



WELLINGTON RACING CLUB

TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026

AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members will be aware that NZ Thoroughbred Racing has now released the independent One Equine View and National Masterplan as part of Project Stamina. The report recommends a significant reduction in the number of racecourses nationwide and identifies Trentham as one of the venues proposed to cease racing over time.

The report assumes that the lower North Island can be adequately serviced by Awapuni and Hastings as the region's two premier thoroughbred venues. While that is the recommendation, it is important to remember that no final decisions have been made. NZTR has confirmed there will be further consultation with affected clubs before any implementation decisions are taken.

Your committee is carefully digesting the report and considering what it means for our Club, our members, and the wider racing industry. We will take the time to fully understand the recommendations, test the assumptions that underpin them, and engage constructively through the next stages of the process.

We also believe it is important that any decisions about the future of racing are based on evidence and experience. Over recent seasons, when both Awapuni and Hastings were unavailable because of track issues, Trentham ensured quality thoroughbred racing in the lower North Island continued uninterrupted. Our course has repeatedly demonstrated its reliability, resilience, and ability to host premier racing when the industry has needed it most. That practical experience should be an important consideration as the future racing footprint is evaluated.

The Wellington Racing Club has a proud history of adapting and evolving, and we will continue to advocate strongly for a future that recognises Trentham's strategic importance. Not only as the home of racing in the capital city, but as critical infrastructure for owners, trainers, breeders, and racegoers across the central and lower North Island. We believe any long-term decisions should reflect the industry's operational needs, resilience, accessibility, and future growth opportunities.

In the meantime, it is very much business as usual. Preparations for the 2026-27 season are well advanced and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Trentham on Saturday 19 September, when we host the opening meeting of the season for the Marton Jockey Club.

Thank you for your continued support of the Wellington Racing Club. We will keep members informed as the consultation process progresses and as we work together to ensure Trentham's case is clearly and fairly presented.