




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 18 October 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Racing Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government recognises the important role that racing plays across Queensland communities—in supporting jobs, generating economic activity—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, previous suggestions in terms of how you should be conducting yourselves this morning still stand. The minister is not being provocative.

Mr HINCHLIFFE:—and bringing people together. This industry supports more than 40,000 jobs in Queensland while generating some \$1.2 billion in annual economic activity.

Make no mistake: the Palaszczuk government has always been a great supporter of racing in Queensland and we are investing heavily in the industry. For instance, over the next two financial years we will invest \$111.8 million in racing—roughly equivalent to the support provided in New South Wales and Victoria. One of the centrepieces of this investment is the four-year \$70 million country racing support package, which has seen unanimous support in the industry. I want to acknowledge the previous minister in relation to bringing that package forward. This package is supporting non-TAB clubs throughout regional Queensland—some of them might race only once a year—because we understand what racing means in those communities.

We are also delivering new and improved racing infrastructure. There is no better example of this than our \$13 million redevelopment of the Ipswich Turf Club. This will transform one of the state's oldest race clubs into a state-of-the-art racing facility, with new and improved facilities and a commercial capability to generate non-racing sources of income which will make the club more financially sustainable. In addition to this, we are providing ongoing financial support for Brisbane Racing Club's Eagle Farm track remediation project. I cannot wait to see racing return to our premier venue. The government continues its strong financial support for Magic Millions, one of Queensland's truly great major events. Through Tourism and Events Queensland we are also supporting iconic regional race events such as the Cairns Amateurs and the Birdsville Races.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of our support for racing. In fact, contrary to widespread reporting, the equivalent of 100 per cent of the proceeds from the new wagering point-of-consumption tax will be returned to the industry this year. I repeat: 100 per cent of its proceeds in the first year will be ploughed back into the industry. The point-of-consumption tax was front and centre at a meeting the Treasurer and I had with thoroughbred industry representatives last week. This was a productive, firsthand opportunity where industry participants argued passionately for a more sustainable funding model. The government has taken this input very seriously, and it is informing ongoing government considerations. We will continue to work with Racing Queensland and industry across the three codes to create a stronger and more prosperous racing industry in Queensland.