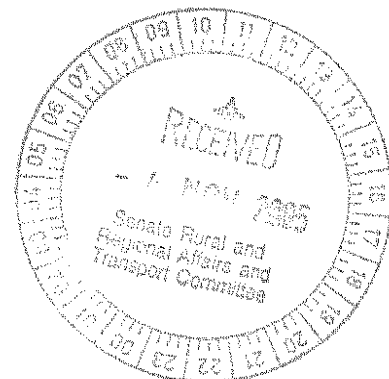




Australian Racing Board

31st October 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam,

The Australian Racing Board (ARB) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the National Animal Welfare Bill 2005.

The ARB is the peak national administration body for the Australian Thoroughbred Racing Industry and is committed to the welfare of the Australian thoroughbred racehorse. Thoroughbred racing is a very well regulated industry and is conducted under the Australian Rules of Racing which contain strict provisions to promote and protect the welfare of racehorses.

As you would be aware, the Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Peter McGauran MP, recently announced a \$6 million commitment to implementing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.

The ARB commends this initiative and its aim to deliver clear and consistent national standards for the care of animals in Australia. We look forward to continuing our already active participation in this implementation process and working with the lead agencies - the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Australia and the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare.

It is clear that the National Animal Welfare Bill's proposal to introduce a new national regulatory regime would not be helpful in achieving the objectives of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. Indeed, the ARB considers the proposed regime to be impractical, fundamentally flawed and would severely disrupt the Strategy's collaborative, inclusive and well structured approach to improving animal welfare across Australia.

On this basis, we formally oppose the Bill.

Australian Racing Board Limited
ACN: 104 986 334

81 - 83 Baxter Road, Mascot NSW 2020 - PO Box 17 Mascot NSW 1460 AUSTRALIA
Email: arb@australian-racing.net.au - Tel: 61 2 9551 7700 - Fax: 61 2 9551 7708

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Ramsden". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Andrew Ramsden
Chairman
Australian Racing Board Ltd

cc: The Hon Peter McGauran MP - Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
Rod Pollock, Chief Executive, Australian Harness Racing Council
Craig Taberner, Chief Executive Officer, Greyhounds Australasia
