

TO; Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Re; Inquiry into animal cruelty in the management of
Retired racehorses in Queensland

From; Winka von Fahland


To the members of the inquiry,
Terry Martin SC, Kristyn Miller,

Thank you for allowing me to make this submission on behalf of those that who cannot defend themselves, the race horses, without whom this enterprise would not exist. I myself am an x-trainer and still own two retired race horses, I did all my own track work, and after the shut down due to the equine flue I decided not to continue. I subsequently use my horses for mustering and pleasure riding.

My sole reason for this idea is to help, firstly the race horses that are in need of a better way of retirement and secondly the racing industry as a whole, as without the horse you may as well all quit your jobs and go home.

Industry; this word pertains to something that is factory made and has no element of a living being and so from now on I will refer to this as **management or enterprise**

At present **Thoroughbred and Standard bred horses** when they are no longer profitable are being **neglected** or as the case is, quite often sold for **slaughter**.

This is not promotive of a sustainable and magnanimous management.

As Australian / global citizens are waking up to what was once an acceptable outcome or practice it is now unacceptable behaviour to be cruel, complacent and neglectful to other beings. If the racing MANAGAEMNT does not change and bring about stronger welfare objectives the racing enterprise as we see it now will not be sustainable into the future. This is why I have decided to dedicate my time to create a positive outcome for both the HORSE and the Racing Enterprise. This needs to be brought into the future and hopefully what we do here in Queensland will set an example to the rest of Australia.

1. Welfare of race horses; in this I include **both Thoroughbreds and Standard bred** horses; Yes, these horses should be allowed to have both quality of life and length of life, that is to be able to **live out their life naturally**.

2. As for the commercial slaughter of horses; **I say NO!!!** We live in a civilized country, we do not eat dog, cat and horses should be classed in the same capacity. They are companion animals, they are sentiment beings and because of their long associated with humans are quite aware of human action.
3. If the above fails; **RACE HORSES SHOULD BE EXCEMPT!!!**
4. **The entire process is not of a standard that is even vaguely adequate**, if you want an evaluation. These horses are used to being in stable condition, they are used to being transported in safe trailers or transport and are not CATTLE! After seeing how these horses are transported it is totally unsatisfactory in anyway. I totally object to this and it goes back to 2. **NO HORSE SLAUGHTER!**
5. **The feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses, with particular reference to:**
 - a. the existence and adequacy of state or industry-based registers;
 - b. the benefits of a national register, including for animal welfare, biosecurity safety (including for the prevention and management of Emergency Animal Diseases, such as equine influenza and African Horse Sickness), backyard breeding and the integrity of trade in horses;
 - c. overseas models of national tracking systems for horses;
 - d. funding, enforcement and penalty implications; and
 - e. any related matters.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/NationalHorseRegister

I believe that this would be a very good idea and even though it might take time for this to be compiled and in working order I do feel that in the long term such a goal would truly help with the management of horses in Australia for all the above reasons. I feel that also those that breed horses, whether for racing or for other purposes should be made accountable for the number bred each year. This should be capped and possibly a tax might help to slow this over breeding down. I recently read an article regarding what Holland had implemented to stop the over breeding of dogs and the existence of strays in their country. It might be worth to look at how this was implemented. According to recent surveys the program is working. These kinds of procedures could also be adopted to other companion animals such as cats and dogs, in particular for the Grey Hounds.

6. RE; The rehoming of race horses in Queensland, please read my following attachment as to how this can be achieved.

My idea is quite a simple one and once it is set up it would be the future of the racing Enterprise as a whole. Furthermore those horses that are sent overseas to race should all be brought back to Australia and also be accounted for.

Super Fund for Thoroughbreds and Standard Breeds;

The Australian Racing Enterprise is a multimillion dollar business that right now is running on neglect of its most important component, the horse.

The **Super fund or retirement fund**, as I like to call, it is a levy that will be placed on all horses that are registered to race. Each trainer/ owner / syndicate that owns horse or

horses will be identified, the horse is already registered so this task is easy. There will be a levy placed on horses sold at yearling sales, on winnings and one each time a horse races.

Other places where a levy can be placed on; Turf Clubs (percentage of their profits will go to this); Betting Agency (every bet on a horse will automatically take .5 cents in the dollar towards this retirement fund. (this is an example only))

The money goes into a trust account that is overseen by a legal body. I would like to see this as an independent body but having a very close relationship to the Racing Enterprise and Government would be obvious or a collaboration of all of them.

