

**FAXED**  
12/7/07-KS



12 July 2007

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BY FACSIMILE: (07) 4633 1256 – 2 pages  
(Original by mail)

Dear Neville

**RE: SYNTHETIC TRACKS**

This correspondence follows our meeting of 3 July 2007 with Mike Kelly of the Racing Department, and clarifies issues in relation to the installation of synthetic tracks.

Cushion track has been selected after exhaustive evaluation as the surface that has the most potential to deliver to the racing industry the best outcomes for the future. Queensland Racing Limited (QRL) will submit a comprehensive business case and audit procedures to enable drawdown on the generous funding from the Beattie Government through The Honourable Mr Andrew Fraser, MP, additional to this support the Member for Toowoomba South, Kerry Shine MP, has been a strong advocate for the Toowoomba Turf Club (TTC) to receive consideration for the installation of a synthetic surface.

This initial funding is a milestone for the industry and the offer by the Government to fund 50% of the final cost is a significant vote of confidence in the industry going forward.

As you can appreciate, the decision to move to the installation of synthetic racing surfaces is a major commitment on behalf of the Board of QRL and will pose many challenges. The co-operation of all stakeholders is essential.

The decision to proceed with the first installation at Corbould Park was made on the following basis. Corbould Park is not subject to any amalgamation issues or a possible relocation and the synthetic surface can be installed at Corbould Park without any major reconstruction. Corbould Park has the least number of horses in training and as such offered the least disruption to racing in South East Queensland. QRL has come to understand the many variables that this technology can encounter and the process of construction.

Numerous trials will be conducted at Corbould Park prior to confirming the surface for other locations.

The Clifford Park installation will follow, however, in the meantime, a track and training evaluation will be carried out at Clifford Park. Details of this evaluation and the timing of same will be notified in the coming days.

When the final evaluation is completed, it is QRL's intention to discuss with the TTC Committee the way forward on the racing programme and training requirements for Toowoomba.

I do not wish to be presumptive, but there are concerns that a major reconstruction of both the number 2 grass and the course proper at Toowoomba may be necessary if the industry is to commit to provide Toowoomba with first class training and racing facilities. This matter will be discussed with your Committee once the evaluation is complete. If this is indeed the case then it will be prudent to discuss design as soon as possible with your Committee.

QRL will commit to engage a design architect at QRL's expense to undertake the work. Proper accountability procedures will necessitate QRL to lead the operation.

I would like to place on record that at this stage the preferred option for the construction of a synthetic track is on the existing course proper. The opportunity for the TTC to race on a synthetic surface under lights positions the TTC uniquely, and should not be dismissed without due consideration.

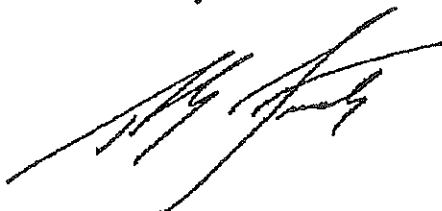
The decision to install the synthetic track on the course proper will be with full consultation with the TTC and will only be recommended if this is the best outcome for all stakeholders in the Queensland Racing Industry.

The final decision however will reside with your Committee as to the acceptance of the installation of a synthetic racing surface on the course proper.

Toowoomba is an important region in the success of racing in Queensland, and to date, QRL and the Queensland Government have invested heavily to make the region a vibrant part of the industry. The Committee of the TTC has a responsible duty to the stakeholders to progress the industry on the Darling Downs.

As previously mentioned, a track and training evaluation will be undertaken at Clifford Park shortly and to this end you will be advised of the timing of this evaluation in the coming days.

Yours sincerely



R.G. Bentley  
Chairman