

26 March 2026

Committee Secretariat  
Legislative Scrutiny Committee  
GPO Box 3721  
DARWIN NT 0801

By email: [LSC@nt.gov.au](mailto:LSC@nt.gov.au)  
cc: [Minister.Boothby@nt.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Boothby@nt.gov.au)

Dear Chair

## **Submission in support of the Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026**

Sportsbet welcomes the introduction of the Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026 (the Bill) and supports its passage through the Northern Territory Parliament.

The Bill represents a practical and timely refinement of the Northern Territory's racing and wagering framework, reinforcing regulatory certainty, safeguarding the integrity of racing governance, and supporting the continued economic contribution of the racing industry to the Northern Territory.

### ***Importance of racing and regulatory certainty***

As outlined in the Minister's first-reading speech, racing is important to the Northern Territory's economy and lifestyle, with the thoroughbred industry alone contributing ~\$120 million annually to the economy. The Northern Territory's reputation as Australia's leading licensing jurisdiction for online wagering has been built on a regulatory framework that is stable, credible and fit for purpose. Maintaining that reputation is essential to sustaining confidence among racing bodies, participants and licensed wagering operators.

Sportsbet supports the Northern Territory Government's focus on ensuring that the legislative framework for racing and wagering operates as intended, provides certainty around governance and decision-making, and avoids unintended legal or operational risk for racing control bodies and industry participants.

### ***Sportsbet's contribution to the Northern Territory***

Sportsbet is the largest online wagering operator licensed in the Northern Territory and has a longstanding commitment to the local racing industry and economy. We employ more than 200 people in Darwin, making Sportsbet one of the Northern Territory's largest private sector employers, and we contribute substantial and ongoing funding to Northern Territory racing through sponsorship, taxes, levies and race field fees.

Regulatory certainty is fundamental to our ability to continue investing in the Northern Territory, supporting local employment, and contributing to the long-term sustainability of local racing. The

amendments proposed in the Bill support this objective by delivering clear governance arrangements, and clarifying and strengthening the operation of the Racing and Wagering Act.

***Support for the Bill***

Sportsbet supports the Bill's intent to address technical and operational issues that have emerged since commencement of the current legislative framework. The amendments appropriately reinforce governance arrangements, protect the integrity of racing oversight, and ensure that the regulatory system functions efficiently and as intended.

We particularly welcome the Northern Territory Government's measured approach in addressing these matters early, consistent with the Minister's emphasis on maintaining confidence in the racing system and providing a stable platform for the future development of the industry.

Sportsbet commends the Northern Territory Government for its continued engagement with industry and its commitment to maintaining a strong, modern and credible racing and wagering framework. The Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026 will help safeguard the integrity, sustainability and economic contribution of racing in the Northern Territory, and we strongly support its passage.

Yours sincerely



**Luke Tobin**  
**Head of Public Affairs**