



Australian Racing Board Limited



1st May, 2009

Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland,

Inquiry into the Reporting of Sports News and the Emergence of Digital Media

The Australian Racing Board Limited (**ARB**), is public company limited by guarantee, which is the national body formed by and representing the thoroughbred racing Controlling Bodies in each State and Territory of the Commonwealth (**Controlling Bodies**). The Controlling Bodies are all either established or recognised by State or Territory legislation, and each is responsible for doing all that is reasonably within its power to develop, encourage and manage the thoroughbred racing industry in its territory.

The Australian Racing Board wishes to express its full support for the submission provided to the above Inquiry by the Victoria Racing Club.

As detailed in the VRC's submission, the intellectual property rights associated with the conduct of thoroughbred racing are a vital source of commercial revenue which needs to be protected against unauthorised third party exploitation.

The international profile of the Melbourne Cup Carnival makes it a significant target although it should be noted that the annual Australian racing calendar extends to some 2300 race meetings conducted by nearly 340 racing clubs across the country. The rights relating to these meetings also need to be protected.

All Australian racing clubs operate on a not-for-profit basis and support an industry that employs over 50,000 people generating an estimated economic value of \$5 billion per annum. In addition, racing represents an important aspect of community life, particularly throughout regional and rural areas.

The Australian Racing Board respectfully urges your Committee to give serious consideration to the VRC's recommendations for introducing regulatory controls that

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balance the need to allow for the legitimate reporting of news while protecting the commercial rights of sporting bodies from abuse.

Yours sincerely,

R G Bentley
Chairman
Australian Racing Board Limited
