

# 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, 28 April 2022

## UPGRADES POWERING UP MILDURA RACING CLUB

Mildura Racing Club's racecourse surface will stay in top condition all year round with a new irrigation system powered by a new solar energy setup, thanks to funding from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Racing Martin Pakula today announced the Labor Government is allocating more than \$154,000 from the *Victorian Racing Industry Fund* for the two projects, with the club contributing more than \$101,000, and Country Racing Victoria and Racing Victoria adding more than \$53,000.

The current irrigation system is energy-intensive and the variable water pressure can lead to inconsistent watering and an uneven racing surface.

The upgrade includes the creation of a new dam for settling sediment, increased storage capacity in the two existing dams, and a new pump shed.

This will improve the surface of the course through more effective and consistent water distribution. It will also reduce water usage, maintenance and repairs.

The second project will see the installation of 124 solar panels on three buildings at the club, which will generate electricity to run its facilities on the course, including the new pumping system.

This will save the club up to \$36,000 a year in electricity costs and significantly reduce its carbon footprint.

The projects will create eight jobs during construction, with work expected to be finished in September.

Since December 2014, the Government has invested more than \$456,000 to support racing infrastructure projects and thoroughbred racing events at Mildura Racing Club.

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

*"Mildura Racing Club has been hosting meetings for more than 120 years and we're backing these upgrades to keep the course in great racing condition and costs down."*

*"We support regional racing clubs because we know the important role they play in boosting local economies."*

### Quote attributable Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

*"This upgrade at the Mildura Racing Club will create jobs during construction, deliver a better racing surface and reduce energy costs."*

### Quote attributable to Mildura Racing Club Chair Jamie Lanyon

*"These projects are a real win-win for the club with a safer more consistent surface, and lower operational costs that are better for the environment – they'll help us deliver a fantastic race day experience."*

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