

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Trade

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Racing



Monday, 9 August 2021

DRAIN GAIN: BAIRNSDALE, STONY CREEK TRACKS RACING AHEAD

Participants at the Bairnsdale and Stony Creek racing clubs will soon race on a significantly improved surface, with the Andrews Labor Government funding a mobile draining machine to service both locations.

Minister for Racing Martin Pakula today announced the Labor Government would allocate more than \$28,000 from the *Victorian Racing Industry Fund* to help the clubs purchase a verti-drain machine that will be based at Bairnsdale and a specially-fitted trailer to transport it between the key Gippsland tracks.

Racing Victoria, Country Racing Victoria, the Bairnsdale Racing Club and the Stony Creek Racing Club are combining to match the Government commitment to the important project.

A verti-drain machine punches holes in the turf, thus de-compacting the soil and allowing oxygen to get into the subsoil and enabling the track to drain properly.

This minimises waterlogging and results in a safer, more consistent surface for training and racing.

Currently the clubs have to hire contractors, which is costly and inconvenient. Having their own machine will enable the clubs to treat the turf at optimal times throughout the year for premium results.

Since 2014, the Labor Government has invested more than \$635,000 to support infrastructure projects and events at the Bairnsdale and Stony Creek clubs.

The thoroughbred racing industry in regional Victoria generates more than \$715 million for the economy and helps sustain more than 6,100 full-time-equivalent jobs.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula

“This is a great result for these Gippsland communities – by pooling resources the racing clubs will save money and optimise training and racing conditions throughout the year, therefore bolstering their financial position.”

“Racing provides significant economic benefit and employment in regional areas and that’s why we join with local clubs, Racing Victoria and Country Racing Victoria to make important investments like this.”

Quote attributable to Bairnsdale Racing Club Chair Greg Beadle

“This specialised equipment was essential for the future of the BRC – it will enhance Bairnsdale Racing Club’s ability to provide a safer and more even surface for the horses to run on.”

Quote attributable to Stony Creek Racing Club President Michael Darmanin

“Having the opportunity to access a verti-drain on a regular basis is a real boost for the club and will ensure our track stays in great condition – we’ve very grateful for the Government’s support in making this happen.”