

RACING AND BETTING AMENDMENT BILL 1995

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Objectives

The objectives of the Bill are to allow bets placed overseas to be included in Totalisator Administrator Board of Queensland (TAB) pools and to allow the TAB to amalgamate net pools with overseas totalisator operators.

Reasons for Bill

The *Racing and Betting Act 1980* authorises the Queensland TAB to amalgamate pools with interstate TABs. There is no power to allow overseas pools to be amalgamated with Queensland TAB pools. The Act does not allow the TAB to enter into off-shore arrangements which would allow direct betting into its Queensland pools.

The amendments are necessary to allow the Queensland TAB to extend its operations into new markets outside Australia.

The opportunity has been taken to introduce some amendments of a minor and administrative nature including changing the name of the body controlling greyhound racing in Queensland and amending some obsolete references contained in the Act.

Estimated Cost of Government Implementation

There will be no cost to Government.

Consultation

In September 1993 the Racing and Betting Act 1980 Review—Discussion Paper was released to Government Departments, Racing Industry bodies and community organisations. This discussion paper raised, among other things, issues regarding the TAB amalgamating pools with overseas bodies and allowing overseas investment on the Queensland TAB pool.

Queensland Treasury, Office of the Cabinet and the Queensland TAB were consulted in the preparation of this Bill.

The issue received support from the bodies consulted. The Greyhound Racing Control Board of Queensland requested the name change that is contained in the Bill.

Notes on Provisions

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the Act.

Clause 2 provides that the Act amends the *Racing and Betting Act 1980*.

Clause 3 amends certain definitions in Section 5 of the Act to reflect the change of name from the Greyhound Racing Control Board of Queensland to the Greyhound Racing Authority.

Clause 4 amends Section 76 to reflect the change in name of the Greyhound Racing Control Board.

Clause 5 deletes some obsolete provisions of Section 94.

Clause 6 amends Section 189 by replacing obsolete references to the "Licensing Commission" with the words "chief executive". This reflects the abolition of the Licensing Commission by the *Liquor Act 1992*.

Clause 7 replaces Sections 191 and 191A. The new Section 191 allows the Totalisator Board to enter into arrangements with persons outside Australia about investments on a totalisator. This power is currently limited to other States and Territories within Australia.

The *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* (Section 36) defines "person" as including an individual or a corporation. This section further defines "corporation" as including a body politic or corporate. This will allow the TAB to enter into arrangements with similar bodies or individuals operating totalisators outside as well as inside Australia.

The Minister must approve of the arrangement or agreement entered into and the terms of such arrangement or agreement.

Section 191A has similarly been amended to allow the TAB to enter into arrangements to amalgamate the net pool of any class of totalisator with a similar class of totalisator operated by a person overseas. Again the Minister's approval to the arrangement and the terms of the arrangement or agreement must be obtained.

Clause 8 amends Section 221 by updating obsolete references to the "Licensing Commission" with references to the "chief executive".

Clauses 9 to 12 make consequential amendments to certain sections resulting from the change of name of the Greyhound Racing Control Board.