




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Racing Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): I join others in wishing a happy birthday to the member for Rockhampton who is working in paradise. It has not been easy to continue racing in a pandemic, but the racing industry's hard work is continuing to pay off with some incredible events across all codes to look forward to. Thanks to our strong health response, one event Queenslanders will be adding to their social calendar is a return of Australasia's premier harness event, the 2023 Inter Dominion Championship, the first time it has been in Queensland since 2009.

Recently we saw 10,000 vaccinated people being allowed to attend the Melbourne Cup. That was only possible because Victoria had hit 80 per cent double dosed. It is clear across Australia and here in Queensland that to keep everyone safe, keep these big events going and help our economic recovery we need Queenslanders to get vaccinated. As I said, we have some huge events coming up in racing. However, once we hit 80 per cent double dosed, only vaccinated people will be able to attend.

This weekend, thousands of Queenslanders will be heading to the Sunny Coast for the start of the TAB Queensland Summer Racing Carnival. With more than \$20 million in prize money and bonuses at Australia's most exciting summer racing carnival, all eyes will be on Corbould Park to kickstart nine weeks of action-packed racing. The carnival will reach a thrilling conclusion at the Star Gold Coast Magic Millions—Queensland's richest race day taking centre stage with \$10 million in prize money and bonuses up for grabs. I am looking forward to attending with the Premier and other ministers.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms GRACE: And the member for Mermaid Beach, of course. I am also pleased to announce that further increases to prize money, infrastructure grants and animal welfare will be delivered in the new year. This is made possible by the Palaszczuk government's changes to fund 35 per cent of the point of consumption tax back to the industry, enabling Racing Queensland to not only bring forward funding from July 2022 to January 2022 but also to increase it from \$7.5 million to \$15.3 million. As border restrictions start to ease, getting vaccinated is the best way for participants to protect themselves, their family, the racing industry and support Queensland's economic recovery. I want all Queenslanders to get vaccinated so they can enjoy the exciting calendar of summer racing ahead of us here in Queensland.