

# 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



Tuesday, 31 May 2022

## TABCORP PARK MELTON UPGRADES ON TRACK

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting two upgrades to the state's premier harness racing venue that will open up Tabcorp Park Melton for more community events and provide a better experience for race-goers.

Minister for Racing Martin Pakula today announced more than \$1.63 million from the government's *Victorian Racing Industry Fund* will be invested in opening up the infield for public use and upgrading the park's lighting with environmentally friendly LED floodlights.

Harness Racing Victoria is contributing a further \$545,000 for the upgrades.

The project will see the infield cleared and levelled, drainage and irrigation installed, and the site landscaped. A refurbished infield will enable the club to use the space for marquees, children's activities and other entertainment on race days.

On non-racing days, the space will be available for a range of activities including equestrian events, music festivals, trade shows or community activities.

The funding will also see metal halide lamps around the course replaced with dimmable LED floodlights, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent.

The upgrade will save over \$500,000 in electricity costs over 15 years, and significantly lower maintenance costs, as the new LED lights last 16 times longer than the current lamps. The new lighting will also improve broadcast quality and provide better viewing of the track for patrons.

The two projects will support more than 30 jobs during construction over the next three months.

The harness racing industry in Victoria generates \$600 million for the economy and helps sustain over 4,300 jobs.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula**

*"We're backing these upgrades to support the harness racing industry to create a strong and viable future."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Melton Steve McGhie**

*"Tabcorp Park Melton is an important facility for the local community, attracting visitors and participants to the region and providing a focal point for entertainment in Melton. This investment will mean that there is another terrific asset for local community use."*

### **Quote attributable to Harness Racing Victoria Chair Dale Monteith**

*"Thanks to the Victorian Government's support we're able to progress these two great initiatives, that strengthen our operation and further enhance our relationship and involvement with the Melton community."*

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