




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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ADJOURNMENT

Deagon Community Race Day

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.08 pm): There is something quite special about having the country come to the bayside for a day at the races. As the member for Sandgate and the Minister for Racing, I am excited that the Deagon Community Race Day will once again be held in my electorate on Sunday, 7 July. Having initiated the conversations—long before taking on this portfolio—

Ms Grace: Yes.

Mr HINCHLIFFE:—the former minister can attest to that—which led to the Deagon race day becoming a reality once again, I am so proud to see this popular event become ensconced in our local calendar after its success in 2018.

The day is set to feature a promising card of thoroughbred racing at the Deagon Racecourse and is a tribute to the sponsors and organisers for pulling this quality fixture together. In particular, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the dedication of Walter Kuhn and Ben White from the Deagon Racing Club for making this event possible again. Whether it is the thrill of being trackside enjoying the horses or immersing yourself in the many events on the day like fashions on the field, there is something for everyone. It really is the only way to experience a country race day within Brisbane city's boundaries. It will be my pleasure to again sponsor the children's footrace and I know that many—young and old—are excited to see the mini trotters back again this year. Once again many local community organisations will fundraise through a variety of activities on the day. For well over a century, Deagon has been strongly associated with the racing community. To this day locals live with the sounds of the horses heading to track work early in the morning, their neighbours are trainers or someone who was, or a retired jockey, and you certainly can visit a stable in one of the backyards.

On this race day I know that many in the local Deagon community and in the industry more generally will be paying tribute to the late Norm 'Whopper' Stephens—a Deagon institution in his own right who established his fame early with his triumphant effort as a 16-year-old apprentice winning the 1948 Stradbroke Handicap aboard Ballyvista at eight to one. What better way to acknowledge Whopper than to run, for the first time, the Deagon Race Day perpetual Apprentice Cup acknowledging the track's significant contribution to, tradition in and continued dedication as a training facility for young jockeys. The Deagon Community Race Day is a tremendous day out for everyone. I invite honourable members of the House and encourage all northsiders to join our community for a day at the races in Deagon on Sunday, 7 July.