- **MONEY;** When a horse is to be retired, the owner/ trainer/ syndicate, by law, will be asked to notify the closest state Racing Commission, such as in the case of Qld; QRIC and also the Racing Registrar. Once this is done the horse will be within (3 days) sent to the closest facility to retire.
- The **facility**, which will be a **non-for-profit organization** and must also be registered as such and must meet certain criteria to be able to house horses. They can then apply to the **SUPER FUND** for money to help with food, vet fees and farrier services. They can also apply for larger funding to upgrade their facilities.
- **Funding;** This will be on the same basis or similar to government or council funding; as an **example**, for public / community projects or similar. The race horse (horses) that now resides in **the facility will be mandatory vet checked every (3-6 months)**, a report written and **this report then gives that facility the right to apply for subsequent funding as stated above.**
- Furthermore; any facility that houses these horses will not be allowed to breed, any stallions that are in this category will be de-sexed by a veterinary professional prior to re homing.

[This notion is open for discourse and further adjustments as might be necessary to establish this as rule.]

- **There is one problem** I do see with this and it again points at MONEY, as we are all aware that not everyone is honest or does things for the good of all and this could lead to further miss use of funds. There would be some cases those owners / trainers who do have larger areas of land would / could see themselves as 'looking after' their own horses. Where horses are just put in the back paddock, unfed and left for dead and the money claimed used for 'other things' themselves or feeding the horses they are racing. In light of this possibility it can be done but if these owner/ trainers want to retire the horses on their own property they will either **not be allowed to claim** for funding for food as they have gained from the commercial side of this Racing Enterprise in ways of prize money and so would not qualify, this is especially in the case those **big studs and spelling facilities** that already make vast amounts of money.
- **These owners / trainers / studs or spelling facilities;** If they retire one of their horses, which they will have to account for as anyone else, they will also now be responsible to vet check that horse as would the other registered facility also. This vet check will determine that the retired horse is alive, well-fed and cared for and

this bill could then be submitted for funding by the Retirement fund. This would encourage proper management of retired horses by owners that chose to look after their own horse. If at some stage they no longer are involved in the racing Enterprise then they can apply but would be inspected and have to also follow the rules of horse vet checks every 3-6 months where an independent vet will make a report and the clearance then will allow them to apply for funding.

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission would be setting the standards for this procedure as it is in my understanding that this is one of the jurisdictions of this part of the **Queensland Racing Industry**.

Owners and Trainers;

These are the people that are both the breeders, sellers and makers of the Thoroughbred horse. Millions of dollars each year are spent on breeding, selling and training of these amazing athletes, yet sadly once they do not bring in the dollars or are past their use by date they are forgotten collateral of a million-dollar enterprise. I believe it is high time that there is some sort of responsibility by these owners and trainers to the welfare of their horses.

Immediate STOP to the slaughter of Thoroughbreds and Standard Breeds horses at the Meramist, Caboolture Facility! The QRIC, phone them up, ask if there are any race horses there or if there are any due to come in that are in transit. Make arrangements that they are unloaded, vet checked, QRIC will provide a vet, all horses are to be fed and watered and will then be moved out. (places to be defined) and the facility will be given government orders that they will from further notice not be slaughtering horses.

I believe it is high time that there is some sort of responsibility by these owners and trainers to the welfare of their horses. I also believe that this structure can be implemented by other states or taken up on the level of a **federal government ruling** so that all states are compliant and all meet the same standards.

Another urgent need; STOP jump or hurdle racing in Australia.

This is a cruel and barbaric practice and if you read the reports by Professor Peter Mc Greevy and other veterinary professionals both here in Australia and in England that making a horse run three times the distance of the Melbourne Cup and then keep jumping over hurdles till they simply collapse is NOT ETHICAL. Furthermore, without a doubt, this practise does not comply with workplace health and safety regulations of any Industry, Company or Workplace. Can you just image for one moment being made to run and jump, run and jump until you are so overwhelmingly tired that your legs give way and when you fall you are so glad that life is over. That is how these animals feel. No human athlete would or even could do this.

“The Warrnambool May Racing Carnival features the Grand Annual Steeplechase, now in its 138th year. At 5500 metres, it is the longest

thoroughbred race in Australia and contains 33 obstacles, more than any other race in the world.”

<https://www.smh.com.au/education/the-last-hurdle-20090514-b471.html>

Yours sincerely,
Winka von Fahland

