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MEDIA RELEASE

BRITAIN ADOPTS RACING AUSTRALIA'S EQUINE WELFARE REFORMS

Equine welfare measures introduced last year by Racing Australia are now being adopted internationally as Thoroughbred racing seeks to further improve integrity and traceability across the global industry.

Releasing the industry's 2017 Annual Report, Chair Frances Nelson QC said Racing Australia was pleased its reforms were being introduced to British racing on 1 January 2018.

"The British Horseracing Authority's decision to adopt our foal ownership and traceability reforms are further recognition of the international standing held by the Australian Thoroughbred racing industry" Ms Nelson said.

"Its decision follows October's International Stud Book Committee meeting where the Australian reforms were discussed. The ISBC represents 66 countries with approved stud books.

The BHA's action again highlights the innovation which has always been a feature of Australian racing.

It is also a tribute to the vision of former Racing Australia chair, John Messara AM.

These reforms didn't come easily to the industry but, with John Messara's strong leadership and the Board's determination, Australian breeders and owners can now point to their commitment to world leading welfare standards."

New rules introduced on 1 August 2016 require Foal Ownership Declarations to be lodged within 30 days of foaling and owners must advise the Australian Stud Book of any subsequent change in the location of the foal and ownership interest.

In October 2016 the Australian Rules of Racing were amended to allow Stewards access to studs and farms to test for anabolic steroids in young horses, prohibited substances in racehorses and to monitor the health and welfare of horses in general.

"These reforms build on changes made in 2015 requiring owners and trainers to inform Racing Australia of the date of the retirement of racehorses and their retirement destination" Ms Nelson said.

"Together these measures, especially the full traceability of all horses, represent the most significant integrity and equine welfare reforms in modern racing history" Ms Nelson concluded.

The Annual Report details the destination of retired racehorses in 2016/17, including 19% going into breeding and 65% becoming participants in equestrian activities such as dressage, eventing and show jumping.

11 DECEMBER 2017

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A copy of the annual report can be found at: www.racingaustralia.horse

Note: Racing Australia is the peak national body of the Australian Thoroughbred racing industry responsible for the Australian Rules of Racing, the integrity of Thoroughbred breeding through the Australian Stud Book and maintaining the ownership and identity information of Thoroughbred horses either racing locally or for export through the Registrar of Racehorses.