

22 April 2020

To: The Minister of Racing

Re: Funding of the Racing Industry by RITA

The New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association is most concerned about what is happening to the funding of racing going forward through COVID-19.

During the Lockdown we have had weekly meetings with our code body NZTR about how we manage returning to racing and have procedures, protocols and a draft calendar in place, however we have no idea how this will all be funded.

It appears the codes (NZTR, HRNZ, NZGA) hands are tied and they are not being told by RITA what funding will be available to them to provide stake money and fund race meetings, which in turn generates turnover and income for RITA.

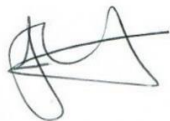
The livelihood and businesses of our 1400 members and their employees is at stake here and RITA have given us nothing to reassure us that we will in fact have an industry post COVID-19. Owners will not return their horses to work in local stables without some indication of what they are racing for, and many will in fact send their horses off shore.

Our association had grave concerns around the solvency of RITA prior to COVID-19 but were optimistic that your new Racing Act would solve that problem. We appreciate that the Minister has other portfolios to maintain, but we know how much you have invested in the Racing Industry in New Zealand recognising the old Racing Board was a "dead horse", and presenting us with the Messara Review as a way forward.

We find this situation with RITA unacceptable and seek your in helping making RITA accountable to our industry stakeholders. This is a view shared by our fellow stakeholders the New Zealand Trainers Association and the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Federation.

Yours sincerely

NZTBA



Justine Sclater
CEO NZTBA