DOSSIER

A dossier explaining the efforts of the Dargaville Racing Club, in partnership with the local community to secure the assets of the Dargaville Racing Club which belong to them, for their own use and future benefit.

Contacts:
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DARGAVILLE RACING CLUB INC
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INTRODUCTION

This dossier has been put together to outline the efforts that the Dargaville Racing Club has been engaged in to protect this community asset for the long-term benefit of the community in which it resides. It also gives an indication of the outcome we are aiming for.

There haven't been races at Dargaville for four years now, but what got our hackles up, was a letter from the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR)board informing us there would be no further racing at the Dargaville track, and offering to help us sell the asset and put the money into other racing tracks.

We can accept, sadly, that the decline of racing over the last two or three decades has led to the inevitability of closure of a number of tracks. Less horses, with less trainers, less owners and less breeders. But there was no way we were ever going to accept that this asset, which we firmly believe belongs to the people of the Dargaville area, should ever be sold and the proceeds subsumed into the greater New Zealand Industry.

The land for the Racing Track was donated by the Finlayson Family in circa 1925, since then it has been developed by the community, with no help from NZTR, into the asset it is today. The club owns the land in fee simple title, and it is unencumbered.

In August of this year the Minister for Regional Development, Shane Jones, announced a grant of $900,000.00 to help develop a private plan change for the Racing Club property, so that it could be developed to provide the possibility of a much-needed Retirement village and housing development for Dargaville.

He didn't do this to benefit the NZTR. He commendably did it to benefit this District. On stage when he made the announcement were, our local MP Matt King; Labour List MP Willow Jean Prime; and MP for Tai Tokerau Kelvin Davis. They were witness to the fact, and collectively came down on the side of the local community.

Unfortunately NZTR still take a different view. They believe that racing venues no longer needed for races belong to them, regardless of their ownership structures. They take this view for two reasons; 1) They adhere to the belief that if they repeat something loud and often enough it will be believed, a sort of Trumpian reality; and 2) They believe that the Racing Industry Act 2020 gives them this right.

The Act by some interpretation certainly gives them that power, but it certainly couldn't be called right. There isn't another piece of legislation which so blatantly over rides private property rights as does the Racing Industry Act 2020.

The Act came into being because of a clause in the 2017 Coalition agreement, which said the parties would support NZ Firsts efforts to reform the Racing Industry. To be fair a lot of the new Act is quite positive, particularly in its attempts to get a more competent governance of the Industry and establishing a clearer ownership of the TAB.

But in spite of almost universal agreement from the submitters to the select committee to have the draconian asset takeover clauses removed. They weren't. It should be noted that the DIA's own Regulatory Impact Report drew grave concerns about this aspect of the proposed legislation. Clause 28 and 29 give the community an avenue to argue their interest in their own asset is greater than the Industry. But there is no compulsion on the Industry to go down this track.

Cl 21 (3) gives the Minister the power to intervene on behalf of the community.

For the rest the Act is as the Racing Industry wanted it, and the then Minister of Racing acquiesced.

The club is now seeking an urgent meeting with the New (not yet appointed) Minister of Racing. We are hoping that he/she will come down on the side of the community and the sanctity of Private Property rights.

Failing that we will have to mount a new campaign to have this egregious attack on property rights, a cornerstone of NZ democracy, removed from the Racing Industry Act 2020.

Elsewhere in this dossier you will find details of how the Dargaville Racing Club Committee plans to utilize proceeds from the asset for the ongoing benefit of the District forever. Making it a fitting legacy for 100 years of Racing. In this District.

If you have any queries about this introduction, or anything in the dossier, please don't hesitate to contact me 09-439-1674, or Richard Alspach 09-439-5133

Tim Antonio (Club President)

1/11/2020

DARGAVILLE RACING CLUB INC

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13th March 2019

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing
WELLINGTON
Re: Draft Racing Calendar 2019/2020

Dear Sir

We wish to re-iterate details of our submission given to Mr Saundry at a recent meeting at Elleslie racecourse.

