

Taking Tasmania's racing industry to the next level



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Guarantee Government support for Tasmania's racing industry, including increased Funding Deed support
- Target minimum 4% stakes increases each year, including boosting prize money for locally bred horses
- Support community racing clubs through a new capital grants fund
- Invest in further improvements to racing integrity and animal welfare



Supporting the racing industry

In our first term, the Hodgman majority Liberal Government's plan for racing has delivered strong results, with Tasracing recording increased turnover and consecutive profits. Stakes are now higher than they were in 2014 when the Hodgman Liberal Government took office, and Tasmania's Magic Millions Yearling Sales have delivered record results. We have also taken action to increase the focus on animal welfare and racing integrity.

We have created an environment that promotes the growth of Tasmania's racing industry, and a re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will take Tasmania's racing industry to the next level.

Our guarantee

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will continue to back the racing industry and the jobs it supports – we will **not** shut the industry down or do any deals to appease the Greens, like Labor has on pokies.

Increasing Funding Deed support for the racing industry – removing the efficiency dividend

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will honour the Funding Deed currently in place with Tasracing. As has been the case over the past four years, there will be no reduction in funding for the racing industry.

The Tasmanian racing industry is emerging from a period of significant challenges following a series of poor decisions by previous Labor Governments, most notably when the Labor Government sold the TOTE, the industry's funding arm.

Due to Labor's financial mismanagement, Tasracing has been subject to an efficiency dividend equivalent to approximately \$300,000 per year.

Because the Hodgman Liberal Government has worked with Tasracing to achieve long term sustainability, Tasracing has improved business performance and has a new ability to invest in and grow the industry. In recognition of this, a re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will remove the Labor imposed efficiency dividend, ensuring an additional \$300,000 per year.

Increasing stakes

- Stakes are now higher than they were in 2014 when the Hodgman Liberal Government took office, with total prize money for 2017/18 reaching \$23.29 million.
- Prize money will continue to increase by at least 4 percent each year* supported by strong business performance.
- Already, in 2017/18 we have seen an additional stakes increase due to improved business performance.
- Our goal is that Tasmanian stakes will have increased by at least 16% by 2022.

Why Tasmania needs this

Tasmania's racing industry supports jobs in rural and regional communities, injecting about \$103 million a year into the Tasmanian economy.

Over 5,000 Tasmanians are either employed or participants in the industry, particularly in rural and regional areas.

Our commitments to the racing industry will ensure the industry can continue to grow sustainably and be competitive.



Supporting the racing industry

Harness and thoroughbred breeding

We are further strengthening the Tasmanian racing industry with a \$350,000 grant towards thoroughbred and harness breeding programs in 2018/19.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will continue to fund the grants program for a further five years. This will provide incentive to increase breeding of racehorses in Tasmania, creating new jobs within breeding, racing and associated primary industries – and increasing Tasmania's presence in the national breeding market.

These grants will boost prize money to the owners of winning, locally bred horses, and will be an important addition to existing breeding schemes.

Community racing clubs

Community racing clubs are an important part of Tasmania's way of life and for the growth of the industry, particularly in rural and regional areas. We also recognise the hard working, committed volunteers who contribute to their community through these clubs.

We will work with Tasracing and local government to return the New Norfolk Cup to Kensington Park.

Further, in addition to existing capital expenditure programs, a re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will establish a capital grants fund of \$250,000 per year to assist community racing clubs across the state to fund infrastructure and maintenance needs that fall outside Tasracing's existing Infrastructure Plan.

Our record in Government

In 2014, Tasracing was operating at a loss. Since that time, under the leadership of a majority Liberal Government we have achieved a lot, including:

- ✓ Establishing an independent working group to create a long-term plan to help the industry grow and achieve sustainability.
- ✓ Taking the hard decisions in 2014/15 to re-set stakes monies which has resulted in the increased sustainability of Tasracing, including 2 consecutive profits in 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- ✓ Stakes are now higher than before the 2014 election and will continue to increase by 4% per year.
- ✓ The Office of Racing Integrity has been established and aligned under the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
- ✓ We have funded the employment of a Regulatory Vet, a Racing Integrity Manager and two additional Steward Investigators to increase the focus on animal welfare and racing integrity.



Improving Racing Integrity and Animal Welfare

Racing steward cadetships

New steward cadetship positions will be established to further strengthen integrity functions and attract and retain new people in steward positions. Funding will be allocated to the Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) for the employment of two 12 month steward cadetship positions per year.

Steward cadets will learn the trade under the direction of highly qualified and experienced stewards and the Director of Racing, and development plans will be put in place to encourage cadets to consider stewarding as a long term career, with clear future pathways within ORI.

Greyhound adoption

We will boost funding to the Greyhound Adoption Program to assist in rehoming efforts which are increasingly in demand, including to assist with the construction of a dedicated rehoming facility.

Funding will also be allocated to Brightside Farm Sanctuary, to assist in covering veterinary costs associated with readying greyhounds for adoption.

Veterinary services

A re-elected Hodgman Majority Liberal Government will work with the equine industry and the veterinary industry to investigate the need for an equine hospital in Tasmania, to service the needs of the racing industry and horse owners and breeders.

Labor Green record

Labor left the Tasmanian racing industry in dire straits when they ripped away the racing industry's funding stream by selling the TOTE. Tasracing then suffered under the Labor Green Government, including \$16 million of accumulated losses from 2009 – 2014/15.

Tasracing's original Board identified there was a funding gap in their new business model following the sale of the TOTE, which Labor ignored – nothing was done to fix it.

Labor has no plan for the long term sustainable growth of our racing industry.

Cost

Thoroughbred breeding:
\$300,000 per year over
5 years = \$1.5 million

Harness breeding:
\$50,000 per year over 5
years = \$250,000

Community racing clubs
capital grants fund:
\$250,000 per year over
4 years = \$1 million

Steward cadetships:
\$120,000 over 4 years =
\$480,000

Greyhound Adoption
Program grant =
\$100,000

Brightside Farm
Sanctuary grant =
\$30,000