

Media Release

7 September 2015

Review into Illegal Offshore Wagering

Racing Australia has welcomed today's announcement by the Commonwealth Government of a Review into Illegal Offshore Wagering. The Thoroughbred Racing Industry strongly supports the Government's action in the face of a rapidly changing and evolving on-line landscape.

If left unchecked, racing authorities believe that the integrity of Australian racing and sports is at considerable risk. Racing regulators must have access to all betting transaction information for integrity assurance purposes, wherever that betting takes place. Racing Stewards and investigators must be able to follow an audit trail to ensure integrity.

Moreover, the responsible gambling policies of Governments, including those protecting minors, matter nothing to illegal offshore bookmakers.

At the same time, Government and industry revenues are being affected as illegal offshore bookmakers pay no taxes or product fees.

The racing industry congratulates the Minister for Social Services, The Hon Scott Morrison, for acting to address these issues in such a comprehensive and effective way. Racing will submit to the Inquiry, headed by the respected former NSW Premier The Hon Barry O'Farrell, the following key objectives in addressing the problem of illegal offshore bookmakers:

1. Safeguard integrity in racing and sport.
2. Secure racing and sports' revenue.
3. Protect against problem gambling.
4. Ensure minors are not able to access wagering or gambling on the internet.
5. Guard against proliferation of online gambling (eg, casinos, pokies).

The annual economic benefit of the Racing Industry to the national economy represents more than \$5 billion and 132,000 jobs. A large proportion of these economic benefits are in rural and regional Australia.

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