



Tuesday, 11 October 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

Racing NSW announces Emergency Funding Relief package for Southern, Central and Western Districts trainers and owners

Racing NSW today announced an emergency funding relief package of up to \$500,000 for trainers and owners in the Southern Districts (SDRA) and Central-West regions (CDWRA) following a prolonged stretch of wet weather and storm damage.

“The funding relief is a response to the uncharacteristically high rate of abandoned race meetings in the Southern and Western regions in the past six weeks,” said Mr Peter V’landys AM, Racing NSW’s Chief Executive.

“The incredibly high rate of abandonments has affected trainers in particular, who have to pay their staff and continue running costs. Racing NSW is fully committed to our participants and this was the appropriate action to compensate the trainers and their owners

It was estimated that approximately 400 individual horses trained in either SDRA or CDWRA have missed a start at least one of the 13 cancelled meetings in the last six weeks. Horses also missed significant trackwork due to damage or closed tracks and training facilities, hindering their preparation to race.

There is also funding available on application for any significant storm damage caused to a trainer’s property or supplies by the severe rain, wind and flooding. Trainers in the worst affected areas will be contacted and invited to make application for lost equipment, supplies or damage sustained to stabling, etc.

“In addition to the lack of racing opportunities, there has been storm damage suffered by trainers,” Mr V’landys added. “Racing NSW is conscious of the extra financial burden this causes and will assist with funding to replace or replenish supplies and equipment.”

NSWTA Chief Executive, Glenn Burge, welcomed the news: “It has been a very tough period for those in the worst affected regions, keeping horses prepared to find meeting after meeting cancelled or postponed due to persistent rain. We are delighted that Racing NSW has come up with a package of financial support above the normal flood relief fund.

“With the financial support and the commitment to adding extra meetings - or races on a program - where possible into November, the financial pressure is being relieved,” Mr Burge added.

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