
SUBJECT: COVID-19 RACING INDUSTRY SUPPORT PACKAGE

(Reviewed: 22/06/2020)

- On Thursday 2 April 2020 the Tasmanian Government announced the cessation of racing effective immediately.
- The Government is determined to reduce the risk of widespread community infection of COVID-19.
- Racing industry participants are spread widely throughout rural and regional Tasmania and typically travel throughout the State for race meetings.
- Participants also have a relatively high average age. The decision to cease racing was based on advice to reduce inter-regional travel in order to lower the risk of contagion.
- While the racing industry should be commended for the practices it established to reduce the risk of infection, risks remained.
- On 7 April 2020 the Tasmanian Government announced a support package of around \$2 million per month, which is broadly equivalent to the continuation of the full value of the stakes money and other code funding continuing to be invested in the industry.
- The support package is funded through Tasracing, with additional assistance as required through a Government loan.

- The details of the support package were discussed and agreed with Industry stakeholders and were released on Wednesday 8 April. The package is aimed at retaining participants and incentivising trainers to continue animals in work rather than send them to agistment properties.
- Applications opened on Saturday 10 April 2020 via the Tasracing website, the first round of payments were made on Friday 17 April 2020.
- The final support package run was made on Friday 19 June a total of 723 applications have been received during the program and the following assistance by code has been provided:

Thoroughbred		
No. of Trainers	No. of Horses	Total Amount
76	898	\$2,035,628

Standardbred		
No. of Trainers	No. of Horses	Total Amount
111	653	\$1,465,765

Greyhounds		
No. of Trainers	No. of Greyhounds	Total Amount
127	1,200	\$505,386

Clerks		
No. of Clerks	No. of Months	Total Amount

7	2	\$14,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The package was updated on 5 May to increase the day rate for thoroughbreds and include licensed persons in the eligibility for greyhounds. • The package supported the upkeep of Clerk of Course horses as well. • The Tasmanian Government believes this support package was structured to enable racing to return in a strong position. • On 8 May the Tasmanian Government announced that racing will re-start in Tasmania on 13 June 2020, once this occurs the support package will cease. 		

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