

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearing

Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP
Minister for Racing

Introduction

- Victorian racing is recognised as the national leader.
- Racing is responsible for employment of over 70,000 people, with two-thirds in country Victoria.
- Economic impact in excess of \$2 billion per annum – with half in rural and regional Victoria.

Budget Outcomes

- Total commitment = \$79.5 million
- Unclaimed wagering dividends will be returned to the racing industry. Initiatives includes:
 - \$1 million to Living Legends
 - \$1 million to Greyhound Adoption Program
 - \$4 million to drug research
 - \$30 million to improving racetracks and facilities
 - \$10 million to breeding and sales
 - \$2 million to jumps racing
 - \$200,000 to support picnic races

Budget Outcomes

- On-course wagering taxes derived from totalisator bets will be returned to the racing industry.
- Funds will go towards the development and implementation of plans and programs to increase on-course attendances.

Budget Outcomes

- Existing Regional Racing Infrastructure Fund maintained.
- Government has provided almost \$5 million through the RRIF, including:
 - Almost \$1.8 million to build a new harness racing track at Swan Hill for the Nyah District Harness Racing Club
 - \$1.4 million for night racing lighting at Cranbourne
 - \$1 million for track and grandstand redevelopment at Bendigo

Code	Track	Project Description	Govt RRIF \$	Total Project \$
RVL	Ballarat	Starting Stalls	59,224	118,447
RVL	Benalla	Track Drainage Upgrade	154,300	308,600
RVL	Cranbourne Training Centre	Night Racing Lighting (additional funding)	1,400,000	2,000,000
RVL	Kyneton	Flood Damage Repairs – Track Drainage	105,000	300,000
RVL	Moe	Flood Damage Repairs – Track Drainage	36,000	120,000
5	<i>RVL Total</i>		<i>1,754,524</i>	<i>2,847,047</i>
GRV	Bendigo	Track and Grandstand Redevelopment	1,000,000	3,947,000
1	<i>GRV Total</i>		<i>1,000,000</i>	<i>3,947,000</i>
HRV	Ballarat	Front Entrance and Car park Upgrade	142,622	385,245
HRV	Bendigo	Track Lighting Upgrade	133,445	266,890
HRV	Bendigo	Diesel Generator	27,200	54,400
HRV	Swan Hill	New Track and Lighting Development	1,775,750	3,551,498
4	<i>HRV Total</i>		<i>2,079,017</i>	<i>4,258,033</i>
10	<i>Total RRIF Projects</i>		<i>4,833,541</i>	<i>11,052,080</i>

Early Achievements

- COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform.
 - Sought national support for a consistent framework for racing product fees
 - Led an approach to the federal government seeking enforcement support for state based race fields legislation
- Negotiated changes to the thoroughbred racing calendar.

Challenges

- Ensure a nationally consistent approach to race fields legislation.
- Ensure future wagering licence arrangements provide adequate funding for the Victorian racing industry.
- Get people back to the track.
- Provide support for country racing.
 - race meetings returned
 - racing and training facilities supported
 - a growing jumps racing sector



Questions

Hon Dr Denis Naphine MP
Minister for Racing