



## Stage 3 of Tasmanian Harness Review - For Comment

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Collation of comments from the three state Harness Review forums + additional submissions received with Actions / Strategies to address</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>November 2019</b>



# Introduction

This document forms part of stage 3 of the 2019 Tasmanian Harness Review.

It is set out in the format to show a summary of the industry comments from the stage 1 of the state-wide workshops along with the written submissions received.

Tasracing have provided further information under the additional sections titled Action / Strategy and also Outcome to address these comments / issues.

The Action / Strategy and Outcomes are not final and will be discussed with the industry at the next stage of the review, which will be the second round of workshops.

Following these workshops key actions will be identified and prioritised and then implemented under agreed timelines.

For further information on this document or any queries in relation to the 2019 Tasmanian Harness Review please contact Tasracing on [racing@tasracing.com.au](mailto:racing@tasracing.com.au) or by phone on 6212 9307.

# Licensing

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
Process too difficult to become a licensed person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheet per licensing category.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a clear understanding for all licensing requirements.</li> </ul>
To expensive to get into the industry as a licensed person and or owner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose Stablehand licence have a 2 year option (noted they must notify any change of circumstances).</li> <li>• Tasracing to subsidise both licence and training fees for the following licence categories:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stablehand (Tasracing currently subsidise)</li> <li>• Driver C</li> <li>• Trainer C / B</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove financial barriers for new persons to enter and then progress within the industry.</li> </ul>
Subsidised licence fees for any participant under 21 years of age.		
Possibility of a HECS style funding for licence / training fees		
Training should be subsidised by Tasracing; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stable hand</li> <li>- Education programs</li> </ul>		
No process for someone wanting to trial being in the industry prior to becoming a licensed person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing will look to establish a new license category – Trial Stablehand.</li> <li>• 0 cost entry with reduced entry requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a no strings trial period for new persons to trial the industry prior to becoming formally licensed.</li> </ul>
OHS regulations – work experience and allowance of younger persons to interact with horses.		

# Licensing

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
<p>Training should be more practical assessments and less theoretical.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to create an assessment package to be completed by the Trainer (Stablehand), Harness Academy Instructor (Driver/Trainer) as part of training requirements.</li> <li>• Greater emphasis on practical assessments.</li> <li>• The existing online training will not be altered and will remain an integral part of the licensing requirement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase industry engagement around both practical and theoretical training packages by providing a more contemporary training model.</li> </ul>
<p>Junior Driver school needs further promotion and resource.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to work with current Harness Academy Instructor to provide further structure for the Academy by planning subjects and lessons up to 6 months in advance.</li> <li>• Tasracing to review current engagement of both Harness Academy &amp; Mini Trots programs.</li> <li>• Tasracing to provide further support to those in industry who volunteer their time and expertise with such programs.</li> <li>• Tasracing to review Mini Trots as part of the industry development and pathway into becoming a participant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing structure and clarity by developing a contemporary curriculum to best promote harness racing within the state.</li> </ul>
<p>Mentoring program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to revisit current Mentoring Program Policy to cover progression through the industry.</li> <li>• Develop a strategy to encourage mentoring</li> <li>• Create a Mentor Register.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to the scheme improving the quality and competency of participants.</li> </ul>

# Licensing

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
<p>No clear pathway to enter the industry. i.e. similar to apprenticeship in thoroughbred code.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to create a Pathway fact sheet</li> <li>• Department of Education engagement;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Direct contact with DOE with inquiry into protocol and process around engagement of Tasmanian schools.</li> <li>○ List of local schools in which Tasracing could liaise directly.</li> <li>○ Discussion within industry around schools that may be interested in partnering program.</li> <li>○ Liaison with TAFE Tasmania around best process to engage students.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Career Expos / Agricultural Shows (Agfest etc.)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tasracing to host a fit for purpose site to promote all codes of racing and the career opportunities involved.</li> <li>○ Tasracing to produce marketing paraphernalia to best promote a career in Harness Racing.</li> <li>○ Tasracing via the Off the Track program to engage with agricultural groups (local shows and expos) by have a consistent and engaging presence at such events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a clear pathway and message on career opportunities.</li> <li>• Increased engagement and partnering with Tasmanian educational facilities.</li> <li>• Exposure at key events throughout the state to increase awareness and in turn participants of all levels.</li> </ul>

