



## GBOTA News

### Kev Galloway

**THE** first two paragraphs in the Brisbane Club formguide, signed by the QHRB and GRA chairmen:

*“Dear Alan,*

*“We refer to our discussions on Friday April 30 concerning progress with the proposed evaluation of the Albion Park Raceway site for development as a world class harness and greyhound racing facility.*

*“Since the above mentioned discussions, both of the undersigned have had advice from the Office of the Minister for Racing that while any evaluation of the Albion Park Raceway site is ultimately a matter for the industry, some major policy issues need to be taken into consideration.”*

Maybe the greyhound industry has finally got a Racing Minister who is willing to place the best interests of racing codes out of reach of inept officials.

The appointment of the Integrity Panel is long overdue as far as greyhound stakeholders are concerned.

The GRA must complain to the commissioners of the immoral product co agreement which on current estimates the equine codes are stripping in the vicinity of \$50 million from the greyhound industry, the harness industry being the main beneficiary.

It only needs the three codes to agree to correct the injustice.

It would appear the GRA is not satisfied with its first attempt to sell out greyhound stakeholders via their initial preferred governance merger model.

The GRA and QHRB were gifted the Albion Park complex for the benefit of all stakeholders from both industries and not just the capital city harness and greyhound clubs.

The Brisbane Club claims it cannot trial on weekends because the Harness Board has a monopoly on AM trialling facilities.

Now we read that the GRA and QHRB are working for the development of the Albion Park complex as a world class harness and greyhound facility.

The Beenleigh track, which was closed to allow the Gold Coast track to race twice a week and prop up the harness complex, still manages to cater for 70 trials on Saturday mornings to fill the void that is the responsibility of the Brisbane Club.

The Brisbane Club is prepared to be stood over by the Harness Board and bad luck for the hobby greyhound trainers that the GRA is prepared to abandon.

The GRA should have the decency to call a stakeholders meeting to find out the industry’s thoughts on its future direction and desist from their dialogue with the QHRB until they know the aspirations of greyhound participants.

Due to a certain committee member persistently contacting the Racing Office with his own agenda and recently writing a letter to the General Manager of the GRA without first taking problems to the monthly branch meeting for proper discussion, the Vice-President has found himself in an untenable situation and had duly tendered his resignation from the executive of the QGBOTA. The QGBOTA believes the GRA should cease all dialogue with the QHRB while the status quo exists.