

Question on Notice

No. 976

Asked on 1 September 2022

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the 21 TAB-converted race meetings held or due to be held by Racing Queensland across the State in 2022—

Will the Minister advise (a) the details of these 21 converted meets (including dates and locations) and (b) explain, in instances where these meets have occurred mid-week and not in conjunction with unique tourism experiences and events, what the economic and social benefit of the event has been or will be to the local community?

ANSWER:

At the commencement of the 2021–22 racing season, Racing Queensland identified 21 non-TAB race meetings for conversion to TAB race meetings. Due to a variety of reasons, such as COVID-19 and adverse weather conditions, only 18 of the race meetings identified for conversion were conducted. The 18 race meetings conducted are detailed in **Attachment 1**.

Racing Queensland's conversion strategy includes linking country race meetings to unique tourism experiences and events in Queensland, such as the Birdsville Races and the Mount Isa Rodeo.

In general terms, TAB racing brings major benefits to Queensland's rural and regional communities through increased returns to race clubs and participants, and value-added direct and indirect benefits to communities. This includes converted TAB meetings effectively doubling the direct financial benefits flowing into regional communities.

The broadcasting of TAB covered race meetings showcases rural and regional communities, and racing to national and international audiences. In some instances, this enables Racing Queensland and the race clubs to showcase significant facility upgrades—delivered through the Queensland Government's Country Racing Program—which have made TAB coverage and broadcast on Sky Racing possible at these venues. In addition, converted meetings that are conducted midweek provide strong revenue earning through off-track wagering with wagering operators and TAB, which can then be reinvested into country Queensland.

Race clubs that have taken the opportunity to showcase their community midweek via TAB conversion have, in the majority, been clubs that conduct multiple race meetings throughout the year. Racing Queensland has worked closely with these clubs to select the specific race meetings for conversion.

ATTACHMENT 1

Day/Date	Club	Rationale for Conversion
Saturday 17 July 2021	Gympie Turf Club	Opportunity to showcase a country meeting. Showcased on a SKY1 timeslot.
Thursday 12 August 2021	Mount Isa Racing Club	Chosen as part of a tourism event linked strategy to race during the Mount Isa Rodeo.
Saturday 14 August 2021	Innisfail Turf Club	Chosen to showcase Banana Cup Raceday.
Saturday 4 September 2021	Barcaldine Racing Club	Replacement meeting for abandoned Birdsville TAB meeting of 4 September.
Monday 6 September 2021	Emerald Jockey Club	Extra COVID-19 location chosen as the Club was able to host and staff race meetings within the COVID-19 protocols.
Friday 24 September 2021	Ewan Amateur Turf Club	Chosen as an Outback Cup Day and Country Cup qualifying race (meeting always conducted on Friday as part of two-day carnival).
Saturday 25 September 2021	Longreach Jockey Club	Chosen as Longreach Cup Day – an iconic Outback race day. Showcased on a SKY1 timeslot.
Friday 8 October 2021	Cloncurry and District Race Club	Chosen as Cloncurry Cup Day – an iconic Outback race day. Showcased on a SKY1 timeslot.
Saturday 20 November 2021	Roma Turf Club	Chosen as Country Cup qualifier race meeting. Showcased on a SKY1/SKY2 timeslot.
Saturday 29 January 2022	Bundaberg Racing Club	Opportunity to showcase a country meeting. Showcased on a SKY1 timeslot.
Saturday 5 February 2022	Emerald Jockey Club	Opportunity to showcase a country meeting. Showcased on a SKY1 timeslot.
Monday 28 February 2022	Thangool Racing Club	Opportunity to showcase a country meeting on SKY.
Monday 21 March 2022	Chinchilla Racing Club	Opportunity to showcase a country meeting on SKY.
Sunday 10 April 2022	Birdsville Racing Club	Chosen as part of a tourism event linked strategy to broadcast the famous Birdsville races and region (replacement for September 2021).
Monday 11 April 2022	Birdsville Racing Club	Chosen as part of a tourism event linked strategy to broadcast the famous Birdsville Races and region (replacement for September 2021).
Saturday 30 April 2022	Barcaldine Racing Club	Chosen as Tree of Knowledge Cup Day – an iconic Outback race day.
Monday 6 June 2022	Thangool Racing Club	Opportunity to showcase a Battle of the Bush qualifier meeting on SKY (Abandoned After race 1 due to weather/state of track).
Saturday 25 June 2022	Roma Turf Club	Opportunity to showcase a country meeting on SKY.