

# Statutory Declaration

RECEIVED  
24 JUL 2013

QUEENSLAND  
TO WIT

BY: ds

I KERRY LEE WATSON

of [REDACTED]

in the State of Queensland

do solemnly and sincerely declare that

*That my written statement to the  
Commissioner into the Racing  
Commission of Inquiry is a true  
statement to the best of my  
recollection.*

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867.

Declarant K.L. Watson

Taken and declared before me at Logan City, Qld  
this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 20 13

Robert John Devere  
A Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Declarations  
**Robert John Devere JP (Qual)**



WRITTEN STATEMENT OF KERRY LEE WATSON AS REQUESTED BY THE RACING COMMISSION OF INQUIRY 2013.

I Kerry Lee Watson state that I am providing this statement as requested by the Commission.

I was a Member of the Greyhound Racing Control Board in 1994 to 1996, Deputy Chairman of Greyhound Racing Authority from 1998 to 2008, Chairman of Greyhounds Queensland Ltd from 2008 to 31/6/10 and a Director of Racing Queensland Ltd from 25/3/10 until my removal from that Board by the Board on 6/12/10.

I will answer the questions required by the Commission to the best of my ability.

I would like to state that as a Director I was only required to attend the premises of RQL for the purpose of attending Board Meetings or as requested by the Chairman Mr. Bob Bentley. I was not there on a daily basis. Mr. Bentley had his own office there and was there on a daily basis.

Daily running of the business of RQL was done by the Executive Staff and other staff but Mr. Bentley made a lot of decisions without consultation with myself and I am not sure about the other Directors.

At Board Meetings I found a lot of the work was already done by the Executive Staff and the Board would be told at the Board Meetings what was going to happen. Most of the Agenda Items for Board Meetings were verbal reports or discussions and especially with finances it was all done by electronic showing and very little paperwork within the Board Papers. I found that the level of financial information supplied was greatly lacking from what I had with Greyhound Boards. I did raise this matter with Adam Carter who was the Financial person.

Q 1 On the Greyhound Boards that I was a member of, Policies existed and processes were followed and guidelines adhered to. Any contracts always went out to tender with at least 3 tenders being obtained before being decided on by the Board.

Racing Qld Ltd also had Policies which were done by the new Board. I have supplied them in my Documents supplied. As far as I was aware the policies were adhered to but I do not think any contracted works were done in my time on the Board. However I do recall on one occasion I asked a question of whether tenders would be called and was told that as they were "preferred contractors" tenders were not required. I do not remember what this was in relation to

P2

Q 1.2 To the best of my knowledge.

Q 1.3 To the best of my knowledge I was gone from the Board of RQL before any new contracts were let.

Q 1.4 Same as above.

Q 2.1 During my entire time with Greyhound Boards I would confidently say that a,b,c and d were all strictly adhered to. In relation to (d) I always took an intense interest in workplace culture and practices and spoke with individual staff personally on a regular basis and was always available if staff wished to speak to me. We looked our staff very well.

In relation of RQL as I said earlier the Executive Staff handled all matters. RQL was a far larger business than the Greyhound offices previously.

I would have expected that all a,b,c and d were complied with.

However in relation to (d), after the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010, I soon became aware that the workplace was not a healthy one. The "new" employees ie Greyhound and Harness staff were not treated as well as I would have expected. Greyhound staff were spied upon, they thought their offices and computers were bugged and on occasion they believed they were followed to meetings outside of the RQL offices. All staff seemed to me to be terrified of losing their job.

Mr. Darren Beavis who was the former General Manager of GQL and whose new position was Greyhound Racing Manager was virtually given an office and sat in the corner with very little work or input until his position was made redundant. Mr. Beavis was also my stand in Director on Product Co.

Miss Tracey Harris who was the former Chief Financial Officer of the Harness Board and was taken across to RQL to work in the Finance area eventually resigned. On the day she was leaving (same day as a Board Meeting) I went to her office to say goodbye as I had known her for a long time. Whilst in her office we were subjected to a large number of persons walking past her glass office and looking in to see what was going on. Miss Harris told me that she could no longer work there as "you would not believe what goes on in here and I cannot handle it anymore".

Q 2.1 second part As I was not there on a daily basis, I just would have expected that the correct procedures etc were complied with.

Q 2.2 As a Director after the initial appointments of the Executive Management Staff and others I only came into contact with them at Board Meetings.

Q 3.2 During my short time on the Board and given my own code of ethics I would have assumed that Racing Qld Ltd and it's Officers adhered with all requirements on this question.

Q 3.3 Yes

Q 3.4 I do not know

Q 4 During my time on the Greyhound Boards on occasions I met with the various Racing Ministers for Racing, but most contact was with Mr. Mike Kelly from the Office of Racing.

During the time from the original meeting to discuss the merger of the 3 Codes of Racing to the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010, there was contact with the Treasurer and others at meetings as well as with Mike Kelly.

The Minister mostly was represented by Mike Kelly during the lead up time to the merger and following.

I do know that Mr. Bentley and Mr. Tony Hanmer were in constant contact with the Treasurer Andrew Fraser and Mike Kelly and that Mr. Bentley had numerous meetings with them both prior and after the merger of the Codes.

I have also included in my supplied documents a copy of a Complaint to the CMC and evidence made by myself and others which has a lot of information and evidence in it.

Q 5 I was gone from the Board by that time.

Q6 I was only a Director of Queensland Race Product Co Ltd for the period of 2008 to Dec 2010. I have supplied in my documents all papers held by me on the above. As Darren Beavis was my alternative Director and GM of the Greyhound Board I always gave Minutes of Board Meetings to him for follow up.

I would suggest you speak with Mr. Beavis on Q6 matters as he handled most of it.

Q6.5 a Yes

b Yes

c Yes

d Yes

e No to the best of my knowledge.

Q 6.6 To the best of my knowledge no.

Q 7 I was gone from the Board by this time.

Q8 I would just like to state that contrary to what was agreed to both verbally and in writing prior to the merger of Greyhounds Qld Ltd and Racing Qld Ltd. was definitely not adhered to.

Mr. Bentley slowly dismantled and stripped the Greyhound Industry of its identity and staff were dispensed with until there was no one left with any knowledge of the Greyhound Industry.

On the Board of RQL, the Harness and Greyhound persons were constantly outvoted 5 to 2 and had no chance of there being fairness in decisions made.

After the release of Mr. Bentley's great plan for Racing in Qld in Sept 2010 (into which I had NO input) I wrote him a letter with attachments and sent a copy to the Minister. This resulted in my removal from the Board.

These letters are all included in the CMC Complaint.

I engaged a Solicitor Susan Moriarty to represent me in an Unfair Dismissal Action against RQL, Bentley, Hanmer, Ludwig, Milner and Ryan.

In July, 2012 a Confidential Deed of Settlement and Release was signed. I am not allowed to discuss this but you may speak to my Solicitor about if required



Kerry Lee Watson

Dated 24/7/13