



4 November 2009.

Submission to:

John McGrath MLA
Chairman
Parliamentary Committee Examining Performance of RWWA

From:

George W. Pyett

In Australian racing the most significant action in decades occurred a very few years ago when Victorian Racing Minister Halls changed the thinking of Victorian racing administrators.

He went along these lines.

- The Government is fed up with being blamed for some of the ills in racing. All I hear is more money here, more money there, ban this, outlaw that.
- The Government have given you an excellent, privatised product - develop it, show initiative, innovation, enterprise - chase turnover relentlessly.
- Bookmaking is evolving - off course corporates are part of the scene - accept them - accept their sponsorship - charge them a manageable fee.
- Betfair is good for racing - it brings in a huge new raft of internet punters but more importantly provides another market. Accept their offers of naming rights, sponsorship and charge manageable fees.
- Ceasepropping up States like WA who are in for a free ride - make them pay for your product.
- The Government acknowledges that adequate stake money is important but not all consuming - there are plenty of other things to consider. In Australia, generally speaking, one metro win pays the annual expenses - in the UK an owner needs four wins - so there is plenty of scope for modest changes.

Look what the Minister has done for Victoria racing.

This approach was generally available to WA but, regrettably there are no contemporary thinkers in WA racing administration - not one.

What should the WA Government do for a vibrant, sustainable future?

Simple: 1. Sell the TAB to the highest bidder (TAB Corp would be a good fit).

2. Put people in place to administer who are contemporary thinkers. i.e. the Government needs to appoint the RWWA board (or at least 70% of it.)

George W. Pyett