The allocation of our traditional November race day with the condition that the meeting be held at the Ruakaka track has no support from either, our Committee, nor importantly our five main sponsors, without whom we have little chance of making any sort of satisfactory financial result.

Our canvassing of members and groups who travel to our picnic meeting at our home course from many parts of Northland again found little support.

These patrons travel from all parts of Northland, from Kaitaia and Mangonui in the north to Warkworth and Wellsford in the southern parts.

Our fear is by imposing this change of venue on these club members, sponsors and members of the public whose only opportunity to experience the thrill a day at the races presents, was the annual picnic meeting at Dargaville racecourse, will be lost altogether.

While examples of Clubs successfully racing at other venues, these have been where the two venues are relatively close to each other. In our case the venues have little in common.

Our Committee have no issues with the Whangarei Club and have always found them supportive of out endeavours to continue to race at our venue.

We ask that every consideration be given to our request to race at our Awakino Point course, for without a race day here we see little future in the industry.

Yours sincerely

Tim Antonio
President

Northern Region

Dargaville RC

In the Consultation Document, NZTR proposed that the Dargaville RC cease to race at Dargaville and race at Ruakaka instead from 2019/20 onwards.

The Dargaville RC made a short submission that it should continue to race at Dargaville but did not provide any detailed information or substantive grounds in support of its submission.

In NZTR's view, there was nothing in the Club's submission nor in any of the other feedback or submissions it received in response to the Consultation Document to persuade it that the Club should continue to race at Dargaville. NZTR notes in this regard that the Dargaville RC has not successfully completed a race meeting at Dargaville since 2015/16, with its November 2016 meeting being abandoned after three races due to inconsistencies with the track.

NZTR's overall view is that only one racing venue is required in the far North based on horse population numbers and the need to reduce costs for owners. Accordingly, NZTR's final decision is that the Dargaville RC race at Ruakaka from 2019/20 onwards.

NZTR is willing to work with the Dargaville RC and the Whangarei RC to help agree the basis on which Dargaville would race at Ruakaka and to assist the Dargaville RC with the transition to racing at Ruakaka.

NZTR would also be willing to support the Club in selling its racecourse (should it decide to do so) and using the proceeds to secure a positive future for the Club and racing north of Auckland. The Whangarei RC made a submission in which it proposed the development of a thoroughbred training and racing centre at Ruakaka. The Dargaville RC could participate in this initiative should it proceed.

The Club could also use the proceeds from the sale of its racecourse to fund a strong feature race day at Ruakaka that its members and other racing supporters would want to attend.

Thames JC

In the Consultation Document, NZTR proposed that the Thames JC cease to race at Thames and race at Te Aroha instead from 2019/20 onwards.

NZTR did not receive a submission from the Thames JC, nor did it receive any submissions from anyone else, on this proposal.

NZTR notes that the Club has not been able to race at Thames on its scheduled race dates in recent seasons and raced successfully at Te Aroha in January 2019. NZTR believes that the Club has made the right decision in moving to race at Te Aroha.

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20th November 2019

Dear Bernard

We have received your proposed racing schedule for the 2020 year, and note that once again you have Dargaville racing at Ruakaka, as per the Messara Report recommendations.

In case we didn't make it plain enough in May of this year, I wish to make the following three points.

1. We do not accept the apparent abandonment of grass roots racing support put forward in the Messara report. We consider that to be a retrograde step.
2. There is no support for holding our race meetings at Ruakaka. Our sponsors were unequivocal in their rejection of the concept, and my committee didn't even come close to lukewarm. Most of our patrons are at least an hour's drive away from Ruakaka, and there is very little community of interest between the west and east coasts of Northland.
3. Any suggestion that our assets will be sold and "used *for the benefit of the wider racing industry" (presidents report 2018), will be vehemently resisted.* Our assets have been built up by community donations and fund raising. They belong to Dargaville, and that is where they will stay.

