

**The Hon Martin Pakula MP**  
Minister for Racing

**RACING PORTFOLIO**

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

03 December 2020



**The Victorian racing industry is significant to our state's economy and sporting culture**



**\$4.3 billion**

**Generated by the Victorian racing industry (pre-COVID)**



**33,800 jobs**

**Directly from racing in Victoria**

Although racing has continued to operate safely as an authorised activity, the economic impact on industry has been significant.

## State of the Sector

### *Racing under COVID-19 Restrictions*

- Between the start of the pandemic and 24 November 2020, the VRI has conducted:
  - 345 thoroughbred race meetings and 2,899 races,
  - 337 harness race meetings and over 2,700 races, and
  - 888 greyhound race meetings and 10,452 races.
- The Spring Racing Carnival went ahead without crowds but was still a success.

## **Our achievements**

### ***Racing under COVID-19 Restrictions***

- The restrictions on raceday attendance and retail betting impacted industry
- In May, \$44 million was provided to the racing industry as part of the Government's Experience Economy Survival Package
- This included \$24 million in emergency funding support was provided to Harness Racing Victoria (HRV)

## Our achievements

### *Victorian Racing Industry Fund*

- The 2019-20 Budget delivered the Government's commitment to provide \$72 million to extend the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) for a further four years.
- The VRIF provides the Victorian racing industry with funding support for:
  - > animal welfare initiatives
  - > infrastructure upgrades
  - > breeding and sales programs
  - > integrity measures
  - > training facilities
  - > Raceday Attraction Program.

## Our achievements

### *Raceday Attraction Program*

- The Raceday Attraction Program:
  - > aims to increase on-course attendance
  - > promote race days across the three codes.
- Since 1 July 2019 the RAP has provided almost \$2 million to support initiatives across all three racing codes. This is made up of:
  - > \$1.15 million for thoroughbred racing
  - > \$450k for greyhound racing
  - > \$350k for harness racing

## Our achievements

### *Prizemoney commitment*

- The 2019-20 State Budget delivered \$40 million to boost prize money across the three codes.
- Boosting prizemoney helps to:
  - > maintain field sizes and the quality of the racing product
  - > maintain Victoria's standing as the pre-eminent racing jurisdiction in Australia
  - > maintain the health of racing industry revenues
  - > stimulate the breeding industry and attract vital investment from owners and trainers that want to own, train and race horses and greyhounds in Victoria.

## **Key Integrity and Disciplinary initiatives**

- The Victorian Racing Tribunal commenced operations on 1 August 2020.
- The Victorian Racing Integrity Board commenced operations on 1 August 2020.