

STATUTES AMENDMENT (BETTING OPERATIONS) BILL – 26 Nov 08

Second reading.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:19): I, too, rise to support the bill and I note that it will bring more gambling money into South Australia. Whether or not we like betting, it is a practice that some people in the community enjoy, so if there can be some benefit brought back to support an industry which supports thousands of people in this state, well and good. I note that as part of the bill interstate betting agencies will be establishing a fund, essentially an integrity fund, to protect the situation.

It is very interesting to consider horses and horseracing. The member for Morphett alluded to the cost of horses. I have a sister who is very involved with horses. She has six, maybe seven if you include the 24 year old horse that is retired on my farm. I indicated to her that I do not mind how long the old racehorse stays there but I am not paying for the hay. Whether you are involved in horses on a social basis or in the racing industry, plenty of costs are incurred. I have always referred to horses as hay burners, and plenty of people have gone broke trying to get a winner.

In fact, my sister, Nicole, resides on King Island and I had the opportunity to be down there a couple of Christmases ago. She had a racehorse running that she was a part owner of and she had a win, which was quite a shock because I heard from punters in the crowd that it was within a hair's breadth of being put down. This year I laughed when my sister said to me that she came into the racing season at King Island and realised that she did not have a share in a thoroughbred, so out she trotted to get a share in a horse. So, I do not know how that hay burner is going—

Mr Venning interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: Yes; I guess we will find out. I am so glad that my sister's husband has a very good job and he obviously has a lot of patience.

Mr Venning: And money.

Mr PEDERICK: Yes. In saying that, I also support horseracing at a local level. The Murray Bridge Racing Club is proactively looking at its new facility across the southern side of the freeway, and I hope the government is doing all it can to assist that development. I believe that, if it is good enough for my area to facilitate a state prison, it is good enough to facilitate other amenities such as good horseracing venues. This will be a training venue, which I think is a great initiative by the local club. I know that the processes are underway but I also know that things need to happen quickly because the landholder cannot hold out much longer on the surety of that land being sold. I hope that the government works collaboratively with the racing club and the local council to get that process fast-tracked. With those few words, I support the bill.