



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **Planned 125% Stakes Increase - 2YO Westbred Classics**

WA's premier races for 2YO's, the WestBred Classics, will be increased to \$225,000 in the 2022/23 racing season.

RWWA made this announcement today to coincide with the start of the breeding season. Any WestBred colt, gelding or filly born in the 2020/21 season will be eligible to contest the \$225,000 races.

WA's WestBred Bonus Scheme supports and rewards the breeders and owners of Western Australian bred horses. A WestBred eligible horse is a horse foaled, notified, registered and branded in Western Australia.

For eligible horses a WestBred Owner and Breeder bonus is payable on any 2 or 3 year old race where the total advertised stake is less than \$20,000 and where the horse is placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th.

A WestBred eligible horse sired by a stallion residing and standing in WA at the time of service will be eligible for the Double WestBred Bonus. A double WestBred eligible horse that wins a 2yo or 3yo race receives double the Owner and Breeder bonuses.

RWWA Harness Racing Manager, Kerry Hanks, said "The Westbred Classic 2YO Fillies and Westbred 2YO Colts & Geldings races were increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in 2013. This latest planned increase is part of RWWA's WestBred Review."

"Finer details and other outcomes of the Westbred Review will be released early next year."

"The percentage split in stake money for the upgraded Westbred 2YO Classics will be varied to see 50% go to the winners of these races; the other 50% will be distributed to ensure a higher return for all placings, including those placed from 6<sup>th</sup> to last."

"Breeders of the horses placed first to third will continue to receive the current Breeders Bonus of \$5000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively"

WA BOTRA President, Warren Robinson, commented he was pleased with the planned stakes increase and was hopeful the knowledge of the increased stakes would be an encouragement for people to consider breeding this season. He welcomed the change in stakes percentages.

WASBA President, Jeanine Diederich, also expressed support for the stakes increase and the change to the stakes percentages to runners in these races, which she believed would provide more encouragement to current owners and breeders, and anyone considering purchasing at the WA Yearling Sales. She commented it was a good initiative as part of the Westbred Review, with other changes from the Westbred Review also expected to be positive.