# Ownership

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
<p>Syndications – Assistance from Tasracing. Make it easier for clubs and or trainers to syndicate horses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to facilitate state-wide workshops hosted by recognised national experts focussing on topics relating to ownership and syndication within the Harness code. These will be educational in format and designed to assist Tasmanian owners and trainers in sourcing new owners with low risk strategies.</li> <li>• Tasracing to develop and release a one page Q&amp;A document relating to syndication.</li> <li>• To investigate opportunity to provide syndication services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased ownership and in turn horse population within the Tasmanian Harness industry.</li> <li>• Potential to increase income opportunities for Tasmanian trainers and breeders.</li> </ul>
<p>How to ensure syndications don't include the trainers.</p>		
<p>Expanded education session to the industry on how to manage a syndication.</p>		
<p>Make the syndication process easier and clearer.</p>		

# Ownership

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
<p>Owners benefits– Text to owners notifying all race details.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing will work with RISE on the capability to do this</li> <li>• No such ability via system for individual text messages confirming runners or acceptances to owners. Tasracing are working towards upgrading systems in the future which will allow such correspondence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No immediate change. Working towards future IT upgrades which will enable SMS comms with owners.</li> </ul>
<p>Owners hospitality – Race day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing has increased the club marketing resourcing and now has a dedicated contact point for Clubs within the Marketing team.</li> <li>• Tasracing will upgrade owners facilities at all three major harness tracks as capital expenditure allows.</li> <li>• Tasracing Marketing team will create a timeline detailing several initiatives to promote ownership within the code. Some examples are listed below;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No entry fee for owners (discuss if only when horse is racing or always)</li> <li>○ Suitable room or area dedicated for owners on race day. This will include the ability to watch race replays when required.</li> <li>○ Hospitality for owners on race day – varied formats and options.</li> <li>○ Option of WIFI at major racing venues to be investigated further.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current owners to be recognised by accessing further owner only benefits. This will also result in further growth in ownership numbers.</li> </ul>

# Races / Meetings per Season

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome																																																																		
Reduce number of race meetings per season and program more races at less meetings.																																																																				
Lower quality horses don't get a run when there is one meeting per week so trainers end up spelling horses.																																																																				
Only run 1 meeting per week over the winter months with more races. More meetings cost the clubs more money.																																																																				
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<p>Wednesday or Thursday night racing preferable. - Majority of trainers hobbyists in Tassie, more midweek meetings affect them.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="281 992 642 1289"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3"><i>Number of Race Meetings</i></th> </tr> <tr> <th>YEAR</th> <th>FY</th> <th>SEASON</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>94</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>85</td> <td>86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>90</td> <td>89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>88</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>97</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><i>All numbers include King Island</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Number of Race Meetings</i>			YEAR	FY	SEASON	2015	94	93	2016	85	86	2017	90	89	2018	88	92	2019	97	95	<i>All numbers include King Island</i>			<table border="1" data-bbox="892 347 1392 526"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4"><b>Horses Trained per Area</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="4"><i>as at 17/10/2019</i></th> </tr> <tr> <th>South</th> <th>North</th> <th>N/W</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>237</td> <td>326</td> <td>92</td> <td>655</td> </tr> <tr> <td>36.2%</td> <td>49.8%</td> <td>14.0%</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="892 537 1392 711"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4"><b>Race Meetings per Area</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="4"><i>as at 17/10/2019</i></th> </tr> <tr> <th>South</th> <th>North</th> <th>N/W</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>35</td> <td>34</td> <td>17</td> <td>86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40.7%</td> <td>39.5%</td> <td>19.8%</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="915 727 1392 800"> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>19/20 Season - forecast 5 meetings Aug 20</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>TTC - 2 / LPC - 3</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul data-bbox="892 837 1392 1481" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing will review number of meetings within the state.</li> <li>• Tasracing will investigate the ability to apply a travel subsidy for hobby trainers.</li> <li>• Tasracing will look to alter club payments based on the day the race meeting is being held.</li> <li>• Tasracing will focus on the below factors when finalising race dates and host club.             <ul data-bbox="926 1260 1392 1481" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maximising wagering opportunities.</li> <li>○ Maximising broadcast opportunities.</li> <li>○ Tasmanian horse population.</li> <li>○ Catering for trainers of all levels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Horses Trained per Area</b>				<i>as at 17/10/2019</i>				South	North	N/W	Total	237	326	92	655	36.2%	49.8%	14.0%		<b>Race Meetings per Area</b>				<i>as at 17/10/2019</i>				South	North	N/W	Total	35	34	17	86	40.7%	39.5%	19.8%		<i>19/20 Season - forecast 5 meetings Aug 20</i>	<i>TTC - 2 / LPC - 3</i>	<ul data-bbox="1430 342 1955 602" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased participation and field sizes and provide more opportunity for hobbyist owners and trainers.</li> <li>• Removed barriers for trainers who do not currently travel intrastate.</li> <li>• Increased wagering turnover.</li> <li>• Increased industry engagement.</li> </ul>
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## Races / Meetings per Season cont'd

