



NSW Government response to the inquiry of the Select Committee into the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse

March 2025

Introduction

The Legislative Council Select Committee on the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse (**the Committee**) was established in May 2024 to inquire into and report on the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse.

Background to the Rosehill Racecourse proposal

In December 2023, the Government announced the Australian Turf Club's (**ATC's**) intention to submit an unsolicited proposal to redevelop Rosehill Racecourse to allow for the development of up to 25,000 new homes, greenspace and other mixed-uses.

At this time, the Government separately announced that Sydney Metro would prepare scoping studies for up to two potential station locations west of Sydney Olympic Park as part of the Sydney Metro West project.

The unsolicited proposal would support the NSW Government's commitment to more housing in places where people want to live, and to improve affordability, reduce building and infrastructure costs and create thriving communities. If successful, The ATC has proposed that funds from the development could be invested in racing, training and member and spectator facilities at existing racing, training and stabling venues.

The proposal is subject to the NSW Government's Unsolicited Proposals: Guide for Submission and Assessment (May 2022), which include:

- strong probity, conflict of interest and confidentiality requirements, including the appointment of a probity adviser to advise, monitor and report at each stage of the unsolicited proposals process.
- requirements on proponents to refrain from lobbying Ministers or officials regarding the proposal, with clear communication channels established.
- clear assessment criteria, and a streamlined process for objectively assessing the public value of the proposal.

The Government's response to each of the Committee's recommendations is set out in the table below.

Table 1. NSW Government response to the inquiry of the Select Committee into the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse

Recommendation	NSW Government response
<p>1. That the NSW Government update the Ministerial Diary Disclosure requirements to mandate an accurate description of attendees, purpose and any conflicts of interest and extend these requirements to Shadow Ministerial spokespeople.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p> <p>Ministers are required to publish their diaries in accordance with Premier’s Memorandum M2015-05 <i>Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information</i>.</p> <p>The Government is carefully considering recommendations made by the Independent Commission Against Corruption in the 2021 report, <i>Investigation into the regulation of lobbying, access and influence in NSW</i>, following an investigation known as ‘Operation Eclipse’, including recommendations regarding Ministerial diary disclosure.</p> <p>The Government is considering options for extending diary disclosure obligations to the Shadow Ministerial spokespeople.</p>
<p>2. That the Legislative Council give consideration to establishing an inquiry into the operations of Racing NSW.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>This is a matter for the Legislative Council.</p>
<p>3. That the NSW Government conduct a thorough review of the <i>Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996</i> which, among other things, considers whether the Act is fit for purpose.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p> <p>The matters raised as part of the committee’s inquiry and report cover a broad range of issues relating to the Act. As part of its ongoing commitment to best practice in legislative review, the Government considers there is merit in a review of the <i>Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996</i>.</p>
<p>4. That, as part of the reviews of the <i>Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996</i> and the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to</i></p>	<p>Noted</p>

Recommendation	NSW Government response
<p><i>Animals Act 1979</i>, the NSW Government have regard to the animal welfare issues raised in this report and the recommendations made in the 2021 report of the <i>Thoroughbred Aftercare Welfare Working Group: The most important participant – A Framework for Thoroughbred Welfare</i>.</p>	<p>As with any legislative review, the NSW Government may consider a range of matters relevant to the <i>Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996</i> and the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i> as part of the reviews.</p> <p>Many of the recommendations put forward in the 2021 report relate to actions at a national level. The Government will continue to engage with industry and state and Australian governments to promote a nationally-consistent approach to thoroughbred and horse welfare. This includes advocating for national horse standards and guidelines, a review of the Land Transport of Livestock Standards relevant to horses, and a national horse register.</p>
<p>5. That the Legislative Council reaffirm its support for the <i>Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901</i> and the critical importance of witnesses to committee inquiries giving direct and honest evidence at all times.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>This is a matter for the Legislative Council.</p>