

9 August 2010

Dr Shona Batge
Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Batge

RE: Submission to Senate Inquiry on Industry Skills Councils

I wish to make a submission to the Senate's Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee's Inquiry into the Industry Skills Councils. My comments relate specifically to AgriFood Skills Australia which includes the Racing industry in its sector coverage.

AgriFood Skills Australia works with the Racing industry and its enterprises to capture industry intelligence on skills and workforce development needs, and to address these needs in consultation with industry and government. Our prime involvement with AgriFood is around the following matters.

- The review and continuous improvement of the Racing training package and its implementation. The training package underpins the provision of quality apprentice and occupational training across the industry, with updates to the training packages done to reflect changing industry needs;
- The provision of advice on industry skills and workforce needs and addressing impediments to attracting and retaining people in key areas of shortage. This includes track riders where revised arrangements in skilled migration occupational categorises is hampering the industry's business performance. This matter continues to be pursued by the industry and AgriFood;
- Promoting the benefits of skills development and training to enterprises, and through Vocational Education and Training in Schools and related initiatives seeking to encourage interest in careers in the Agrifood industry, including racing.

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Tasracing has membership of AgriFood's Racing Industry Standing Committee which advises the Board on training and broader skills, workforce and policy issues impacting on the industry. This enables industry to have a direct influence on AgriFood's priorities in addressing the industry's needs.

I believe the Racing industry and enterprises are well served by the advice and expertise of AgriFood Skills Australia, with this reflecting the company's close collaboration with the industry, and its support of training package and related skills and workforce development initiatives in support of the industry.

Yours sincerely

John Cameron
ACTING/CHIEF RACING OFFICER