




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Winter Racing Carnival

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.47 am): Because of our state's COVID response, the TAB Queensland Winter Racing Carnival is off and racing and I am looking forward to attending Derby Day this weekend and the Stradbroke Day in two weeks time. Held over 10 weeks at five race clubs, our winter carnival offers record-breaking prize money of almost \$21 million, providing opportunities to boost the livelihoods of jockeys, trainers, strappers and stable staff.

During the winter carnival the Brisbane Racing Club Stradbroke Season will host six weeks of racing. If past performance is anything to go by, we are in for another incredible year. In 2019 the Stradbroke Season generated more than \$9.7 million in economic benefits for the Brisbane economy and \$6.8 million for the broader Queensland economy. Over the Stradbroke Season the Brisbane Racing Club will also employ an additional 860 workers. That is jobs for cleaners, tote workers and hospitality staff. It would not be a carnival without great food and drink. We know that racing patrons will not be holding back this winter carnival and the Brisbane Racing Club is ready for them, having locally sourced almost 7,000 peeled fresh Noosa prawns, 4,250 lamb cutlets, more than 14,000 spring rolls and more than 2,250 kilos of potatoes for hot chips.

The action is not all in Brisbane. Another highlight of this year's winter carnival will be the first Ipswich Cup to be run at the redeveloped Ipswich Turf Club. What a great way to showcase the Palaszczuk government's \$24.8 million investment into this world-class racing and entertainment precinct at Ipswich. On cup day the club will employ an additional 1,000 local staff, including more than 60 chefs and kitchen hands, who will be preparing almost 155,000 canapés—and I hope to consume quite a few of those. In the cold room they will have 60,000 stubbies of beer, 12,000 piccolo bottles of wine—and I hope to consume some of those too—and 75,000 bottles of water—which I will also be consuming. I remind everyone to drink and gamble responsibly. These jobs and business opportunities are being repeated at the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast turf clubs for their sellout carnival race days.

The best weather in the nation welcomes the best TAB Winter Racing Carnival in Australia, making a huge contribution to Queensland's economic recovery. This is only possible because of everyone's great efforts to keep Queensland safe.