

MEDIA RELEASE



THOROUGHBRED RACING SA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plastic running rails to be installed at SA tracks

Thoroughbred Racing SA has announced the staged introduction of plastic running rails in South Australia, with the State's main racetracks scheduled to be upgraded over the next three years.

Morphettville (both the Main and Parks tracks), Gawler and Murray Bridge will be the first to have plastic running rails installed over the next six months.

CEO Jim Watters said the TRSA Board had made the decision following extensive research into the benefits of using plastic running rails.

"The South Australian Jockeys' Association were keen to see plastic running rails introduced as has been done in most States in Australia," Mr Watters said.

"However the Board wanted to be sure that previously identified problems such as the possibility of reduced longevity of plastic due to UV damage had been resolved before committing to the roll-out. We also wanted to ensure we were able to gain feedback from participants who were using the new rail on a regular basis.

"TRSA established a working party to look thoroughly at the issues and its recommendation to proceed has now been endorsed by the Board."

Mr Watters said Balaklava and Strathalbyn would be upgraded in the 2013/14 financial year with the roll-out to Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier and Port Augusta tracks intended to follow in 2014/15 as funding permits.

"At a capital cost of \$415,000 for this year's roll-out and a total of \$815,000 across the nine main racecourses, this is a very significant investment required by the industry to implement this project which is why TRSA has established what we believe is an appropriate timeline," Mr Watters said.

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