On this last point the Messara report was a little ambivalent. It states that that was never the intention, but it doesn't give details of the legislative changes being sought. Media reports, including an Insight program on National Radio indicated that provision to take over club assets for subsumption into the wider industry was at least part of the intention of the proposed bill. As I said any attempt to go down this track will be resisted politically and publicly.

Yours faithfully

Tim Antonio
(President, Dargaville Racing Club)

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SUBMISSION ON THE RACING INDUSTY REFORM BILL – December 5TH 2019

From The Dargaville Racing Club Inc

OVERVIEW:

There is no doubt that the Racing Industry is facing a number of issues which need addressing. Some of these issues have been festering for decades and some are certainly self inflicted.

Key Industry metrics show an Industry in serious decline, and while causes can be debated, the metrics are what they are.

We feel the Bill has a lot of good points, and they should be supported. Though we would opine that the reforms seem more geared towards the betting industry than racing itself.

The background to the Bill has its genesis in several pieces of work, including the Messara Report, the Industry's own Venue review, and the work of RITA.

(It should be emphasised here, that in spite of claims to the contrary, no effective public consultation process was adopted in compiling the Messara report. Our own club for instance had NIL contact by any medium)

Given all the above, it's sad to record that a failure to support "grass roots" racing, combined with the aforementioned metrics, has made the closing of some local venues inevitable. The venues selected in the first tranche are located in rural areas. They are in every definition you care to think of, community assets. They are not, and never have been , not by any stretch of the imagination, Industry Assets.

This is our main objection to the Bill. We are implacably opposed to any suggestion that community assets should be subsumed into the wider Industry asset base. There has been no rationale put forward to justify this position.

BACKGOUND:

The Dargaville Racing Club, and we suspect other rural clubs, only hosting one or two race meetings a year, have long suspected that the ax of closure was hanging over our heads. So it was no surprise when we were notified by NZTR that racing would no longer be conducted at Dargaville race track. Instead we were invited to run our meeting at Ruakaka. This invitation had no attraction for us, We have nothing against Ruakaka Club, but there is no community of interest (we are on opposite sides of the island), and there was NIL enthusiasm from any of our sponsors.

What alarmed us was that in confirming there would be no further racing at Dargaville, in a letter dated 15th of May 2019, the suggestion was made that we should consider liquidating our community asset, and invest the money in sponsoring stakes at Ruakaka. The NZTR even offered to assist us with the sale.

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Our reaction to this suggestion was unanimous, "What a cheek"! We became even more alarmed when we found out that this suggestion by the NZTR was to be mandated by legislation in the form of the soon to be introduced Racing Industry Bill. Which turned out to be worse than we expected.

DISCOURCE;

The clauses in the Bill dealing with "Racing Industry Assets" are based on false premise. Assets built up, particularly in Rural Communities, from donations of land, from volunteer labour, from grants and local fundraising, are community assets. Not Racing Industry assets, and no amount of Trumpian repetitive rhetoric will alter that fact.

Races have been held at Dargaville for nearly one hundred years. Never has there ever been mention of the race track being an "Industry Asset". It wasn't an Industry Asset when the toilets needed replacing, it wasn't an industry asset when the track rail needed replacing, or the many other capital improvements.

The original land for the Dargaville Racing Club was donated by the Finlayson Family circa 1925. Since then there have been races every year, with the exception of the last two seasons, and approx. seven years over the period of the 2nd World War. It used to be November and May, and in later years November only. In all that time nobody can remember, and no record can be found, of The New Zealand Racing Industry making any contributions to any capital development at Dargaville.

Very considerable input from the local community, first in developing the land then gradually building up the asset we have now. Club rooms, commentators tower, toilets, cafeteria, stables, Jockey rooms etc. All built by working bees, donated labour, donated goods, and capital grants from outside organisations such as ASB and Lotteries Board.

