

MEDIA RELEASE



THOROUGHBRED RACING SA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Funding commitment welcomed

A commitment from State Opposition leader Steven Marshall to provide \$15 million towards the Murray Bridge Racing Club development has been welcomed by both the club and industry body Thoroughbred Racing SA (TRSA).

The funding, provided under a Marshall Liberal Government, would restart the stalled development, which involves a state-of-the-art racecourse, associated equine training and racing facilities and a multipurpose function and conference centre with a 700-person capacity.

It also involves the development of the current racecourse in Murray Bridge to be utilised for 3,500 new homes across 350 hectares.

The planned \$35 million equine precinct would see the current racecourse moved 2km to a larger site on Brinkley Road.

Murray Bridge Racing Club Chairman Reg Nolan said the development has the potential to become one of the best equine centres in Australia.

“We are tremendously excited with Mr Marshall’s announcement and the promise to stimulate employment and growth in Murray Bridge,” he said.

“The development will have significant economic flow-on effects for the area and secure a brand new, modern racetrack that could become the jewel in the crown of South Australian racing.

“It will allow Murray Bridge to become the largest thoroughbred training centre in the State, providing revenue to the club, the industry and the local area.”

The development is a joint project between the State and Federal Governments, the Murray Bridge Racing Club, TRSA and the private sector.

TRSA Chief Executive Jim Watters also praised the commitment.

“TRSA has been working hard over many years to support the club with its plan,” he said.

“The development is an outstanding opportunity for the Murray Bridge region, not only will there be a brand new, state-of-the-art racecourse, but most importantly it will provide the development and completion of a community function and conference centre.

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“This is an asset currently lacking in the region and the completion of the facility will lead to a direct increase in employment opportunities in the region, while enhancing the growth of conference and tourism opportunities.

“It will benefit the State of South Australia, the Murray Bridge community, the thoroughbred racing industry and the Murray Bridge Racing Club.”

The all-new outer turf track will have a circumference of 2160m, a width of 30m and a home straight of approximately 450m. The inner track will measure 1996m in circumference with a width of 20m. The site will also include a sand training track approximately 1600m in length.

The new function and spectator facilities will be spread over two levels and provide member and public dining areas, function areas, offices, bars and a betting concourse, as well as race-day services for jockeys and stewards.

The plan also has some outstanding environmental features. More than 30% of the total site will be allocated to open space, native vegetation protection, training facilities and services, including a 500 metre wooded buffer zone next to the freeway.

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