




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Racing Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.59 am): There is no greater friend to Queensland racing than the Palaszczuk government.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection from the Premier. From today, our new sustainable funding model takes effect—thank you, Treasurer. Amongst a raft of positive changes, 80 per cent of betting tax revenue will now be returned to Racing Queensland, up from 35 per cent. The benefits of our new model are already clear. Today I can advise the House that Racing Queensland will offer an additional \$31 million in prize money for events in 2023.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: It is so nice to hear them so excited about racing in Queensland—other than the member for Mermaid Beach. That is an extra \$17 million for thoroughbreds, \$9 million for greyhounds and almost \$5 million for harness racing. This funding increase is a direct result of the Palaszczuk government's betting tax changes, benefiting Queenslanders who train and race in their home state. The reforms also allow clubs to negotiate their own sponsorship deals with Tabcorp or corporate bookmakers. It is great to see that the first cabs are off the rank, with turf clubs on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Toowoomba announcing a new five-year deal with Tabcorp yesterday.

I am also pleased to announce the recipients of round 5 of the Country Racing Program. Forty-eight projects at 40 clubs across rural and regional Queensland will share in \$2.6 million in grants. This will support vital infrastructure maintenance and upgrades and support good, local jobs. Projects include new stewards towers at Atherton in the electorate of Hill, at Blackall in Gregory and at Mount Isa in Traeger. There will be jockey room upgrades at Laura in Cook, at Moranbah in Burdekin, at St George in Warrego and at Stanthorpe in Southern Downs. We on this side of the House look after the Nationals because the Liberal Party has abandoned them sorely. There will be judges facility upgrades at Kumbia in Nanango and Mount Perry in Callide. Look at those opposite: they want more—and they will get more. There will be running rail improvements in Gympie. We look after the Nationals in Gympie. I have a soft spot for the member for Gympie; we will look after you in Gympie. There will also be a new water truck for Bundaberg.

To top it off, the bumper summer carnival is underway, culminating in the Magic Millions race day at the Gold Coast on 14 January with an extended 10-race card and an extra \$1.5 million in prize money. This will bring the total prize money for the day to almost \$12 million, making it the only race meet in the Southern Hemisphere to feature eight \$1 million races. That is extraordinary.

Queensland is leading the way once again, with the industry continuing to grow in Queensland thanks to the Palaszczuk government. In fact, its annual economic contribution is up 60 per cent since this government was elected to nearly \$2 billion, supporting 14,000 jobs—which, I might add, is the exact number of public servants they sacked. I encourage all members to head trackside this summer, because that is where I will be.