It is an impossible leap to go from that level of community input to claiming, retrospectively, that the Dargaville Race Course, is in fact an Industry Asset. It just stretches credulity.

Extension:

Where does it end?

There are empty football fields and facilities all over the Country. Community facilities, just like ours, do these now belong to the NZ Rugby Union?

A & P shows nation wide, are experiencing difficulties, caused largely by the changing nature of farming, combined with rural depopulation. Some of them have, and some of them will close

down. Their grounds have all been developed over the last one hundred plus years, by the local community. Now with their closure, are these community assets to be considered the property of the RAS (Royal Agricultural Society)?

Community assets are just that. They belong to the community that built them. No amount of thinly disguised avarice by a cash strapped National Body can change the fact.

Stripped Bare:

No amount of nice words can hide the intent of this Bill in respect of community assets. Its intent is to set up a Statutory Body (whatever it is finally called, it will be a creature of statute, with a Government appointed board), which among other things will be given statutory powers to subsume community assets into a national total. Some would call that institutionalised theft. Certainly we would!!

The Bill makes mention of "some compensation may be paid where circumstances deem it appropriate". Really!!??

Clauses 21-27, under Sub Part 2 "Transfer of assets and surplus venues" , should have no place in New Zealand. It is analogous to the collectivisation of farm land in the 1920s Soviet Russia. *("Your land is not yours it belongs to everybody, and we are going to collectivise it")* That may sound strong, but the feelings against this proposal in the Bill are indeed that strong.

Resistance was anticipated:

The Industry always knew that their version of Racing Assets was going to be a hard sell.

"...vesting all race club property and assets to the code regulatory bodies will meet some justified resistance".... Alan Jackson,ChairmanNZTR, 2018.

The Regulatory Impact assessment, prepared by the DIA, clearly has reservations about the property provisions in the Bill.

"...The least intrusive measure that will deliver the required outcomes is still a significant statutory response that will impact on property rights of Racing Clubs" (page 2) This could be regarded as the legislative understatement of the year

And this:

"...The property-related statutory powers provided through these reforms are intended as a backstop, to be utilised only when negotiations fail to reach agreement" (page 8). A negotiation

where one party has control of the outcome, is not a negotiation. It is outlining an inevitable outcome, in the style of Don Coreleone(making an offer you can't refuse).

It would appear that even in the face of these oft repeated reservations, Government has decided to proceed with these draconian measures. They have chosen to listen to the Minister for Racing and "The Industry".

The Industry?

Who or what is the Industry? Is it local communities turning up once or twice a year to enjoy a good, picnic, day out? Or is it the affluence on display at the likes of Karaka? It used to be that they were one and the same, but over the last few decades a schism has opened. Now it seems, regrettably, that the affluence looks down on the community.

The Government appears to have decided, with the introduction of this Bill, to side against communities. Small, rural communities in the main. In taking this position they are prepared to trample over property rights which nearly everybody in New Zealand would hold to be sacrosanct.

We in our turn take the side of communities. We are not opposed to the other reforms in the Bill, but can not support the legal authorisation of the pillaging of local community assets.

Remedy sought:

We seek the removal of cls 21-27 under Sub Part 2 "Transfer of Assets and surplus venues" from the Bill; and any references to these clauses or any suggestions that community assets should be subsumed into the whole.

Hearing of submissions:

We wish to be herd in support of these submissions, should the select committee hold hearings (which we feel they must, given the fundamental importance of what they are considering). We would prefer some of the hearings to be in Auckland, but we will travel to Wellington should it be necessary.

Signed this 7th day of February 2020

T. Ant

Tim Antonio, (President)
Grace Adnitt, Secretary
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Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters
Private Bag 18041
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Wellington 6160
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Rt. Hon. Winston Peters

Re: The Dargaville Race Course.

Sir;

You will no doubt be aware of the consternation that was caused in this District by the introduction of the Racing Industry Amendment Bill, December 2019.

