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Media Statement

Racing industry holds important forum in Wellington

About 40 prominent players in the New Zealand racing industry met in Wellington today to discuss ways to address several key issues facing the industry.

The Chairs and Chief Executives of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing New Zealand and New Zealand Greyhound Racing and the Board Members of the New Zealand Racing Board organised the forum and invited a cross-section of the racing industry to take part.

New Zealand Racing Board Chairman Michael Stiasny said the racing industry was facing some big issues going forward.

“To address these issues, it is important that we have a one-industry view as to what is required and how we will go about achieving it. A co-ordinated approach is critical if we are going to gain any traction,” he said.

Mr Stiasny said the forum focused on setting the agenda for the racing industry for the next three years.

Assuming prevailing conditions hold for the rest of the Season, the New Zealand Racing Board is looking at a shortfall on its forecast distribution to Codes and Clubs, he said.

Mr Stiasny said the forum was positive and all parties had agreed it was important for the industry to have a unified approach in times of such challenge.

“We need to work together in agreeing the right sustainable model for the industry’s future prosperity,” he said.

Ends

This is a joint media statement from the New Zealand Racing Board, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing New Zealand and New Zealand Greyhound Racing.