

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Racing
Witness:	N/A
Committee member:	Mr R Riordan
Page/s of transcript:	N/A

Relevant text:

BP3 page 74

1. What consultation have you had with MRC and/or other stakeholders with regards further development of, or future changes to, the Sandown course?
2. Does the Government support the retention of Sandown course as key piece of infrastructure that supports the industry and support trainers and jobs?

Answer:

Unlike Caulfield or Flemington, Sandown Racecourse is freehold land owned by the Melbourne Racing Club (MRC) and any decisions on the future of the racecourse are a matter for the MRC membership.

The MRC is aware of the strategic significance of Sandown Racecourse for the Victorian racing industry (VRI) and of the need for wide consultation, with both industry and government, about any plans for the future of the site.

As the Minister, I am in regular contact with key industry stakeholders including the MRC and Racing Victoria (RV). It is my clear expectation that any decisions the MRC take about the future of Sandown will be informed by thorough consultation and will align with the future infrastructure needs of the VRI.

The government's commitment to supporting trainers and associated jobs is very clearly demonstrated by a \$17.5 million funding package announced in August 2018 to support the relocation of Caulfield based trainers to Pakenham and Cranbourne over the next five years.

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Portfolio:	Racing
Witness:	N/A
Committee member:	Mr S Hibbins
Page/s of transcript:	N/A

Relevant text:

How many greyhound deaths on track have occurred this financial year?

Answer:

The Government is committed to ensuring that the greyhound racing industry treats all greyhounds with care and promotes the welfare of the dogs throughout their racing career and into retirement.

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) will publish data for 2018-19 in its 2019 Annual Report.

Animal welfare is one of GRV's highest priorities. GRV has implemented several initiatives designed to reduce on track injuries and fatalities within the industry. This places a greater focus on the incorporation of safety considerations into track design.

This is evident in the design of the new track at Horsham. That track has increased turn cambers that reduce the pressure on the greyhounds' legs and joints on bends. It is also wider to enable smooth transitions and provide greater space for the dogs in running to reduce the potential for injuries and interference.

The use of moisture meters and penetrometers has also been introduced to more accurately control track moisture content and surface hardness. This enables track managers to consistently prepare a safe racing surface. In addition, GRV has introduced the Greyhound Recovery Initiative (GRI) that provides funding towards the off-track veterinary treatment of greyhounds that are seriously injured at a race or coursing meeting, or during post-race or qualifying trials, on a Victorian greyhound race track.