

3 May 2013

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you regarding the Federal Government's review of the Interactive Gambling Act 2001 and Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform.

While Harness Racing Australia (HRA) supports the various reviews and encourages governments to respond to the recommendations, we are concerned about the possibility of unintended consequences that could arise for our industry.

Sustainability of the harness racing industry including participation and employment is underpinned by wagering; hence we demand and command such high standards of integrity and regulation. This unique relationship with wagering distinguishes our sport from other sports and gambling pursuits.

Other sports can be played without betting and its participants are no worse off. Harness racing cannot exist without wagering. If our industry does not exist, the national economic and social benefits will disappear. These include:

- 19,000 Australian jobs - 40% of jobs in the industry are in regional Australia.
- \$1,421.50 million value added to the Gross National Product.
- Sustainability and social aspects of the industry throughout regional Australia.

In terms of the reviews and reforms, HRA maintains that:

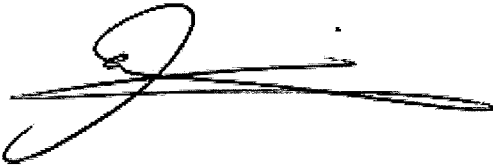
- Betting on sports should only be permitted if strict integrity measures are enforced by an appropriately empowered and competent regulatory body (as it is with racing).
- Wagering must continue to be exempt from the Interactive Gambling Act 2001 and other potential restrictive gambling reforms such as advertising.
- A national gambling regulator should be established, with powers to license betting providers and ensure adherence to strict integrity, problem gambling, harm minimisation and financial measures.
- Peak representative bodies should retain the right to determine which betting providers are permitted to bet on their product, the types of bets offered and the product fee paid in return to the industry.
- Internet service providers should be forced to block access to the sites operated by unapproved operators. In addition, there should be provisions in the Interactive Gambling Act 2001 to prohibit financial institutions from processing transactions from such sites.

- Gambling advertising and pricing / odds updates on sports should be limited to dedicated TV channels and programs where strict integrity and responsible gambling measures can be enforced.

The Australian harness racing industry is an employer, a generator of economic activity and has an important role in the lives of people living in regional Australia.

I can be contacted on 03 9227 3004 and would be pleased to meet with you about these issues and the potential impacts on our industry at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew Kelly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive