

# 2013-14 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee – Budget Estimates Hearings

Hon. Dr Denis Napthine

Minister for Racing

# Racing & the Victorian economy

- Racing industry makes a significant contribution to the Victorian economy.
- Economic impact in excess of \$2 billion per annum – with half in regional Victoria.
- Employs over 70,000 people – with two thirds in regional Victoria.

# 2012 Spring Racing Carnival

- \$620 million in gross economic benefit to Victoria – up 7.2 per cent from 2011
- More than 67,000 people visited Victoria to attend the Carnival – up 19.7 per cent from 2011
- Benefits shared across industries including fashion, hospitality and transport

# Election Commitments Delivered

- New Victorian Wagering and Betting Licence commenced on 16 August 2012
- Over the 12 years of the licence Victoria's racing industry will benefit by as much as \$700 million more than under previous arrangements
- Established \$79.5 million Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF)

# VRIF - Infrastructure

- At least \$30 million over four years
- \$11.3 million provided to racing clubs to date – resulting in total investment of nearly \$29 million
- Projects vary significantly in scope and value – right across length and breadth of Victoria
- VRIF allows local clubs to apply for funds directly – rather than just controlling bodies

# VRIF - Raceday Attraction Program

- Government has committed \$2.2 million for 85 projects.
  - Greyhound Racing Victoria – Sensational Summer for Kids
  - Traralgon Greyhounds – Great Victorian Bike Ride
  - Echuca Harness – Thongs on Thursday
  - Harness Racing Victoria – Colts and Fillies @ the Flicks
  - Hamilton Racing Club – Party with the Ponies
  - Warrnambool Greyhound Race Club – Leila Rose Foundation Girls Night Out

# Support for the Breeding Industry

- \$10 million over four years from VRIF
  - \$6.9 million for VOBIS Gold
  - \$1.55 million for VicBred Platinum
  - \$1.55 million to revamp the Greyhound Owners and Breeders Incentive Scheme

# Animal Welfare

- \$1 million for Living Legends
- \$1 million for Greyhound Adoption Program
- \$55,000 to support the 'Raising the Standards' retired standardbred horses program



# Racing integrity

- Racing integrity is the foundation of the industry – providing confidence to punters.
- Close to \$25 million is invested in integrity services by the three controlling bodies per annum.
- Constant evolution of rules and integrity measures to try and ‘keep ahead of the game’

# Drug Testing

- Govt has provided \$4 million over 4 years to Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) – the Victorian racing industry's drug research and testing authority
- This funding has enabled RASL to:
  - Conduct research and develop new testing methodologies to detect the use of biological drugs in racehorses.