

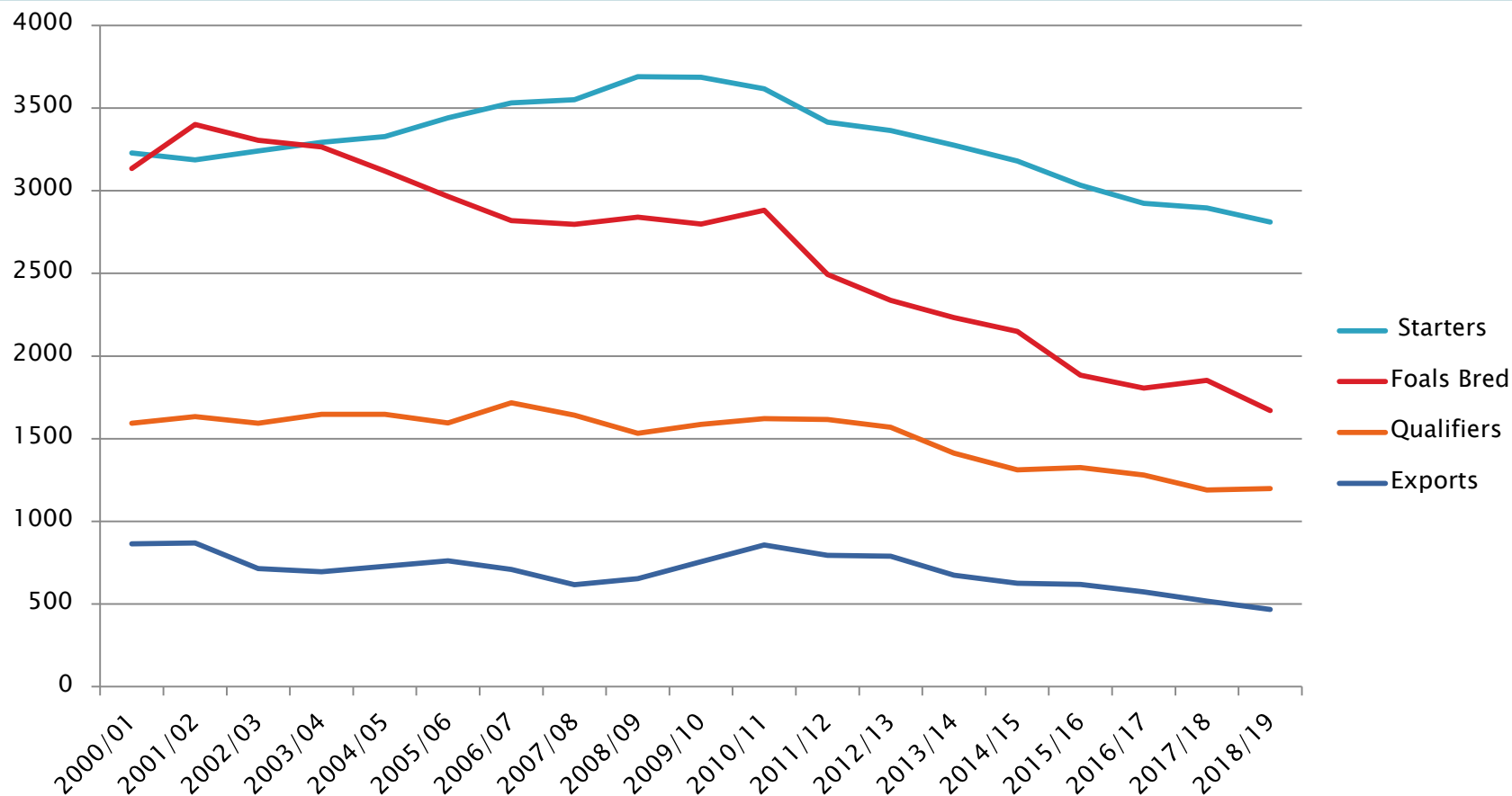
RACING & HANDICAPPING PRESENTATION



INTRODUCTION

- ▶ **SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW**
- ▶ **THE RATING SYSTEM – OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY**
- ▶ **THE RATING SYSTEM TO THIS POINT**
- ▶ **WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS**

THE CURRENT SITUATION



STATISTICAL COMPARISONS

	2008/09		2013/14		2018/19
Races Run	2847	-->	2818	-->	2479
Foals Bred	2840	-->	2233	-->	1670
Horses Exported	654	-->	675	-->	467
Qualified to Race	1532	-->	1412	-->	1199
Number of Starters	3689	-->	3275	-->	2811
Average Field Size (all races)	11.6	-->	10.5	-->	10.8
Starts per Horse	9.0	-->	9.1	-->	9.5
Total Stakes	\$37,153,926	-->	\$29,798,006	-->	\$34,142,707
Average Stakes per Race	\$13,050	-->	\$10,574	-->	\$13,773
Total Turnover	\$272,936,835	-->	\$240,683,134	-->	\$197,949,371

