

Melton sprint lane extended to 190m from Friday

The sprint lane at Tabcorp Park Melton will be extended to open at the 190-metre mark following a submission to Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) from the Victorian Trainers and Drivers Association (VTDA) and analysis of wagering data collected during a trial period of the extended sprint lane earlier this year.

The sprint lane extension trial was announced in March and ran until late May. It was determined that a marginal benefit to wagering was recorded at Melton during the trial period, but more pertinent was feedback from the VTDA which pointed to safety benefits for horses as the longer sprint lane meant transition into the sprint lane was easier on a horse's legs.

"The lengthening of the sprint lane made racing safer and easier on a horse, as a driver could ease into the sprint lane progressively. This transition ensured less stress on a horse's legs," VTDA President Lance Justice said. "With that in mind the Association welcomes this move."

HRV CEO David Martin said ensuring the wellbeing of horses was paramount and thanked the VTDA for its valuable feedback regarding the sprint lane.

"Today's outcome is a wonderful example of the industry working together," Mr Martin said.

"The welfare of our horses is a priority we're all responsible for and I really appreciate feedback from the VTDA regarding the sprint lane extension at Melton."

The sprint lane will be 190m from this Friday's Tabcorp Park Melton meeting (August 17).

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