

400 Epsom Road
Flemington Vic 3031
Australia

Telephone: +61 3 9258 4744
Facsimile: +61 3 9258 4743
information@racingvictoria.net.au
www.racingvictoria.net.au
Our Ref: MC414-1



17 APR 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

Racing Victoria Limited is the governing body of the Victorian thoroughbred racing industry and 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 Victorian racing calendar extends to some 550 race meetings conducted by nearly 70 racing clubs across the State. The rights relating to these meetings also needs to be protected.

All Victorian racing clubs operate on a not for profit basis and support an industry that employs more than 30,000 people generating an estimated economic value of \$1.6 billion per annum. In addition, racing represents an important aspect of community life, particularly throughout regional and rural areas.

RVL trusts that your Committee will give serious consideration to the VRC's recommendations for introducing regulatory controls that balance the need to allow for the legitimate reporting of news while protecting the commercial rights of sporting bodies from abuse.

Yours sincerely

ROB HINES
Chief Executive Officer