KEY K.P.I. STATISTICS

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Totalisator Races	2595	2492	2481	2469
Average Field Size	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.8
Total Starters	3034	2924	2895	2807
Starters to Races Ratio	1.17	1.17	1.17	1.14
Average Starts per horse	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.5
Races with less then 8	254	246	245	235
by %	9.8%	9.9%	9.9%	9.5%
Races w/ favs' under \$2.00	791	612	596	567
by %	30.5%	24.6%	24.0%	23.0%
Races w/ favs' under \$1.50	284	175	169	161
by %	10.9%	7.0%	6.8%	6.5%
Net stake average	\$10,969	\$11,849	\$13,153	\$13,528

WHY WE MOVED TO A RATING SYSTEM

- ▶ **Initiated by Trainers & Drivers via submission**
- ▶ **Lack of opportunities for average-to-poor maiden horses**
- ▶ **Extend the racing life of those good enough to only win one race**
- ▶ **Concessions viewed as too favourable to “better” horses, creating mismatches in races**
- ▶ **Drop-back system caused a bottleneck in lower grades**

OBJECTIVES OF THE RATING SYSTEM

- ▶ **More competitive fields, with greater punter appeal**
- ▶ **Larger fields, with horses racing more often**
- ▶ **Fewer fav's winning & higher average winning dividends.**
- ▶ **Create a variety of opportunities for the horse population**
- ▶ **Provide harness racing with the handicapping system best equipped to handle declining horse numbers**

HOW TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES

- ▶ **Extend the racing life of the numerous average racehorses**
- ▶ **Moderate concessions viewed as too favourable to “better” horses**
- ▶ **Create more fluidity within the system allowing horses to move up and down racing population**
- ▶ **More open programming to create ‘like with like’ racing**
- ▶ **Effectively handicap horses on overall performance**

HOW WE'VE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT

- ▶ **Moving to a rating system was never going to address all issues – it is just not possible to please all of the people all of the time**
- ▶ **Adjustments since implementation were necessary**
- ▶ **Age Group concessions adjusted & to create better balance**
- ▶ **Moderated winners' points to slow upward movement**
- ▶ **Discretion has been largely removed from the Handicappers**
- ▶ **Stakes structure & Handicapping coming into line**

RATINGS TRENDS

Pacers										
	NW	R40-R49	R50-R55	R56-R60	R61-R70	R71-R80	R81-R90	R91-R00	R101+	Totals
2017	772	205	290	152	119	52	26	16	23	1655
2019	754	306	280	120	110	40	14	12	15	1651
Variance	-18	101	-10	-32	-9	-12	-12	-4	-8	-4
Trotters										
	NW	R40-R49	R50-R55	R56-R60	R61-R70	R71-R80	R81-R90	R91-R00	R101+	Totals
2017	206	98	116	45	48	15	24	20	14	586
2019	230	124	137	47	58	19	17	8	10	650
Variance	24	26	21	2	10	4	-7	-12	-4	64

RECENT HANDICAPPING SYSTEM CHANGES

- ▶ **Removing most discretion**
- ▶ **Enhanced concessions for 2YOs**
- ▶ **Adaptation of the Race Winners' Matrix**
- ▶ **Rating caps lowered for age group horses**
- ▶ **Multiple winners will not drop below R45**
- ▶ **More structure to re-rating of unplaced horses**

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- ▶ **Meet harness racing's obligations to RITA/TAB**
- ▶ **Continue to monitor and review perceived areas of weakness within the system**
- ▶ **Providing races that the customer wants to bet on**
- ▶ **Ensure no racing groups or sectors are disadvantaged**
- ▶ **Encouraging more quality age group racing**
- ▶ **Create viable pathways for a wide spectrum of horses**
- ▶ **Monitor the Australian Ratings Handicapping System**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- ▶ **Try to leave the system to develop as it is now**
- ▶ **Closely monitor trends and balance of the system**
- ▶ **Any future changes should only be minor in nature**
- ▶ **Review other aspects of racing in an effort to make further improvements; e.g. Preferential Draw Grids, Club Policies**
- ▶ **Use other tools such as stakes structures & programming to aid the system**
- ▶ **Better utilisation of horses on a regional basis via; dates, programming, race numbers, stake levels**

? QUESTION TIME ?

