

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

20<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## **Stevens hobbled by Labor Government on country racing**

In Parliament today, the Opposition tried to save country and provincial racing in Queensland, with amendments to the destructive racing legislation, that the Bligh Government has introduced and rammed through the house by their majority numbers.

Shadow Minister for Racing, Mr Ray Stevens proposed today, amendments to the *Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* to save Queensland Country and Provincial Racing for the economic survival of these rural and remote communities.

“Communities across the State have been devastated with the potential loss of their race meetings and organisations”, Mr Stevens said.

“Today I proposed amendments to the Labor Governments bill to delete Clause 12 and Clause 23, Section 430 – Dissolution of Queensland Country Racing Committee and Country Racing Associations, so as to continue legislative power for these organisations, but the Bligh Labor Government voted against it.

“I am very concerned that the Government voted down my amendments, which also addressed issues of asset sales of clubs and power to the new control body, as the Government continue to decimate country and provincial racing and hand the Chairman of ‘Racing Queensland’ ultimate power.

“This is very disturbing as the country race clubs will virtually have no say in the operational, financial or development of their clubs.

“The Labor Government is flawed and today they have yet again demonstrated their lack of direction for Racing in Queensland.

“I call on the Minister for Racing to reintroduce my amendments as a Government bill so as to ensure smooth passage of these democratic amendments as soon as possible and save country racing in Queensland”, Mr Stevens concluded.

**Media Contact: Mr Ray Stevens MP on 0417 750 503**