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
Look at Monday night racing if possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasracing will continue to work closely with SKY channel to maximise broadcast and in turn wagering opportunities.</li> <li>Tasracing will continue to be flexible with ad hoc race meetings where possible.</li> </ul>	Year on year increase to Sky 1 coverage and as direct result increased wagering turnover.
SKY 1 meetings have to take preference.		
Earlier start times for Sunday SKY 1.		
Need to maximise commercial impact of races.		
Draw Friday fields first	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasracing will work with ORI to ensure the best outcome for the participants.</li> </ul>	No immediate changes.
No confidence in ORI – drawing fields for meetings / trials.		
Go back to drawing both sets of fields same day.		

# National Rating System / Programming

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
New rating system a disincentive for young horses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing will appoint 2 industry experts to develop Programming Guidelines and provide advice on the National Rating System including recommendations on race conditions to be programmed that will assist in current issues with NR System.</li> <li>• If necessary an independent interstate expert will also be sourced.</li> <li>• Tasracing will look at changing the focus on programming taking into account:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Horse population</li> <li>○ Wagering</li> <li>○ Catering for all levels of trainers</li> <li>○ Use of conditions to manage race field sizes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased industry participation by programming races with more suited conditions to deal with issues from the introduction of the NR System.</li> </ul>
NR has a massive impact on younger horses, especially 2 & 3yo's.		
Younger horse transition will put people off breeding.		
Dropping back in the rating system a real issue. Horses with lots of run / prizemoney winning competing against horses with low wins.		
Major concerns with the speed in which horses can drop back in rating.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place in NR matrix should not receive any points.		
6 <sup>th</sup> place in the new ratings system being -1 is impacting the population.		
Manage the NR better with setting more appropriate conditions around races.		
Programming is the key to the NR System.		
Program age races.		
Program more 3YO maiden races.		
2 & 3yo races – include older maiden horses to help field sizes.		
Program to avoid small field sizes where possible.		
Set conditions on features races – must have raced in Tassie for 'x' number of starts, etc.		

## National Rating System / Programming cont'd

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
Display nominations publicly – as they do in Thoroughbreds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current policy based on perceived integrity concerns. Tasracing still support this policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change.</li> </ul>
Introduce a nominations policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy currently in development and will be introduced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further opportunity for horses to gain a start and earn prizemoney.</li> </ul>
Tasmania needs to have a different tiered concession driver scale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to create a local rule which will compliment the current National Matrix.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposal is that a Concession Driver can only utilise their claim in the first 15 wins per season, however all race wins will still accumulate as per NR.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing all drivers new and old the maximum opportunity to gain experience and income without one or the other being negatively impacted.</li> <li>• Encourage trainers to utilise the less experienced novice drivers.</li> </ul>
King Island – run races as exhibition races with cash prizes so horses aren't penalised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To decrease the impact of the NR system on the KI horse population a new prize money structure would be created.</li> <li>• Look at \$2900 as total prizemoney + \$500 conditional bonus. This would remove current concerns around ratings for KI only horses increasing to a level that they become ineligible for races on KI.</li> <li>• Conditional bonus will be for horses trained on King Island only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King Island Standardbred population will be further protected from NR System which does not suit their boutique racing season.</li> </ul>

