



**Chris Steel MLA**

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

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Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Hanson

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition 24-20 to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety regarding Thoroughbred Park.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) has undertaken an extensive review of the Animal Welfare Code of Practice relating to the welfare of horses in the ACT. I am advised that AWAC's review of the code is nearing completion and the recommendations are expected to be provided to my office for review in the coming weeks.

Once I receive AWAC's recommendations and have had an opportunity to review and consider them, I will provide an update to the Standing Committee of Justice and Community Safety. I understand the recommendations to the Code will include guidelines as well as minimum standards with respect to euthanasia or slaughter of horses, including racing horses.

Given my responsibilities for both the *Racing Act 1999* and the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, in undertaking my consideration of the recommendations, I will ensure a balance that reflects the economic and social benefits of a financially viable racing industry and the ongoing welfare of horses in the ACT.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

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