For some time now, the Dargaville Racing club, and indeed the District as a whole, have reluctantly and sadly, recognised that there will never be races at Dargaville again. This was confirmed to us by NZTR, in a letter June 2019; but even before that, the lack of race meetings, the contents of the Messara report, the disturbing metrics of the New Zealand Racing Industry, have all lead to this inevitable conclusion.

So, what of the future? We firmly believe that the Dargaville Race Course belongs to the community in which it resides. The land (47 hectares) was donated by a local family nearly 100 years ago, and all improvements have been done by working bees, and contributions from the community at large. The land and improvements are owned, without encumbrance, by the club in fee simple title.

The committee believes strongly that this community asset should be used for the maximum short, medium, and long-term benefit of this area. There is a desperate shortage of residential and commercial sections in this area, and a demonstrable need for a sizable retirement home/village.

Our current plans consist of joining with The Dargaville Community Development Board and Ngati Whatua, to pursue the prospect of developing a Private Land Change, with associated development plans, to address this shortage, by using the land owned by the Dargaville Racing Club. Proceeds would be invested with the Northern Wairoa Fund administered by the Northland Community Foundation, so we would have a community grants scheme for this area forever. A fitting legacy for one hundred years of racing.

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We are pleased that the Minister for Regional Development has offered $400,000.00 to the Dargaville Community Development Board to kick start this process. Initially the allocation of this grant will be through the Kaipara District Council, who will come to an arrangement with the Dargaville Community Development board.

The club intends to seek consent under section 21 of the new Act to transfer the land by way of gift to an organisation for the benefit of the Northern Wairoa District. We are seeking your support in this and would be grateful for any assistance you could offer. We don't believe that the code should have any objections, because quite obviously we can demonstrate an interest in our land which is greater than any they might imagine.

The club is happy to provide you with any information you might need.

Given the momentum that this concept is building up, including support from the community at large, and obviously the Minister for Regional Development, it would be good to have your support announced fairly soon.

Yours faithfully

Tim Antonio

(President)

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Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters
Private Bag 18041
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Wellington 6160
New Zealand

4 August 2020

Rt. Hon. Winston Peters

Re: The Dargaville Race Course.

Sir;

Further to our letter of 28th of July.

We brought to your attention that the club intends to seek consent under section 21 of the new Act to transfer the land by way of a gift to an organisation for the benefit of the Northern Wairoa District. We asked for your support in this.

On re-reading Cl 21, it has occurred to us that your support could best be offered by way of Cl 23 (3) of the new Act. You of course know the situation of the Dargaville Race Course and it's history well; and you understand the ongoing needs of the Dargaville community. Hence your support of the initiative by the Minister of Regional Development to see that the potential of the asset of the Dargaville Race course is released.

Your recommendation to the Governor General to issue an order in council to the code that Cl 21 (1) of the Act does not apply in this case, would remove the obstacle of ongoing litigation, which could seriously hold up, if not prevent altogether, the fitting legacy to 100 years of racing outlined in our previous letter.

Yours faithfully

T. Ant

Tim Antonio (President)

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James Dunne
General Manager Legal, regulatory and compliance
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing

11 September 2020

Dear Mr. Dunne

We are writing in response to the advice contained in NZTR Circular 2019/20-No 6

As you know there has not been a race meeting held at Dargaville for four years now, and in June 2019 you wrote and informed us that there would not be any racing in the future either. Your reasons at the time were the deteriorating matrix of the racing industry, the contents of the Messara report and the Industry's own venue review.

We were, of course, disappointed, but sadly and inevitably have had to accept the reality, that there would never be races held at the Dargaville course again. Our disappointment is matched by our determination that this community asset should now be used for the best purposes possible to benefit the community in which it resides. That is the community of the Northern Wairoa.

It is a community asset. The land was originally donated by a local family nearly 100 years ago, and since then it has been improved by countless working bees, and donations and grants to make it the asset it is today. The land is held in fee simple title, and is unencumbered.