# Prizemoney

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
Prizemoney levels need to be reviewed due to the NR System. Reduced Secondary meeting prizemoney (inline with NR Matrix).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to review current model and make immediate change where necessary. Additional changes to be implemented once further analysis and industry consultation has occurred;</li> <li>• Some examples of areas of potential change are listed below;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Priority given to 2yo, 3yo and Free For All racing.</li> <li>○ Venue variances and prioritising higher prizemoney races at premier wagering racing venues.</li> <li>○ All feature races to be reviewed in relation to relevance and industry support.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Minor changes to be implemented from January 2020:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Claimers - \$6,800 at all races.</li> <li>○ Program 15 races over dual meeting weekends maintaining the secondary / primary stake money levels.</li> <li>○ Reduce the Tasmania Pacing Cup and Easter Cup to \$50k with heats at \$10k for both.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased engagement and earning potential for all owners and trainers.</li> <li>• Increased financial incentive added to 2&amp;3YO races.</li> <li>• Increased higher rating horses to remain in Tasmania and not relocate to Vic or NSW.</li> <li>• Reduce the amount of prizemoney to be won by interstate horses on feature races.</li> <li>• Tasracing will have more prizemoney to focus on agreed areas of requirement. i.e. Free For All racing.</li> </ul>
To assist with ratings earnt run heats of <\$3k in to a higher prizemoney final.		
Base stakes need to be increased.		
How would a even prizemoney split look. Same prizemoney for both meetings.		
Maintain Primary / Secondary meeting status.		

<b>National Prizemoney Levels - Country</b>				
<b>State</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>NSW</b>	\$6,120	\$6,630	\$9,180	Day meeting run irrelevant to prizemoney level. Some meetings have mixed levels. Includes drivers fees of 1% up to \$100.
<b>QLD</b>	\$3,160	\$5,240	\$6,540	Redcliffe levels vary pending the day. Wed/Thurs Level 2, Fri Level 1, Sun Level 3. Excludes drivers fees \$55 flat. NB. Albion Pk does run some \$8k races.
<b>SA</b>	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$7,000	Mount Gambier / Strathalbyn some 2 & 3. Port Pirie / Globe Derby mainly Level 1 with some 2 & 3. Includes drivers fees of \$45 maximum.
<b>VIC</b>		\$4,500	\$7,000	Cobram all Level 2. All other tracks mainly Level 1 with 1-2 Level 2 races. Excludes Drivers fees flat \$65.
<b>WA</b>	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$9,000	Central Wheatbelt / Sunbury always Level 3. Gloucester Park mainly Level 2 with some Level 1. All other tracks Level 2. Excludes Drivers fees flat \$70.
<b>TAS</b>	\$4,500	\$5,500	\$8,100	Non Sky meetings Level 3, Level 2 Secondary Meetings, Level 1 Premier meetings. Excludes Drivers Fees \$55 flat.

Tasmanian prizemoney compared to 2<sup>nd</sup> level of prizemoney in other states

# Prizemoney

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
Features races no higher than \$30k.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the premier races in Tasmania to \$50k based on industry opinion. The heats will also reduce from \$12k in the Tasmanian Cup to \$10k per heat (2).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$50k will now be added back into the prizemoney pool which will allow flexibility with an already very tight budget.</li> </ul>
Feature races should be no higher than \$50k (excl Sires Stakes).		
Sires Stakes prizemoney– 10% to go to breeder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be further considered.</li> </ul>	

Tassie Cup						
Year	Date	Runners	Interstate	Comment	Winner	\$
2015	Sunday 20 Dec 2015	10	2	1 x 2 races - 13 Dec Ltn /20 Dec Hbt, 1 x 1 race Hbt	interstate	\$40,000
2016	Sunday 18 Dec 2016	6	2	2 races - 11 Dec Ltn / 18 Dec Hbt	interstate	\$40,000
2017	Friday 22 Dec 2017	11	1	2 races - 3 Dec Ltn / 22 Dec Hbt (Melton in-between)	interstate	\$50,000
2018/19	Saturday 16 Mar 2019	14	4	2 races - Heat / Final Hbt (1 back for Easter Cup April)	interstate	\$75,000
Easter Cup						
Year	Date	Runners	Interstate	Comment	Winner	\$
2016	Sunday, 27 Mar 2016	14	-	-	Tassie	\$40,000
2017	Sunday 16 Apr 2017	14	1	31 Mar - 16 Apr 3 races	Tassie	\$40,000
2018	Saturday 31 Mar 2018	14	2	1 - 25 Mar - 20 Apr 4 races, 1 - 18 Mar - 31 Mar 3 races	Tassie	\$75,000
2019	Saturday 20 Apr 2019	14	2	2 races - Heat / Final Ltn	interstate	\$75,000

