



Department of Justice

Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing

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19 JUL 2013



Our ref: CD/13/266138

Ms Valerie Cheong
Executive Officer
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms Cheong

2013/14 BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – RACING PORTFOLIO

I refer to the letter of 20 June 2013 from Mr David Morris MP, Chair of the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) to the Minister for Racing, requesting further information in respect of questions taken on notice at the Racing Portfolio hearing of PAEC on 10 May 2013.

A copy of the Minister's response to the questions is enclosed for your records.

If you have any queries please contact Mr Ged Prescott, Manager, Office of Racing on (03) 8684 1916.

Yours sincerely

CATE CARR
Acting Executive Director
Liquor, Gaming and Racing

Encl.

2013-14 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING
10 MAY 2013

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – RACING PORTFOLIO

1. Regarding the Racing Industry Fund, please advise:
 - a. How much has been expended from the fund to date; and
 - b. How much is available to be expended from the fund during 2013-14.

I am advised that \$25,925,410 has been expended from the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) since it was established on 1 July 2011.

A figure of available funding for VRIF during 2013-14 cannot be confirmed due to the nature of the 'lag' in revenue for this fund, that is, hypothecated unclaimed dividends that are not finalised until six months after their the winning bet was made.

2. Please provide some detail on the assistance to the thoroughbred breeding industry, including how it will benefit Victoria.

The Victorian Coalition Government is providing \$6.8 million over four years to the Victorian Owners and Breeders Incentive Scheme – Gold Scheme (VOBIS Gold).

This scheme will provide a real boost to the Victorian racing industry by encouraging owners and trainers to purchase Victorian bred yearlings and to also race their horses in Victoria.

The economic benefits to Victoria including new job opportunities created by a growing breeding industry are enormous.

The response to VOBIS Gold in its first year (2012) was terrific with 1,420 yearlings signed up to the scheme.

Under VOBIS Gold, owners of horses already eligible for the existing Super VOBIS program pay a one-off nomination fee that will give owners even more opportunities to share in prize money bonuses in specific races throughout the state.

Nominations for the Super VOBIS program this year were the highest since 2006, and up 14 per cent on the 2012 intake.

VOBIS Gold will see bonuses of \$20,000 in up to 350 races each season over and above what is provided through Super VOBIS making a total bonus pool of up to \$18 million when fully operational.