



MEDIA RELEASE

New Independent Chair for Racing Australia

John Messara AM was today unanimously appointed by the Directors of Racing Australia as an Independent Director and elected as Chair of Racing Australia, replacing Greg Nichols whose term as Chair concluded in April 2021.

The Constitution of Racing Australia allows for the appointment of an Independent Director in addition to the Directors nominated by each of the Principal Racing Authorities. This is the first time that an Independent Director has been appointed since the establishment of Racing Australia.

John Messara brings to the role a long record of dynamic leadership in Australian thoroughbred breeding, racing and administration. Earlier this month he was inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame as an Associate, recognising his achievements as the founder and owner of Arrowfield Stud, and his industry service in several roles, including as the Chairman of Racing New South Wales from 2011–16, and as the inaugural Chair of Racing Australia from 2014–16.

Speaking upon his appointment, John Messara thanked the Directors for the opportunity and responsibility to continue the work of Racing Australia as Chair, and paid tribute to Greg Nichols, who remains on the Board as a Director. *“Greg has made an outstanding contribution as Chairman, particularly over the last 16 months dealing with the many challenges our industry has faced due to the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19”.*

“After more than four years away from administration, I can see how much more our industry can achieve with strong interstate relationships and collaboration. I look forward to working with all the Principal Racing Authorities, the Directors and Racing Australia’s Executive for the benefit of everyone who works and invests in the Australian thoroughbred industry”.

The Racing Australia Board will meet in mid-July and in the meantime will continue to deliver key industry services and leadership across its Breeding and Racing operations.

31 May 2021

For further information:

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