



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **457 Visa Modifications Welcomed**

Racing Australia has welcomed Federal Government modifications to Australia's skilled migration occupation lists to address genuine skills shortages across the thoroughbred racing and breeding industry.

Racing Australia CEO, Barry O'Farrell, said the 457 visa modifications would be applauded by the 65,000 people working in the industry across regional and metropolitan areas.

*"Racing Australia commends Immigration Minister Peter Dutton's early acknowledgement of the potential problems faced by the thoroughbred racing and breeding industry and his department's efforts to resolve them.*

*Mr Dutton was very clear: if we could demonstrate the proposed changes would damage Australia's \$5 billion racing industry he would act.*

*Working with all industry sectors, we prepared a strong case and we're delighted Mr Dutton has responded positively.*

*We also acknowledge the strong support of Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce.*

*Our use of skilled migration visas is relatively small compared to other industries, but those who are employed fill roles that are critical to the ongoing operation of the horse racing and breeding sectors.*

*Today's decision provides the certainty required by those responsible for managing the operation of Australia's thoroughbred studs, stables and racetracks.*

*Racing Australia looks forward to working with Federal and State Governments to ensure the new Skilling Australians Fund helps to equip Australians with the skills and training required to fill critical jobs in horse racing and breeding" Mr O'Farrell said.*

Mr O'Farrell said Racing Australia's efforts would not have succeeded without the strong support of individuals and industry groups across thoroughbred racing.

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*For further information: Barry O'Farrell, Chief Executive Officer, Racing Australia*