

(QUARTER TWO – FEBRUARY 2011)

➤ Maximise Vision Exposure

- Esperance Sky Coverage: Sky2 commenced broadcasting (via SNG) the Esperance Bay Turf Club's 2010/11 racing season in late November 2010. The first meeting for the year (Friday 7th January 2011) was up 136% (TAB turnover) on last year's early January meeting average. Three of the eight races on that day were telecast into Singapore for the first time.

➤ Ensure Training Sustainability:

- RWWA has been working with the five key thoroughbred training venues – Ascot, Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie to determine the most up-to-date training costs borne by the respective Clubs. Four of the five Clubs have submitted costings and RWWA will be assessing both the relative cost burden and necessary user-pays ratio with Clubs over the coming months.

➤ Transition Club Funding Model:

- RWWA hosted a meeting in early October 2010 with WAPTRA Clubs to discuss an Event vs Fixture club funding fee model. The meeting determined that all clubs provide RWWA with their basic raceday costings. All Clubs have now submitted these costings and RWWA is assessing the variables based on geography, raceday and quantum of meetings.

➤ Enhance participant Pool:

- Principal Racing Authorities around Australia have entered arrangements with the Australian Jockeys' Association (AJA) and State Jockey Associations by providing the equivalent of 1% of all annual thoroughbred stake money for jockey and apprentice welfare and support. RWWA contributes over \$500,000 annually towards this scheme through jockey and apprentice Public Liability, Personal Accident, a Career Benefit Scheme and other welfare programs.
- One of the welfare initiatives agreed between RWWA and the Western Australian Jockeys' Association has been to engage the services of Sportsmed Subiaco, a consultant sports doctor service to oversee jockey and apprentice riding injuries and the early benefits of this partnership are being noticed already. The service is headed up by the Medical Director Dr Gerard Taylor, who has worked in Sports Medicine for 17 years and is the team doctor for the West Coast Eagles. The partnership is already paying dividends for some of our sport's athletes. Ben Kennedy suffered a serious fracture of his wrist in a race fall on 6 October 2010 from Giant's Island at Belmont Park. Following surgery on the wrist, he was initially not expected to return to race riding until mid to late February, but after receiving a clearance at the end of last week, Ben took 7 trial rides on Monday and returned to race riding on Wednesday 22 December some 6 weeks ahead of schedule. Duncan Miller has also received the benefit of the partnership. Breaking his collarbone in a fall after the post at Bunbury on 24 November, he underwent surgery to insert a plate under the medical team's guidance and he returned to race riding 15 December, spending only 3 weeks on the sidelines. And most recently, Grant Lemos fell at Narrogin on 18 December, and whilst transported to Narrogin Hospital for observation, Dr Taylor was advised of the fall and the hospital that he was being transported to – enabling him to speak to the doctor on duty, and arranged to see Grant on the following morning, (Sunday 19th December), at his Clinic at St John of God, Subiaco, where he diagnosed a fracture of P12 vertebra. Whilst this can be a long term injury, Dr Taylor has arranged to see Grant again in mid-January, with expectation that a return as early as February may be possible. The feedback from the apprentices and jockeys has been very positive, giving them full confidence in the advice and support they now receive, but most of all, getting them back to race riding much faster what has occurred in many previous cases

➤ Market and Promote Product:

- RWWA will be hosting a 2011 Tri-Code Racing Symposium on Friday 15th April 2011 at Burswood. Peter McGauran, CEO, Thoroughbred Breeders Australia (TBA) and Jo McKinnon, Host, Sky Channel's Racing Retro, will be in attendance, while Australian Racing Board CEO, Andrew Harding and Chair of the Australian Pattern Committee, Alan Brown, have also been invited as special guests.
- An idea for promoting the racing industry in the Peel Region has developed into a specific tri-code racing project, entitled the Peel Racing, Pacing and Chasing Festival – a two day event to be held over Easter (25-26 April) 2011. The three codes, represented by the Pinjarra Race Club, Pinjarra Harness Racing Club and the Mandurah Greyhounds have jointly agreed to hold the tri-code event, with the emphasis on family entertainment - not only racing - as the drawcard. Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA) have offered their full support for the Festival. The two municipalities (Mandurah and Murray) and the Peel Tourism Association are working on developing ancillary events and tourism packages that can be leveraged off the Festival. The expectation is that if the first Festival is a success, it will be incorporated into the racing calendar as an annual event. . In 2011, the Festival will incorporate the following meetings:
 - Monday 25th April 2011 – Pinjarra Harness Racing Club (DAY)
 - Tuesday 26th April 2011 – Pinjarra Race Club (DAY); Mandurah Greyhounds (NIGHT)

➤ Infrastructure:

- First-round applications for the Racecourse Infrastructure Grants Programme (RIGP) have been received and reviewed by RWWA with a schedule of recommendations submitted to the Minister for Racing. The Minister for Racing, the Hon Terry Waldron, has given in-principle agreement to the RWWA recommendations and will be notifying Clubs in due course. The first round of funding assistance focused heavily on OHS, safety, integrity and current sustainable racing projects. The next round of considerations will include the following:
 - Infrastructure projects relating to welfare, safety, OHS and sustainability of racing;
 - Projects which can demonstrate a clubs ability to generate revenue streams from oncourse operations (eg. Public facilities which can be utilised for both racing and non-racing outcomes);
 - Wagering Infrastructure (where it can be demonstrated that the on-course experience can deliver a greater monetary return to the club
- Further expressions of interest and applications will be sought during the first quarter of 2011 for infrastructure funding within the RIGP with all Clubs receiving early notification in coming weeks. For those Clubs seeking assistance through Royalties for Regions, applications for contestable grants are open and close with the respective Regional Development Commissions on 10 March, 2011.

➤ Consultation:

- RWWA recently conducted further seasonal outreach consultation sessions at Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Northam, Pinjarra and Narrogin. CEO, Richard Burt, presented an update on the Code Strategic Plans, while also providing an overview of RWWA's financial indicators and Retail Revitalisation programme.
- The next round of consultation will be in the form of the 2011 WA Tri-Code Racing Symposium on Friday 15th April at Burswood. Further details will be forthcoming.

➤ Breeding:

- Westspeed bonus payments for the period 1 August 2010 – 25 November 2010 are up 3% on last season's equivalent period. The next quarterly update will reference the bonus payments til end March 2011.

