

# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2026-27 Budget Estimates

The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP  
Minister for Racing

Thursday 21 May 2026



# Victorian Racing Industry

## State of the sector



### Racing's value in Victoria

- **\$4.7 billion** of value generated for the Victorian economy – with **\$2.45 billion** of that in regional Victoria
- **34,900** full-time equivalent jobs, including over **19,800** full-time equivalent jobs in regional Victoria
- **147,952** direct participants and employees in racing



### Racing in Victoria

- **126** race clubs
- **108** racecourses
- **2,169** race meetings per annum
- **22,493** races held annually
- **86,627** racing club members
- **1,897,389** annual attendees



### Major event destination

#### 2025 Melbourne Cup Carnival:

- **\$533 million** in gross economic benefit to Victoria
- Over **286,700** attendees
- More than **71,600** attendees from interstate/overseas
- **248,500** bed nights
- **\$63.4 million** spent on fashion, grooming and retail

# Racing

## Focused on racing industry support and regulation

The Department of Justice and Community Safety and the Office of Racing play a key supporting role for the Victorian racing industry, including:

- Developing policy, governance, and legislative frameworks for the regulation of the Victorian racing industry and its activities;
- Providing leadership and strategic advice on racing industry issues and regulation; and
- Assisting in the development of racing and community infrastructure.

In 2026-27, this includes the final year of funding for the **Backing Jobs in Victorian Racing** initiative for the delivery of the Victorian Racing Industry Fund.



# Delivering on our commitments

Backing Jobs in Victorian Racing 1 July 2025 – 30 April 2026



**\$1.40 million**

Support to Regional  
Racing Events



**\$1.60 million**

Support to Regional  
Customer Facilities



**\$5.95 million**

Support to Racing and  
Training Infrastructure



**\$1.06 million**

Support to Centralised  
Racing Marketing



**\$3.60 million**

Support to Strategic  
Racing Initiatives



**\$5.50 million**

Support to Major  
Racing Events

# Regional customer facility upgrades

## Mildura Customer Service Centre



**\$31,400** for the refurbishment of a 20-foot container as a customer service centre at Mildura racecourse

## Tambo Valley Pavilion Upgrade



**\$25,000** to upgrade the pavilion, public amenities, kitchen and service area at Tambo Valley racecourse

## Great Western Viewing Deck



**\$31,785** to construct a raised viewing deck next to the mounting yard at the Great Western racecourse

# Regional Racing Events

## 2026 The Meating Place Enclosure



**\$17,500** to support the 2026 Meating Place Enclosure at the Yarra Valley racecourse

## 2026 Mallee Bull Cup Running of the Bulls



**\$20,000** to support the 2026 Mallee Bull Cup / Running of the Bulls event at the Birchip Harness racecourse

## 2026 Geelong Kids Summer Fun Day



**\$7,785** to support the 2026 Geelong Kids Summer fun day



# Backing Jobs in Victorian Racing

## Major Racing Events Fund

The Victorian Government delivered the first tranche of the Major Racing Events Fund between 2023-25 to 2025-26 that supported clubs to develop or secure new or expanded events and encourage economic activity.

In 2025-26, the fund supported major racing events, such as:

- The 2025 Dream Chasers Festival at Sandown and the Meadows greyhound event;
- The 2026 A.G Hunter Cup and Great Southern Star harness events;
- The Caulfield Cup Carnival, Cox Plate, and Melbourne Cup Carnival;
- Metropolitan thoroughbred events such as the Manikato Stakes, Caulfield, and Mornington Easter Carnivals, and the New Year's Eve Race Day at Flemington; and
- Regional events such as the 2025 Pakenham Cup, Cranbourne Cup, and Ballarat Cup.

# Thank you.

