



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 23 July 2015

Highway Races a Boost to Country Participants

Racing NSW today announced the addition of a ninth race to metropolitan Saturday race programs restricted only to country-trained horses providing an entry level opportunity to race in Sydney.

Commencing from 1 December 2015, Saturday meetings in Sydney will feature Highway Handicap under the following conditions:

- a. Restricted to bona fide country-trained and domiciled horses
- b. Races programmed at Class 2 or 3 level, with a mix of handicap and Plate races
- c. Prizemoney of \$40,000, equivalent to the midweek level
- d. Run at a variety of distances between 1000m and 1800m inclusive
- e. Run at approximately 40 Sydney Saturday meetings

“Initiatives like the Highway Handicap have only become possible given the NSW State Government announcement on Wagering Tax Parity,” said Racing NSW’s Chief Executive, Peter V’landys AM.

“Accordingly, we again express our immense appreciation to the Baird Government and in particular the Deputy Premier and Racing Minister Troy Grant.

“The Highway races will provide country trainers the encouragement to tackle city racing and give country owners the added thrill of having their horse race in Sydney on a Saturday.

“This represents an important further step by Racing NSW to build the vibrancy of racing in this State by featuring our crucial country sector,” Mr V’landys added.

For more information please contact Mr Peter V’landys AM, Racing NSW Chief Executive, by phone on (02) 9551 7556.