# Trotting

## Industry Comment

Do not want Trotting continued.

Trotting has impacted Tasmanian racing in the last 12 months.

Not a good economic decision to continue trotting.

Wagering on Trotting has proven on the mainland that it has the ability to generate greater turnover than pacing races.

Trotting has diverted prizemoney away from pacing. It is not self funding.

Action to increase number of trotters in state.

## Analysis (based on the period 1/7/18 to 4/9/19)

Based on the commentary from the forum meetings, Trotting is not supported by a majority of the Industry.

The industry view was that funds would be better spent on additional 2YO and 3YO races and incentives.

However it is appropriate to set out the facts with some analysis of both pacing and trotting.

### Historical data

Trotting was re-introduced, after 90 odd years, in a trial format on 1 July 2018 for a 12 month period. This was extended in May 2019 until 31 December 2019 whilst a review of the Harness Industry was carried out.

Up to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 there have been 41 trotting races run. All analysis refers to these 41 races / race meetings.

- Tasmanian Trotting Club – 24 races
- Launceston Pacing Club – 15 races
- Devonport Harness Racing Club – 2 races

The average field size for trotting in Tasmania is 5.95 starters per race

# Trotting

## Analysis

### Statistics

For the period 1 July 2018 to 4 September 2019		
	Pacing	Trotting
Total Wagering	\$46,960,395	\$4,678,014
Average Wagering	\$153,670	\$114,098
Number of Races	304	41
Highest Wagering for a race	\$398,690	\$183,779
Lowest Wagering for a race	\$34,133	\$40,947
Average Field Size	10.23	5.95
Stakes - Allocated	\$2,604,800	\$325,900
Average Wagering 6 or more starters	\$155,696 (293/304)	\$118,557 (27/41)

The data only reflects meetings in which a trotting race was held to ensure we are comparing (as best we can) races under similar dates and times.

The average number of races per meeting was 8.41 with the trotting race at position 6.8 (effectively on average it was the second last race)

On average the trotting race ranked 6.6 (effectively second last). However this was generally the case whether the trot race was first or 6<sup>th</sup> or last. Out of 41 meetings the trot race was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> or better in turnover only 6 times.

The average wagering gap overall is \$39,572 and for 6 or more starters is \$37,139 per race.



# Trotting

## Analysis

### Population

- Since 1 July 2018, 22 trotters relocated to Tasmania, it is estimated that there are currently 10 – 12 in state.
- Since 1 July 2018, out of 153 trainers only 17 (or 11%) have trained a trotter.

### Prizemoney

- The total amount of stakes allocated to trotting since 1 July 2018 to 4 September 2019 is \$326,400 (41 races).
- The average stakes per trot race are \$7,960 (41 races) with a high of \$14,000 and a low of \$5,500.
- The average stakes per pacing race (over the same meetings) are \$8,512 with a high of \$75,000 and a low of \$3,500.
- The total amount of prizemoney paid to trotting in the FY19 season was \$248,258. This represents close to 4.6% of Harness Prizemoney allocation. In FY20 to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 we have paid a further \$49,512. Any unallocated prizemoney as per the trotting prizemoney grid was returned to the stakes pool. This amounted to \$23,842 for FY19 and \$4,788 for FY20.

### Broadcast information

- The broadcast split for trotting races has been 56.1% on SKY1 and 43.9% on SKY2.
- The broadcast split for pacing races has been 55.6% on SKY1 and 44.4% on SKY2.

