



Forbury Park

Trotting Club Inc

MEDIA RELEASE – for immediate release

FORBURY PARK TROTTING CLUB

Forbury Park Trotting Club looks ahead to exciting future

Forbury Park Trotting Club is actively engaged in opportunities to work in conjunction with the Otago Racing Club, and other interested parties to secure a prosperous future for Racing in Dunedin.

Discussion between the Harness and Thoroughbred clubs to potentially work together for the benefit of all clubs that race in Dunedin was initiated last year, after previously being looked at around 10 years ago. At the time circumstances existed which meant the clubs did not proceed.

Forbury Park is recognised within the industry as having a high quality track and facilities, however both its coastal and residential location, brings with it operating and capital expenditure costs that are not sustainable long term, without substantial investment and an increase in race dates.

The Otago/Southland Tri-code Racing review commissioned by NZ Racing, and released today, has therefore recommended that Forbury Park, the venue owned and operated by the club in Dunedin, be closed.

While there is sadness at the prospect of relocating from its iconic location, the club is looking ahead to its next chapter, by potentially partnering with local and central government, racing codes, private enterprise and South Dunedin community groups. The club intends to facilitate the development of Forbury Park in a way that contributes to positive social, economic, environmental and community outcomes for South Dunedin together with seeking the reinvestment of racing funds from the sale of Forbury back into another shared Dunedin location.

Forbury Park Trotting Club Board Chairperson, Craig Paddon said “While we don’t necessarily agree with all aspects of the report it does reflect the work and conversations that the club has been having over the past 12 months, as we plan ahead and seek to grow all racing in Dunedin and secure a sustainable and prosperous future. The club intends exploring the opportunity to develop an all-weather multi-code Racing Hub and Equestrian Centre of Excellence either on a Greenfields site locally or at Wingatui, while potentially supporting positive community outcomes for Dunedin”.

Both relocation options are being actively considered, and will be guided by input from both racing clubs and codes, as well as partner agencies as a business case is developed.

Mr Paddon believes that by working in collaboration with partners involved in the South Dunedin Futures programme, both the clubs and the community have the opportunity to be involved and to realise the benefits creating a win-win situation for all parties.

Local Taieri MP Ingrid Leary is supportive of the clubs vision and plan and believes the opportunity for both local and central government, the private sector and community groups to work with the clubs to secure the future of racing in Dunedin, while achieving social enterprise and climate change outcomes for South Dunedin is hugely exciting and a once in a generation opportunity.

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“It is rare to have such alignment of purpose amongst so many disparate authorities and organisations. However, the opportunity that presents itself at this time is hugely exciting for South Dunedin and the social and economic development of the electorate. There is a coalition of the willing to bring that to fruition. The timing is incredibly fortunate and today’s announcement by NZ Racing take us a step closer to realising that vision, yet there is still much work to do over the coming months.”

Ends.

For more information please contact:

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