



Media Release

RACING AUSTRALIA PATTERN and DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

At its recent bi-annual meeting the Racing Australia Pattern and Development Committee considered a total of 12 races eligible for upgrade and determined that 8 races would be recommended for upgrade to the Board of Racing Australia.

These races are:

- Warwick Stakes (ATC) be upgraded to Group 1 from Group 2
- Surround Stakes (ATC) be upgraded to Group 1 from Group 2
- Sheraco Stakes (ATC) be upgraded to Group 2 from Group 3
- Breeders' Plate (ATC) be upgraded to Group 3 from Listed
- ATC Gimcrack Stakes (ATC) be upgraded to Group 3 from Listed
- Premier's Cup (ATC) be upgraded to Group 3 from Listed
- Northam Sprint (Northam Race Club) be upgraded to Group 3 from Listed
- Hawkesbury Gold Rush (Hawkesbury Race Club) be upgraded to Listed

The Racing Australia Pattern and Development Committee apply international criteria in determining Black Type status to ensure consistency and credibility both domestically and internationally.

"The 8 races recommended for upgrade enjoy a reputation for quality and are supported by owners and trainers alike and add to the Pattern including Provincial areas of Australia." Ms Frances Nelson QC Chair of the Committee said today.

In addition to approving the 8 upgrades, Racing Australia also agreed to the Racing Australia Pattern and Development Committee's recommendation to place a moratorium on any downgrade of Pattern Races run at a distance of 2400 meters and up.

This means these races will not be subject to downgrade (unless voluntarily) for 4 years (from 2016/17—2019/20) when the position will be reviewed.

"The Committee is keen to ensure that staying races remain an integral part of the Australian racing calendar. We'll use the moratorium period to strive to develop a strategic plan to further enhance and improve the Stayers' Program," Ms Nelson QC said.

For further information:

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