

Media Release

The Hon Anthony Carbines MP

Minister for Police
Minister for Crime Prevention
Minister for Racing



Wednesday, 24 August 2022

HARNESSING A NEW GENERATION OF CHAMPIONS AT SHEPPARTON

The Andrews Labor Government is backing a new state-of-the-art training centre at Shepparton Harness Racing Club, which will help develop tomorrow's top pacers and trotters in the region.

Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines today inspected the construction works, supported by an investment of more than \$1.1 million through the Labor Government's *Harness Racing Victoria Transformation* program.

Harness Racing Victoria is contributing a further \$375,000 to the centre, which is set to welcome horses and trainers early in October.

Built at the rear of the club, the centre will feature modern and safe horse boxes and tie up stalls, equipment sheds, feed rooms, and the latest horse walkers and aquatic facilities.

Shepparton is already a popular venue with trainers, and this facility will boost its capacity by more than 60 horses to well over 100.

The program aims to boost participation in the industry and reduce barriers to entry, attract more fans, and build on the strength of harness racing in regional Victoria.

The development of regional training centres with modern facilities like the one in Shepparton is a key pillar of the Harness Racing Victoria Trots24 Strategy. This will reduce barriers to entry, making it easier for new participants to enter the industry, and help position Victoria as a desired location for trainers and owners to race their horses, as well as retaining existing owners and trainers.

Overall, the harness racing industry in Victoria generates more than \$613 million for the economy and helps sustain more than 4,460 jobs. In regional Victoria it generates more than \$261 million for the Victorian economy and helps sustain over 2,000 jobs.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines

"Shepparton Harness Racing Club is already a popular facility with trainers, and this development will make it a standout training venue, boosting not just the club but the whole industry in the region."

"We're supporting harness racing in regional Victoria, helping nurture the next generation of champions, and encouraging more people to follow their dream and join the industry."

Quote attributable to Harness Racing Victoria Chair Dale Monteith

"This centre will play a big part in helping grow our industry in regional Victoria and help attract owners and trainers to locate here. We're grateful for the government's support."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"This centre will really put Shepparton on the map as a top facility, attracting trainers and growing jobs in the area."

Media contact: Isobella Meredith 0456 306 337 | isobella.meredith@minstaff.vic.gov.au