### Additional matters

- The Tasmanian Trotting Club secured a 3 year \$25,000 sponsorship from Aldebaran Park who are a trotting only stud.
- The Tasracing mobile is currently used as Aldebaran Park advertising with supporting marketing material at zero cost to TTC.
- The Tasmania Trotting Club have syndicated 2 trotters with an estimated 60 owners in both horses.

# Trotting

## Analysis

### Comparative race data

- There have been 69 divided pacing races since 1 July 2018
- Divided pacing races at the **same** meeting a trot race was held:
  - 28 divided races. \$69,200 additional prizemoney would be required for these to have been run at base stake level.
- Dual engaged horses on the same weekend when a trot race was held:
  - 22 weekends @ average 15.5 horses per weekend running twice.
- Dual engaged horses on a weekend when a trot race was not held:
  - 16 weekends @ average 15 horses per weekend running twice.
- The average number of ballots for pacing horses at a meeting holding a trot race is 4.09 horses balloted per meeting.

### Points to note:

1. *The divided races were conducted at the prizemoney level a step down from the standard on the program. Divided races at a meeting that saw \$8,100 races would see divided races conducted at \$5,500. Those at a secondary \$5,500 meeting would be run at \$3,500.*
2. *For the 69 divided races to have been run at full stakes the required funding would have been \$164,700.*
3. *Under the current programming there are not enough horses to fill a second meeting each week.*
4. *Changes to programming targeted at maidens and horses with restricted wins/ low ratings / standing starts / mares would assist in reducing dual engaged.*
5. *Changes to criteria for trainers encouragement races 18mths ago also impacted the desire and size of the potential field.*
6. *Under the FY20 budget it is not possible to run any divided races at full stakes and trotting races.*

# Trotting

## Analysis

### Commentary

- At present a trotting race turns over on average 25.75% less than a pacing race in the same meeting.
- This equates to \$39,572 per race in turnover and \$989.3 in race field fees at the 2.5% average.
- Extrapolated out this is a potential reduction in / loss of revenue of \$40,561 across the 41 races.
- The issue of whether we have the horse population to fill this gap with pacers is mitigated by a return to race programming as in 2016 targeted at maidens, restricted win horses, mares, trainers encouragement races and standing starts.
- Alternatively this may be a trigger to import additional pacers and stimulate breeding (acknowledge this would take three years to work through).
- Greater field sizes does not equal greater turnover though on average field sizes over 6 generate higher turnover.
- Trotting does not seem to have had an impact on pacing horses gaining a start with the average number of horses balloted reducing significantly since trotting was introduced. This number now sits at 4 horses per meeting. Unfortunately there is no way to link the introduction of trotting to this effect as there have been other measures taken to reduce the number of ballots.
- It has been suggested that should trotting be discontinued then dual engaged runners per weekend would grow significantly, given the current pacing population could not support additional racing. If this were the case then we would be able to change programming and race conditions to mitigate. Additionally divided races would be impacted (could be reduced) and there would be the opportunity to provide trainer incentives.
- Whilst there is a current shortage of young horses 2YO or 3YO races are at a higher level than 2 years ago.
- The challenge is evaluating the level of risk by splitting a small market resources to fund an non core brand whilst not addressing the issues with the core brand.

# Trotting

## Analysis

### Commentary

- Is it more productive and less risk to invest funds in the current core brand and deal with the issues of breeding and programming or do we utilise scarce and limited resources to establish a second brand over the next few years.
- It should be noted that the other large PRA's have been force funding trotting for a number of years. In particular, Queensland trotting has been continuous for 51 years (September 1968) However it is only in the last three years that they have increased funding and focus on the brand with some success. Trotting is still only around 8% of their races.
- Victoria is the primary state with a trotting breeding industry. At present they have conceded that they have bred more trotters than they require. (Anecdotal)
- The industry itself has not adopted trotting with only 11% of trainers becoming involved. It is unclear as to whether this is due to the level of uncertainty associated with a trial or other concerns.
- On a purely ROI position if you assumed you could guarantee replacement of the race then performance to date shows you would achieve a higher return with a pacing race.
- It is questionable whether the code has the funds available to invest in a second brand and address the issues of breeding and population with the main brand.
- If trotting is discontinued then there is opportunity to program additional races for maidens, restricted win horses, mares, trainers encouragement races and standing starts with no impact to stakes.

