



**Media release  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Racing Minister's Announcements Welcomed by the Industry**

The Chairman of the New Zealand Racing Board, Mr Michael Stiasny, says the announcements today by the Minister for Racing, the Rt Hon Winston Peters, are significant steps in the strengthening of the industry, and therefore positive news for industry participants at all levels.

"The annual \$1million dollar fund to enhance safety and raise the quality of facilities at racecourses will be extremely well received by the network of New Zealand Racing Clubs.

"Similarly by extending the Bloodstock write down rates, the Minister has created an opportunity for New Zealand to further raise the underlying quality of its core breeding stock. Both of these initiatives are welcomed by the industry ", said Mr Stiasny, thanking the Minister for his ongoing leadership and support.

Mr Stiasny also said that the signing today of a heads of agreement between New Zealand and Victorian Racing Ministers is a further step towards the completion of the proposed commingling agreement and is good news for the industry.

New Zealand Racing Minister Winston Peters and Rob Hulls, Minister for Racing, State of Victoria, today signed an agreement recognising the important contribution made by the racing industry to the two countries' respective communities on an economic, social and cultural level.

"The agreement signed by the ministers committing both territories to a spirit of friendship and co-operation to support the Tabcorp and NZRB relationship is another major step forward towards final sign off in the establishment of a combined totalisator pool which will serve to underpin continued growth and to ensure the sustainability of the racing industry.

"It's great to see government support on both sides of the Tasman for the racing industry and their recognition that working together can only benefit the industry for everyone," Mr Stiasny said.

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