

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



Thursday, 14 April 2022

STAWELL GOLD CUP SHINES EXTRA BRIGHT THIS EASTER

The Stawell Gold Cup is the biggest raceday in the Wimmera region and will deliver a boost to the region's economy, backed by a funding package from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Racing Martin Pakula today announced the Labor Government is allocating more than \$5,500 from the *Victorian Racing Industry Fund – Raceday Attraction Program* to support the meeting, with the Stawell Racing Club also investing more than \$5,500 for the event on Sunday 17 April.

This year's Stawell Gold Cup will also feature children's activities, live music, umbrella and marquee packages and the addition of a fashion precinct to complete the racing experience.

To make the most of the day, patrons are encouraged to take advantage of the complimentary shuttle bus service running between the town and racecourse.

The Government is investing a further \$297,000 from the *Victorian Racing Industry Fund* to support three critical infrastructure projects at the club: installation of a new automated irrigation system, an upgrade to the ambulance track and purchase of a new mobile training barrier.

The club, in partnership with Racing Victoria and Country Racing Victoria, is matching the investment.

Installation of a new automated irrigation system will provide the club with a more consistent and safer racing surface, will reduce the time and cost of maintaining the track and the required volume of water. The system replaces a manual tow line system currently in use.

Investing in the 1600-metre ambulance track upgrade will improve safety for participants during racing and training whilst the purchase of an eight-stall mobile starting barrier will allow the club to cater to a larger field size and provides improved and flexible training options for the growing number of trainers using the club's facilities.

Since December 2014, the Government has approved more than \$587,000 to support race meetings and racing infrastructure projects at Stawell Racing Club.

The thoroughbred racing industry in the North-West region generates \$60.5 million for the Victorian economy and helps sustain over 510 full time equivalent jobs in the region.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula

"We're backing the Stawell Racing Club by investing in these important infrastructure upgrades."

"Stawell sees an influx of visitors over Easter for the Gold Cup, which provides a boost to local businesses and jobs."

Quote attributable to Stawell Racing Club President Ken Duxson

"This club has been working hard to get the Stawell Gold Cup back to its former glory. With the Stawell Gift also taking place over Easter, it's another great reason to pay a visit to Stawell."

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