



File: MT/EF

16 November 2015

Department of Social Services

<https://engage.dss.gov.au/review-impact-of-illegal-offshore-wagering/impact-of-illegal-offshore-wagering-make-a-submission/>

Dear Sir/Madam,

IMPACT OF ILLEGAL OFFSHORE WAGERING

Tasracing Pty Ltd makes this submission to express the view that illegal offshore wagering is an unacceptable risk to the integrity of racing in Australia and threatens the ongoing viability of the Australian racing industry through lost revenue.

Wagering through the internet is becoming increasingly global with streaming of events internationally and increase access through a wide range of devices. Access to internationally based unregulated wagering is available to anyone in Australia with a few simple clicks. It is available on phones, tablets and laptops 24 hours a day.

- *Illegal Offshore Wagering:* The most significant risk to the Australian racing industry, and the general public, of illegal offshore wagering is that it undermines the extensive integrity oversight developed in most regulated wagering markets. In Australia, extensive monitoring of betting patterns, account holders and access to wagering transactions from operators maintains a strong disincentive against fraud and corruption. These integrity protection mechanisms are not available in the illegal markets and provide prime opportunities for result manipulation, bribery and other illegal activities. The reputational damage from integrity breaches can be long standing and irreversible with significant impacts on the public support for racing and greatly reduce industry sponsorship.
- *Industry Funding and Government Revenue:* Illegal offshore wagering operators damage industry funding and reduces government revenues. Australian operators contribute significant funding to both the Australian racing industry and government revenues through taxation, race field fees and other mechanisms. In conjunction with the lack of integrity costs, the “free ride” nature of the illegal wagering operators results in pricing advantages that make these operators attractive to price conscious customers. The ease of access and price advantages means there will be an increasing transfer of business from properly regulated and contributing operators to the unregulated market with increasing funding losses.
- *In play Wagering:* Tasracing is very concerned that with the expansion of in play betting on sport via on line mechanisms, with some online wagering operators appearing to be in breach of current laws. Tasracing encourages the review to

consider this aspect of the Interactive Gaming Act given the apparent lack of enforcement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'E. Forbes', written in a cursive style.

Dr Eliot Forbes
BVSc Hons MBA GAICD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER