

Mr Ray Stevens MP
Shadow Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading & Racing
State Member for Mermaid Beach

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Lawlor's lethargy lets down Racing industry in Queensland

In an arrogant move by the Bligh Labor Government, today in Parliament they used their numbers to vote in disastrous legislation that will harm the racing industry in Queensland now and into the future.

Shadow Minister for Racing, Mr Ray Stevens said today that because of Minister Lawlor's inability to manage the racing portfolio he has let down each and every club, club members, jockeys, trainers, owners and industry stakeholders with pursuing this ill-advised piece of legislation.

"The *Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* was rammed through Parliament today and the debate guillotined so as to hide industry feedback and disdain at the legislation this out of touch Bligh Government is forcing on the racing industry in Queensland.

"The new 'one control body model' makes Queensland Racing the new entity under a different name, '*Racing Queensland*', and gives them total and unelected control over all three racing codes - Thoroughbred, Harness and Greyhound Racing.

This is clear cut jobs for the Labor boys and girls, who have rolled over and supported this regressive legislation without any consultation with their respective racing codes and who have been given a gold-plated directors job on the new board of control.

"Because of Minister Lawlor's lethargy he has failed the racing industry in Queensland, and this is what he will be remembered for in his tenure as Racing Minister. If Russ Hinze was known as the Minister for Everything, then Peter Lawlor will be known as the Minister for Nothing!

"The Bligh Labor Government has cut short debate on the *Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* and three other bills this week, which just underlines the lack of capacity to deal with community backlash over their controversial and ill thought out legislation.

"This day will be remembered as the day Minister Lawlor and the Bligh Labor Government destroyed the independence and development of the racing industry in Queensland", Mr Stevens concluded.

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