

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Racing

OFFICE OF RACING

2019-20 Public Accounts and
Estimates Committee

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Racing and the Victorian economy

- Racing makes a significant contribution to the Victorian economy.
- The Victorian racing industry contributes \$4.3 billion to the economy annually and sustains more than 33,800 full time equivalent jobs.
- The benefits of this activity are shared across various industries including fashion, hospitality, tourism and transport.
- More than 121,200 people are directly involved in the Victorian racing industry as an employee, volunteer or participant.

Establishment of Integrity Bodies

- In 2018, Parliament passed legislation to establish two new integrity bodies – the Victorian Racing Integrity Board (VRIB) and the Victorian Racing Tribunal (VRT)
- Both bodies come into operation on 1 August 2019

Victorian Racing Industry Fund

- The 2019 State Budget delivers 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.

Raceday Attraction Program

- The Raceday Attraction Program:
 - aims to increase on-course attendance
 - promote race days across the three codes.
- In 2018-19 (as at 5 June 2019) the RAP has provided \$4.04 million to support initiatives across all three racing codes. This is made up of:
 - \$2.46 million for thoroughbred racing
 - \$780k for greyhound racing
 - \$798k for harness racing

Prizemoney Commitment

- The State Budget provides \$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.



Greyhound Racing

- Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) has introduced a culture which puts animal welfare first.
- The government has supported GRV with \$3.47 million in VRIF funding specifically for animal welfare initiatives since December 2014.

Harness Racing

- Government has continued to support the industry with key funding initiatives, including the 2018/19 budget, Victorian Racing Industry Fund support and 2019/20 prizemoney support and equine welfare funding.

Thoroughbred Racing

- The government has supported Racing Victoria to undertake a number of strategically significant projects.
- Some of the initiatives supported include:
 - the relocation of training from Caulfield Racecourse
 - the construction of a new synthetic track at Ballarat
 - the construction of a new sand fibre training track at Geelong
 - the Equine Limb Injury Prevention Research program.