There are no local trainers using the facility, and have not been for years; the nearest race track is an hour and a quarter drive away.

In considering the future of the asset the committee of the club have kept in mind the following

- We need to maximize the return from any sale.
- Any sale needs to build on the future for the Northern Wairoa area.
- Its future use needs to be a fitting legacy for nearly 100 years of racing at Dargaville.
- The benefits need to be secure in perpetuity.

There is a demonstrable need for a site for a retirement village in Dargaville, likewise housing, and sections for building are in desperate short supply. Indeed, the lack of housing is one of the factors holding back this area economically. For instance projects recently announced with funding attached have the potential of between 800 and 1000 jobs. But currently there is no place for these people to live.

The Dargaville race course site can solve these problems. Situated as it is on the SH, above the flood plain, just two kilometres from the town boundary.

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To explore this potential the Dargaville Racing Club have formed a tripartite agreement between ourselves, the Dargaville Community Development Board, and Ngati Whatua.

Ten days ago the Minister of Regional Development, the rt. Hon. Shane Jones, granted $900,000 to the Dargaville Community Development Board to explore further economic opportunities in the area, including the potential developments at the Dargaville Race Course.

It is worth noting that in doing so he made specific mention of the support that his leader, the rt. Hon. Winston Peters (also Minister for Racing) gave to the project. It was noted that the District had suffered considerable angst because of the contents of the Racing Industry Amendment Bill December 2019, but that in making this grant he was coming down firmly on the side of the community. The public meeting thanked him for that support.

For your information the tripartite group mentioned above have this day commenced exploratory discussions. Also for your information, in pursuit of the fourth bullet point above, any proceeds that the club achieves will be invested with the Northland Community Foundation, as a specially designated fund, the proceeds from which will be used to support projects for community groups in the Northern Wairoa. As well as disbursements, the fund will grow, and continue to benefit this area for ever. A fitting legacy for one hundred years of racing.

Our question to you, arising out of circular no 6, is do you have any objections to this happening? We note your commitment to respond with alacrity, and look forward to that.

If you have any queries you may ring me on 09-439 1674, or one of my committee who is working on this with me, Richard Alspach 09-439-5133.

Yours faithfully

T. Ant

Tim Antonio (President)

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING

11 September 2020

Tim Antonio
President
Dargaville Racing Club

Proposed Development

Dear Mr Antonio

Thank you for your letter of today's date regarding the potential development of the racecourse at Dargaville.

The NZTR Board, which meets next week, will need to consider your request before we can provide a formal response. It may be that we request further information from the Club at that time.

In any event, we will be back in touch before the end of next week.

Yours sincerely,

James Dunne
GM Legal, Regulatory and Compliance

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NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING

18 September 2020

Tim Antonio
President
Dargaville Racing Club

Proposed Development

Dear Mr Antonio

I refer to my earlier correspondence on this subject.

Before NZTR will able to express a concluded view on the proposal set out in your letter, it would be helpful for us to better understand how the proceeds of any redevelopment of the Dargaville course are to be applied.

One of the purposes of the Racing Industry Act 2020 is to "ensure that the value of racing property is retained in the industry and is used for maximum industry benefit", and NZTR's statutory objective is to promote and develop racing conducted by NZTR.

Balanced against that, NZTR has a statutory obligation to carry out its functions with a sense of social responsibility and, more generally, acknowledges in the context of decisions relating to club property that consideration should always be given to how the community interest can be recognised.

We appreciate that discussions in relation to the Dargaville course are at an early stage and that complete clarity about the potential proceeds of any transaction and the application of those proceeds may not yet be available. Nevertheless, any expansion on the explanation in your last letter that you are able to provide at this stage would be greatly appreciated and would assist us in formulating a response.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

James Dunne
GM Legal, Regulatory and Compliance

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James Dunne
General Manager Legal, regulatory and compliance
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing

Monday 21 September 2020

Dear Mr. Dunne;
I am writing in response to your letter of 18/9/2020, which I have only seen for the first time today.

