



Wednesday, 18 July 2018

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **The Kosciuszko – The world’s richest country race**

The Honourable Paul Toole MP, Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing today announced the world’s richest country race will now be held on Everest Day at Royal Randwick, with a new \$1.3 million race – The Kosciuszko. The race will be restricted to only NSW country trained horses who will get a chance to compete on the biggest day of racing in Australia with more than \$16 million of prizemoney on offer.

Through a joint venture promotion with the Australian Hotels Association (‘AHA’), Tabcorp (‘TAB’) and Racing NSW, members of the public will be able to buy \$5.00 tickets to win a chance to own a part share in a horse for The Kosciuszko race.

Tickets in the Kosciuszko promotion will be exclusively sold at all NSW AHA hotels that feature a TAB outlet. Tickets can be purchased at the TAB Electronic Betting Terminals in the same way as a normal TAB ticket. Also, selected hotels will have dedicated Eftpos terminals that will exclusively sell the Kosciuszko tickets.

There will be 12 winning tickets drawn. Each winning ticket holder will then have an entry in The Kosciuszko and can select a NSW country trained horse to race in their entry, subject to agreeing with the horse’s owners as to how they will share the prizemoney for the race. Racing NSW can assist the winning ticket holders in identifying horses for selection.

Tickets in the Kosciuszko promotion go on sale on Thursday 19 July 2018 and the draw will be held on 14 September 2018.

The Honourable Paul Toole MP, Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing said “The race is a great way to showcase NSW country-trained horses, giving them the chance to compete at one of Australia’s biggest days of racing.

I congratulate Racing NSW on this exciting new initiative to support regional NSW racing, which plays such a vital role in cities and towns across the state.

With the recent success of The Everest and The Championships, the NSW racing industry continues to go from strength to strength.”

“This is an exciting new concept involving the public which will further stimulate racing in Country NSW”, said Russell Balding AO, Racing NSW Chairman.

Lion Beer Australia will be sponsoring The Kosciuszko race in association with its Kosciuszko beer brand which shares the same name. Lion’s Managing Director James Brindley said “The company had a long association with racing in Australia and its support for The Kosciuszko will continue this great tradition. It is fitting that the race and the beer

are both named after Australia's highest peak – perfect to showcase the pinnacle of Country racing and the very best in brewing.”

Racing NSW will also be contributing \$125,000 from the sale of tickets in the Kosciuszko promotion to the Aussie Helpers charity to support NSW farmers.

The Kosciuszko race will be run over 1200m and will be run at set weights and penalties, with eligibility restricted to horses trained in Country NSW as at 18 July 2018.

John Whelan AHA NSW Chief Executive Officer said “In country towns across NSW the local pubs and the racing community have supported each other for over a century. We're thrilled to back the world's richest country race.”

“We really think our patrons, especially our hotel punters clubs, will get behind this exciting opportunity. For the cost of a \$5 ticket it gives everyone the chance to 'own' a runner in a \$1.3 million race on Everest Day.”

Adam Rytenskild Tabcorp Managing Director - Wagering and Media said “Its genuinely exciting for TAB to be part of the inaugural Kosciuszko supporting our partners, Racing NSW and the AHA. The innovative thinking behind The Kosciuszko will engage punters, owners, industry and ultimately racegoers as The Everest builds to one of the world's most exciting and unique race days. It will be such a thrill for everyone connected to the twelve runners in The Kosciuszko, including the Hotels where the sweepstake tickets were sold.”

For further information please contact Mr Peter V'landys by phone on (02) 9551 7555.