



Media release
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Code funding to increase \$18 million next season

The New Zealand Racing Board announced today that it is to deliver an additional \$18 million in Code funding next season off the back of what has been a strong domestic summer season with encouraging export bet sales.

When the New Zealand Racing Board was established, distributions to the Codes were \$78 million. Since then, the Board's performance coupled with the net benefits of the re-alignment of tax duties, and more recently the commercial agreements entered into with Tabcorp, has enabled the Board to deliver significant increases in Code funding.

Michael Stiassny, Chairman of the New Zealand Racing Board, said "as part of the New Zealand Racing Board's agreements entered into with Tabcorp, the Board agreed to underwrite a minimum distribution of \$115 million to the Codes for the current season in recognition of each Codes commitment to supporting the changes to the way the industry needs to operate going forward."

"The financial returns from our internationalisation agreements with Tabcorp are exceeding projected outcomes and we are now in a position to deliver those benefits to the industry."

The Board expects to distribute \$119 million to the Codes for the current season, being \$4 million over the previously committed \$115 million. Additionally, funding for next season has been set at \$129m, \$14m higher than the current season interim amount. Of the additional \$18m, at least 50% will be required to go into returns to owners, with the balance available for investment in industry infrastructure.

"The growth in Code funding over the past five seasons has led to substantial increases in stakes. However, there is a significant amount of work to be done in improving on-course health and safety and increasing starter numbers," Mr Stiassny said.

Further increases are expected in the seasons ahead as the Board looks to accrue greater earnings through new revenue streams.

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