I think we very clearly laid out in our letter of 8/9/2020 how the potential proceeds were to be applied. I reiterate that we strongly believe that the Dargaville Racing Club is a community asset and the proceeds should be used in the community in which it resides. The aspirations laid out in our letter of 8/9/2020 fulfil this objective perfectly.

You would be aware from the broad tone of the submissions to the Racing Industry Amendment Bill, that the population as a whole reject the "land grab" approach of the Racing Industry to community assets. Indeed the select committees drafting of the ultimate clauses 24-26 attempted to reflect this. Likewise you would be aware that Racing as an industry has some PR repair work to do.

We don't want to make your task any more difficult than it is, but we are going to stand up for our local community. At the end of the day we are hoping that you will see this is in your best interests too.

As I will be in and out of hospital over the next little while having further work done on my damaged eye, further correspondence on this matter will probably be handled by one of my committee members, Richard Alspach.

Yours faithfully

T. Ant

Tim Antonio
(President)

DARGAVILLE RACING CLUB INC

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Subject: Fwd: Fwd: Letter from Dargaville Racing Club
Date: Mon, 21 Sep 2020 13:19:20 +1200
From: Richard Alspach <darnaway@farmside.co.nz>
To:winston.peters@parliament.govt.nz

For the attention of the rt hon Winston Peters, Minister for Racing.

Please find below the communication we received from NZTR this morning. The letter was in response to a letter which we wrote on the 8th of September,a copy of which is also attached.

The response from NZTR is almost inflammatory. We can accept, reluctantly, the abandonment of rural race courses; but not the pillaging of the assets, particularly when held in fee simple title, as Dargaville is.

Minister, yourself and the Minister for Regional Development, have been supportive of the plans the Dargaville Racing Club has for this community asset. You have come down on the side of the community, and we have thanked you publicly for this.

However nobody expected that the efforts of the club or the grants from the PGF would be to the ultimate benefit of the coffers of NZTA. We have no wish to create an embarrassing situation for either You or Shane Jones, but neither are we prepared to let NZTA get away with what we perceive to be institutionalized theft.

In the first instance we would rather that you dealt with the situation. Respectively we suggest that you have the solution via the powers given to you by section 21 (3) of the Racing Industry Act 2020.

We have always been suspicious that NZTR would take this attitude, and we did write to you early in August alerting you to this prospect, and seeking your assistance. Clearly your response got buried in the urgency of the season, but equally clear is the fact that NZTR need a firm response.

I would be more than happy to talk about this issue with either you or a member of your staff. I can be contacted at 09-439-5133, or e.mail darnaway@farmside.co.nz.

Yours faithfully

Richard Alspach (committee member, Dargaville Racing Club)

DARGAVILLE RACING CLUB INC

PO BOX 327 DARGAVILLE

dargavilleracingclub@gmail.com

Subject: Your meeting today with Allan Mortenson and Myself

Date: Thu, 24 Sep 2020 17:56:11 +1200

From: Richard Alspach <darnaway@farmside.co.nz>

To: winston.peters@parliament.govt.nz

Re: The Dargaville Race Course.

Sir;

Minister;

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Allan and Myself earlier today.

It is appreciated it was a busy day for you, but as I am sure you understand the issue of the ownership and use of the asset which is the Dargaville Race Course is of critical importance to this community.

We note that you offered to have your office contact Mr James Dunne (GM Legal, Regulatory and Compliance NZTR), and ask him to present the legal case to Justify his claim the the Dargaville Race Track (owned in fee simple title by the Dargaville Racing Club) is in fact Racing Industry Property. You added that if they can't present a case that convinces you, you will do something to stop the NZTR pursuing this argument.

We very much appreciate this level of support from you, and look forward to the response from Mr. Dunne, and your opinion of same.

Regards

Richard Alspach (committee member Dargaville Racing Club)