




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Racing Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.47 am): The Palaszczuk government's investment in the racing industry across Queensland continues to grow. Since 2017 we have made massive investments in the country racing package and prize money with more than \$110 million being distributed to participants and clubs throughout Queensland. The 2020-21 budget sees a continuation of the strong work of the Palaszczuk government in providing new and renewed racing infrastructure as well as the continuation of the hugely successful country racing package with further funding committed through to July 2023. This package is the lifeblood of non-TAB clubs across regional Queensland and this funding will be welcomed by the industry and will support tourism and jobs in these local economies.

The budget also sees funding allocated to two transformative racing infrastructure projects that were announced recently by the now tourism minister. We have committed the funding to commence the first phase of the \$38 million redevelopment of the Gold Coast Turf Club. This will include tunnels, improved training tracks and, importantly, the addition of lighting for night racing. We welcome the Gold Coast city council's recent approval for this development. We know that the thoroughbred industry around the track supports over 1,000 jobs already and the construction phase will support a further 300-plus jobs in the local area.

In the Ipswich area, the development of the Greater Brisbane Greyhound Centre is underway with consultation occurring with industry about the facilities that will be built. This will be a project that delivers not only a new, safe racing environment but the ability to build in community facilities. The Palaszczuk government will also continue its commitment to integrity in racing with a focus on not just integrity, but enforcement and education of the participants about on and off track requirements for the welfare of their beautiful animals.

The Palaszczuk government supports racing and what it means to Queenslanders. That is why we are backing it in this budget. I am proud to be, once again, Queensland's racing minister.