

To:

*Clerk to Bills Committee on Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2013*  
*Legislative Council Secretariat*  
*Legislative Council Complex*  
*1 Legislative Council Road*  
*Central*  
*Hong Kong*

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**Betting Duty (Amendment) Bill 2013**

I am grateful to the Bills Committee for soliciting views from the public on the captioned legislative amendment to introduce commingling to Hong Kong. I am writing of this initiative.

I am a jockey based in Hong Kong but originated from Australia and have been rather fortunate to have made quite a mark in the sports of horse racing in both Hong Kong and beyond. One of my recent major wins was in my home country – the Melbourne Cup 2012 which is the most globally recognized sporting events in Australia. As a jockey, just like any other sportsman, I am strongly motivated if the competitions I took part in were broadcast around the world and viewed by millions of fans. The Melbourne Cup is one such event. And commingling provides such a platform.

Commingling between jurisdictions can be bilateral or multilateral. Although technically, it is the merger of two or more betting pools, it also provides an international arena for jockeys like me to receive international exposure.

Hong Kong prides itself as a world city and it is shame that two-way commingling is not available here while our peers such as Singapore have been commingling their races with partners such as Australia for years.

Much has been said and reported in the racing media in Hong Kong about commingling and much valuable time has been wasted. Let's get on with it!



Brett Prebble