



The Honourable Kevin Anderson MP
Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation

Our reference: BN-01808-2020

Mr Jim Douglass
President
United Harness Racing Association
By email: wallymann@bigpond.com

Dear Mr Douglass

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic crisis had a significant impact on the NSW racing industry and I understand that this is a challenging time for participants of all racing codes.

The current situation is unprecedented and the NSW Government, along with the Commonwealth Government, is focused on ensuring that the response to COVID-19 protects public health while minimising economic impacts.

Both the NSW and Commonwealth governments are closely monitoring the effects COVID-19 on the economy and working with stakeholders to offer support and guidance. To assist your organisation in identifying appropriate assistance, some information about NSW and Commonwealth government measures is provided below.

Commonwealth Government assistance

The Commonwealth Government's \$320 billion economic stimulus package includes temporary relief measures for financially distressed businesses, initiatives to help retain apprentices and trainees, and a subsidy to allow businesses to continue to pay their employees.

More information about the federal economic stimulus package can be found on the Australian Government Treasury website (<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses>). This website includes information about the JobKeeper payment, which supports businesses to maintain their employees during this challenging period (<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper>).

NSW Government assistance

The NSW Government is providing a range of COVID-19 support measures, including personalised business support and resources for employees and job seekers. The NSW Government's COVID-19 advice hub provides further information on these measures (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>).

The NSW Treasury website provides further information regarding assistance measures for small businesses and sole traders (www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/Covid-19Stimulus). The NSW Treasury is also considering a number of financial stimulus and support opportunities from a whole-of-Government perspective.

Information can also be provided by Service NSW, which is working with federal, state and local government and the private sector to bring resources together on all available support. For non-health related COVID-19 enquiries you can contact the Service NSW contact centre 24 hours per day, seven days per week by phoning 13 77 88. Businesses can also request a call back or find resources by visiting the Service NSW website (<https://mybusiness.service.nsw.gov.au/concierge>).

All businesses in NSW are required under WHS legislation to take action to manage the risk of COVID-19 to workers and all others in the work environment. Businesses must comply with national and state public health directions in relation to COVID-19.

I understand that there are new challenges in keeping employers and workers safe and recommend that you to visit the SafeWork NSW website for up to date information on workplace health and safety requirements (www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/COVID-19-Coronavirus/safework-covid-19-important-information).

I would encourage your organisation to explore the support measures offered by both the NSW and Commonwealth governments. I also suggest that you distribute relevant information to your members and staff. As the Minister responsible for the racing portfolio, I will continue to advocate on behalf of the NSW racing industry during consideration of specific support measures by the NSW Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Kevin Anderson MP
Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation

Date: 23/06/20