



NEW RACE FIELDS LEGISLATION SUPPORTS NSW RACING INDUSTRY

Tuesday, 17 October 2006

Premier Morris Iemma today announced that millions of dollars would be injected into the NSW racing industry under new legislation to be introduced into State Parliament today.

Mr Iemma said the *Racing Legislation Amendment Bill 2006* would end the practice of wagering operators who use NSW racing as a wagering platform but contribute nothing to the industry.

"The NSW racing industry plays a very important role in the NSW economy, employing around 50,000 people across the state," Mr Iemma said.

"At present there are some wagering operators betting on NSW races that give nothing back, and this 'free ride' costs the industry millions of dollars each year.

"This legislation will enable the NSW racing industry to receive a fair payment from those who use our racing product but don't support or compensate the local industry.

"It's only fair that those who benefit financially from racing pay their way and support."

Mr Iemma said the legislation would:

- Prohibit the publication of race fields without approval from the relevant controlling body (Racing NSW, Harness Racing NSW or Greyhound Racing NSW), in consultation with the relevant race club. Such approval would be subject to conditions;
- Allow controlling bodies to set a fee with the approval of the Minister for Gaming and Racing;
- Set criteria which controlling bodies must follow in assessing any application to publish race fields. This criteria would be set by the Government through regulation once the legislation is passed;
- Require controlling bodies to provide written reasons for their decision to approve or reject an application;
- Enable aggrieved applicants to have a decision reviewed by the Minister; and
- Allow the decision of the Minister to be reviewed by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

Racing Minister Grant McBride said the legislation is about addressing the unauthorised use of racing industry intellectual property and ensuring a fair price is paid after approval has been obtained.

"The NSW Government is committed to implementing practical solutions to ensure that racing has a sustainable future," Mr McBride said.

"All revenue raised through those wanting to use the NSW racing product would be fed straight back into the industry.

"After thoroughly considering all issues relating to race fields, we feel very confident that this legislation will provide a welcome boost to racing in NSW," Mr McBride said.