



Media Release
21 April 2009

New Zealand Racing Board appoints new chief executive

New Zealand Racing Board chairman Michael Stiasny today announced the appointment of Andrew Brown as the Board's new chief executive.

Mr Brown originates from Australia but has worked in the UK for the past 13 years. He has practised as a lawyer and a management consultant in Sydney, London and Paris. He was also Business Development Director of ITV Plc, Britain's largest commercial TV broadcaster.

Mr Brown brings a wealth of experience of the racing industry from his most recent position as Chief Operating Officer of Racecourse Media Group, where he founded and ran Racing UK, Turf TV, Racing International and thebettingsite.co.uk website to deliver significant profits for British racing.

He holds an MBA from INSEAD in France, as well as a Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws and a Bachelor of Science from Sydney University.

Mr Stiasny said the Board is delighted to appoint Andrew Brown to lead the next phase of the organisation's development.

"We conducted an extensive and rigorous recruitment search for a new chief executive, both in New Zealand and offshore, and the Board is pleased to have secured such a high calibre individual for this position," he said.

"Andrew brings wide experience of the racing industry and international business, which he developed through his challenging operational and strategic roles at Racecourse Media Group, ITV and Oliver Wyman," Mr Stiasny said.

The NZ Racing Board is a huge business with an annual turnover of \$1.5 billion and around 800 employees across the country, Mr Stiasny said.

"Each year the NZ Racing Board offers wagering on more than 30,000 races and last year more than 8.6 million sports bets were placed across 35,000 different options.

"The New Zealand racing industry is also an important contributor New Zealand. It generates more than \$1.4 billion in economic activity each year and around 40,000 people are involved in some capacity in supporting the industry in New Zealand."

Andrew Brown succeeds Graeme Hansen as chief executive of the NZ Racing Board and will start his new role on Monday 11 May.

"The Board would like to extend its sincere thanks to Graeme Hansen for his leadership, and commitment to delivering on initiatives, during his five years at the helm of the organisation," Mr Stiasny said.

“Graeme was instrumental in helping to revitalise and grow the racing industry in this country. He has delivered on several major initiatives that have changed the face of the industry, including the signing of a historic commingling partnership agreement with Tabcorp in Australia.”

The NZ Racing Board is a leading business in the racing, entertainment and sporting fields. It is the organisation behind all racing and sports wagering in New Zealand. It was established under legislation – the Racing Act 2003 – and merged the previous Racing Industry Board and the TAB.

Ends