# Trotting

## Options

The two (2) options to be considered are:

### 1. Trotting to be permanently introduced

- 2 races per month are run at a stakes level of \$5.5k and \$8.1k (equates to \$163k).
- This equates to 2.8% of total prizemoney based on the current stakes allocation of \$5,728,981.
- The races would be conducted under the same nomination rules currently being finalised for pacing thus the minimum field size for trotting would be raised from 4 to 6. Nominations of 3 or more to be extended with races deleted with anything less than 6 acceptors.
- Only Tasmania trained trotters to be eligible to participate in Tasmanian races.
- Performance would be reviewed regularly and the position updated based on participation.

### 2. Trotting to be discontinued in Tasmania

- Trotting would cease to be programmed on the Tasmanian Harness Calendar as of 1 January 2020.
- The Tasracing Off The Track program to assist with horses that require rehoming or retraining.
- Alternatively for the trotters that decide to remain and race in Tasmania, Tasracing will look to amend the handicapping policy to allow trotters into pacing races.
- It is possible that TTC may lose the Aldebaran Park sponsorship which we estimate has \$12.5k to go (18mth / 36mth agreement).
- The Hobart mobile would then need to be rebranded with the space again offered to TTC at \$0 cost for their usage.
- The funds reclaimed would be allocated to low rated horses and maidens, restricted win horses, mares, trainers encouragement races and standing starts.

# Breeding

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome															
<p>Tasbred Breeder's Coupon payments need to be increased</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- minimum of \$1,000 to match additional support payment</li> <li>- broaden the use – not just for service fees / yearling sale purchases</li> </ul>	<p>Tasracing propose amendments to the Breeders Scheme as per the below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Tasbred Bonus - \$4k first win any age – Owner payment only.</li> <li>❖ 2 / 3 &amp; 4YO - \$2k cash Breeder payment per first win per age group.</li> <li>❖ \$2k – live foal born – Breeder payment</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These bonuses are targeted for both the Owner and Breeders.</li> <li>• Tasracing will honour the current coupons available but to move away from the availability of these from the 20/21 Season as they are not utilised to their full potential.</li> </ul>	<p>Increased financial assistance for Tasmanian breeders and owners of Tasbred horses.</p>															
<p>Automatic rollover of breeding incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- currently needs to be notified</li> <li>- cut off after 4 years</li> </ul>																	
<p>\$1,000 incentive payment not enough to promote breeding.</p>																	
<p>Cost of Breeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- limit on number of mares served by a stallion</li> <li>- Successful stallions too expensive to send mares too</li> </ul>																	
<p>People not having access to resources to breed. I.e. land and infrastructure.</p>																	
<p>Too expensive to get a 2YO to the races / easier to buy a ready to race/claimer</p>																	
<p>More Tasbred only races – encourage breeding</p>																	
<p>Add a Tasbred Bonus on Feature races</p>																	
<p>% of prizemoney allocated to breeder</p>																	
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">TOBI / TBC</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Season</th> <th>Available</th> <th>Spent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>\$335,976.55</td> <td>\$153,999.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>\$287,309.75</td> <td>\$130,386.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>\$223,703.25</td> <td>\$127,177.75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			TOBI / TBC			Season	Available	Spent	2016/17	\$335,976.55	\$153,999.40	2017/18	\$287,309.75	\$130,386.75	2018/19	\$223,703.25	\$127,177.75
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## Breeding cont'd

