rosehill Racecourse proceed.

c) the role of the proposal in meeting housing targets

The NSW State Government had established some highly ambitious housing targets and looked for the sale proposal to be somewhat of a quick 'gain'. To satisfy its 5-year / 375k target, the Government was seemingly in need of a large amount of land that could be developed into significant quantities of new homes. Not to mention the intense media coverage that would advise voters of their plight and appease them in such a way to ward off criticisms of not meeting such elevated targets.

f) impacts on the racing industry in New South Wales

I have many lasting memories of wonderful racing experiences with both family and friends alike at Rosehill Racecourse. Witnessing Octagonal salute in the 1996 Rosehill Guineas and being on track for John 'Singo' Singleton shouting the Public Bar after Belle du Jour's 2000 Golden Slipper victory were pinnacles of my teenage odyssey with racing.

It has morphed into so much more with the exploits of one of the world's best-ever racehorses, Winx, trained out of Rosehill. Even her trainer, Chris Waller, is world-class, having dominated the Australian racing landscape for many years as well as winning overseas. And his main training base in Sydney... Rosehill. I have part-owned racehorses with Chris for 15 years, and the racing ownership experience at Rosehill is unrivalled such is the proximity to the racing action. I would be most hesitant to further invest in shares in racehorses given the uncertainty about Rosehill, and the proposal to develop a training centre at Horsley Park could result in Chris and his loyal band of staff to be lost to the NSW racing industry.

Attempting to capture the essence of Rosehill by selling it off to developers to build high-rise apartment buildings and separately constructing a new racecourse elsewhere would essentially speed up the decline of the thoroughbred racing industry. It would take many years to develop a racecourse with the history, reputation and ambiance of Rosehill. Also, for Canterbury and Warwick Farm to be offered up as alternatives for regular Saturday racing is fanciful at best, despite their relative suitability as midweek and night racing (Canterbury) racecourses. The almighty punting dollar is already in decline, and this could further be eroded by declining punter confidence.

In summary, I would like to see the following:

- ATC members to be given the opportunity to vote on any proposal to sell Rosehill Racecourse

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to contribute.

Greg Lamphree