

Media Release

The Hon Anthony Carbines MP

Minister for Police
Minister for Community Safety
Minister for Victims
Minister for Racing



Friday, 3 October 2025

BACKING THE EXACTA IN BENDIGO

The Allan Labor Government is supporting two large-scale racecourse upgrades that will put Bendigo on the map as one of the state's top racing destinations.

The Bendigo Harness Racing Club will undergo a \$1.3 million LED lighting and technology system upgrade for the trots and the Bendigo Jockey Club will replace the track with new turf thanks to a \$530,000 contribution.

The trots lighting upgrade will replace the club's ageing system with 190 new LED lights which will last longer and are cheaper to run.

The new lighting will improve visibility for spectators and broadcasters, deliver a better race day experience and reduce the club's running costs and carbon footprint. Works are expected to be completed mid-next year.

The turf club's current track will also be replaced by 60,000 square metres of Kikuyu turf, which is widely used for racing due to its durability and fast recovery rate, creating a more consistent surface for training and racing.

As well as providing better facilities for horses and jockeys, the new surface is designed to improve drainage and future maintenance.

Bendigo Jockey Club is the home base for 150 horses and 42 trainers, and boasts one of the best country racing experiences in Victoria with 23 race meetings every year.

The works will start immediately after the Bendigo Cup on 29 October and will be finished by April 2026, following three to four weeks of installation and the subsequent growth period.

Since 2014 the Labor Government has invested in 110 projects for all the racing codes in Bendigo, valued at more than \$12 million.

Quote attributable to Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines

"Regional racing generates more than \$1.17 billion for the Victorian economy and helps sustain 9,000 jobs in the regions – that's why we're backing these Bendigo upgrades."

Quote attributable to Premier and Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan

"Investing in our regional racing venues backs jobs in the community and boosts the local economy – that's why we're supporting both racecourses to ensure they can continue to host events for many years to come."

Quote attributable to Bendigo Jockey Club CEO Paul Scullie

"This new turf will solidify Bendigo's place as a thriving hub for regional racing in Victoria and will prioritise the wellbeing of our horses and jockeys first and foremost."

Harness Racing Victoria Chief Executive Officer Matt Isaacs

"This area is a big part of harness racing's heartland, with a broad participant base and a passionate local club. It has been an integral part of the industry's past, and with this investment will be an even bigger part of our future."

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