



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Racing Industry**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.56 am): Every November thousands of Queenslanders head trackside for the Melbourne Cup, the race that stops the nation. Whether it is a non-TAB meeting or a race day at one of our major racecourses, Queenslanders love seeing gallopers competing on local tracks as Australia's best stayers slug it out in the famous 3,200-metre handicap at Flemington.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Members to my left, I am going to get ahead of what I know is going to be some noise. The minister is not making any statements that are controversial. I would like to hear his statement. I ask that you respect that ministerial statements are about providing public advice.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Our agreement with the Thoroughbred Alliance to address prize money concerns means that Melbourne Cup Day 2018 will go ahead as usual in Queensland. I thank the Thoroughbred Alliance, the owners, trainers, jockeys and breeders they represent, for working with the government and Racing Queensland so that all Queensland racegoers who head to the track on cup day will be able to see live action.

In recent weeks the Deputy Premier and I have had ongoing discussions with the Thoroughbred Alliance about racing in our state—how it is administered, how it is funded and how better governance models and structures can, and must, be put in place. These discussions have resulted in a \$26 million boost to thoroughbred prize money levels in Queensland—\$18 million immediately and \$8 million in six months pending further discussions on reform. This is an important prize money boost that will flow through to the industry's grassroots. Put simply, prize money means employment—employment for track workers, stablehands and strappers. It helps sustain small businesses in towns across Queensland. It is not about a wad of cash in the top pocket of some toff in a top hat.

As the Deputy Premier said, the long-term challenges the industry faces did not arise overnight, nor are there any quick fixes. True sustainability can only come from reform. The government will continue to work with all stakeholders on reform options to further enhance industry sustainability. The Palaszczuk government has shown strong support for the Queensland racing industry since coming to office, with almost \$190 million committed over four years. This includes our \$70 million, four-year country racing support package, debt relief to Racing Queensland, along with new and improved infrastructure across all three codes. Given this support, the industry has acknowledged the need for ongoing dialogue on reform, and that is what all parties are committed to.

I also want to pay tribute to champion galloper Winx, whose record-breaking fourth Cox Plate win on Saturday took her incredible winning streak to 29 straight. Winx began this winning run right here in Queensland at our renowned Winter Racing Carnival. I congratulate all Winx's winning connections, including Queensland Peter Tighe, on this great mare's tremendous achievements. Wouldn't it be great to see Winx back in Queensland one day!