

**Media Release**  
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**NZ RACING INDUSTRY REMAINS VIGILANT TO PROTECT ECONOMY**

The first outbreak of EI in race horses in New South Wales is a timely reminder to all New Zealanders of the importance of the racing industry to the New Zealand economy as well as local communities across the country.

New Zealand Racing Board Chief Executive Graeme Hansen said the New Zealand racing industry is a huge contributor to the New Zealand economy producing more than 1.3% of New Zealand's gross domestic product – more than \$1.4 billion in economic activity each year.

“The underlying strength of the industry is in quintessential New Zealand with more than 40,000 people deriving their livelihoods from the racing industry, not to mention accommodation, travel, fashion and entertainment providers who all benefit from the industry's economic wellbeing.

“In the past year there were more than one million people on-course for race meetings spending in excess of \$55 million on wagering, food, beverages, transport and accommodation.

“Local race clubs are at the heart of our local communities with more than 330 community organisations sharing club facilities throughout New Zealand,” said Mr Hansen.

“In addition, the export sale of horses generates more than \$120 million each year.”

The New Zealand Racing Board alone employs 700 people and is responsible for the overall governance of racing and wagering in New Zealand as well as running the TAB. The Board broadcasts more than 9000 races each year through its Trackside Television and Radio network and recently announced that it expects to distribute \$112 million to the racing Codes this year.

“With an industry so integral to the New Zealand economy and local communities across the country it is important that we keep perspective of the serious implications of the disease,” said Mr Hansen.

ENDS

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