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome																																						
Introduce a nomination fee to scheme – fee dependant on bonus received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See previous page</li> <li>• Scheme Costing</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Est Qty</th> <th>Rate</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Owner</td> <td>First Win</td> <td>61</td> <td>4,000</td> <td>244,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Breeder</td> <td>2YO</td> <td>23</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>46,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3YO</td> <td>23</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>46,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4YO</td> <td>13</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>26,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Breeder</td> <td>Foal Born</td> <td>79</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>158,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foal Notifications</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>18,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>538,000</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Est Qty	Rate	Total	Owner	First Win	61	4,000	244,000	Breeder	2YO	23	2,000	46,000	3YO	23	2,000	46,000	4YO	13	2,000	26,000	Breeder	Foal Born	79	2,000	158,000	Foal Notifications				18,000					<b>538,000</b>	Increased financial assistance for Tasmanian breeders and owners of Tasbred horses.
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Incentive not based on wins – encouragement to get foal to races Eg - \$1k positive test, \$1k foal born, \$2k races																																								
\$1k per win breeders coupon for any filly/mare																																								
Reward breeders – more support to breeders - reverse payments – breeder to get bigger portion																																								
4YO & Older Breeding incentives – breeder only payment.																																								
Owners need to still receive incentives																																								
Bonuses for older horses																																								
\$10k Tasbred bonus for first win as a 2YO & 3YO \$10k Tasbred bonus first win 4YO & Older (no age restrictions).																																								
Tasbred Bonus increase - \$9k - \$3k cash owner, \$3k cash breeder, \$3k breeder coupon.																																								
Split breeding payments – voucher / cash - race bonus – eg \$6k - \$3k breeder cash - \$3k owner breeding voucher																																								
Yearling Sale importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeders need an option to sell horses</li> </ul>	Tasracing to financially support Yearling Sale.																																						

# Policies

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
Children in stables an issue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AHRR 254A (repealed 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017).</li> <li>• No Harness local rules in place around age of children in stables.</li> <li>• Tasracing to draft a Local Rule stipulating that children are only allowed in stables under the direct supervision of an adult/licensed person.</li> <li>• To review any insurance matters prior to undertaking any actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access for owners and creating more interaction with the younger persons interested in the industry.</li> </ul>
No industry insurance for kids at properties and or voluntary stable hands etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current HRA personal accident policy covers voluntary stablehands.</li> <li>• Tasracing will review their current public liability policy to ensure this covers these areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase the ability for younger persons to engage with the industry.</li> </ul>
5 starts per 30 days rule – draft policy (60 hour recovery period)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to consult with ORI and a number of suitability qualified vets.</li> <li>• To introduce a restriction on the number of starts a horse can have within a particular timeframe and how long that horse must have as a break between races.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved Animal Welfare outcomes for Tasmanian horses.</li> </ul>
Paying out prizemoney prior to swabs cleared – under \$10k.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing’s payment system can not do this due to being unable to separate Owner from Owner / Trainer.</li> <li>• Some Trainers provided feedback they would be happy to be held liable however Tasracing feel this is inappropriate.</li> <li>• Tasracing will work with ORI on a faster swab process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change at this stage.</li> </ul>



# Facilities

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
No money being spent on Harness facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasracing to engage an external expert to audit all Tasmanian Harness Racing venues with particular focus on;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracks</li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Stalls and swab boxes</li> <li>• WH&amp;S</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once an independent review has taken place Tasracing will look to include high priority items within FY19/20 operational budget and provide clarity to industry on timeframe for additional upgrades.</li> </ul>
All track surfaces require attention. Quicker tracks impact breeding with Tasmanian raced mares being more desirable with quicker race times.		
Carrick proposal. A potential training centre and complex for the North and North West participants.		
Hobart track repairs (top bend).		
Issues with Hobart Racing Centre. Width bottom corner of horse stalls.		
Lighting at both Hobart track		
Lighting at Launceston track		
Track reconditioning for Launceston track. No work completed in 30 years.		
Launceston stalls need attention.		

## Other

Comment	Action / Strategy	Outcome
Tasracing to manage fields and timelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasracing will pass on to ORI for comment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ORI to provide response. Ideally increased industry engagement will be the outcome.</li> </ul>
ORI Staffing hours not suitable. Phone lines closing too early each day.		
Stewards – questionable driving tactics with no inquiry.		
Wednesday meetings - Nominations closing Thursday's too hard for industry and clubs.		
Industry needs increased marketing by all media forums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasracing has doubled its club marketing staff and have a new content focus employee starting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harness related media and content levels will significantly increase.</li> </ul>
Integrating race clubs with pony clubs for increased participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasracing has recently appointed a new Animal Welfare Manager.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased activity within the Standardbred Welfare space.</li> </ul>
How to get people more active in relation to welfare.		
Mobile v Stands – wagering average.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasracing to review and implement change should wagering data indicate one is better than the other. Racing population and horse preference will also be reviewed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programming changes and in turn increased wagering.</li> </ul>