

News Release

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Tony Piccolo MP

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Gawler set for a “Racing Renaissance” says Piccolo

The Gawler Racecourse is set to have a surge in the number of race meetings next year as a result of the redevelopment of the track and the closure of the Victoria Park and Cheltenham tracks.

In response to a question asked by local member Tony Piccolo MP in parliament last week the Minister for Racing the Hon Michael Wright informed parliament that the number of race meetings at Gawler would increase from the current 12 meetings per year to 22 following the upgrade.

Minister Wright told Parliament that “The racecourse is conveniently situated between the main road and the railway line and has the potential to draw larger crowds following a significant upgrade.”

The Minister said “additional race meetings, plus making the multipurpose function centre available for other community-based activities, is expected to generate greater investment and economic activity for the club and the Gawler and Barossa region.”

“The state government has committed \$6 million towards the upgrade.” said Minister Wright.

“The balance of the funds will be sourced from the sale of 4.3 hectares of surplus land at the southern end of the racecourse.”

“Thoroughbred Racing SA and the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club have identified land bordered by Main North Road and Barnett Street as being surplus to their needs following the reconfiguration of the track layout.” The Minister advised the parliament.

Mr Piccolo said the confirmation that Gawler was to gain additional race meetings was great news for the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club and the town as a whole.

“The additional race meetings will attract more visitors to the town which local businesses would benefit from “

Mr Piccolo said that the redevelopment of the racecourse combined with the additional meetings would lead to a “racing renaissance” in Gawler.

“This is certainly good news for those families and small businesses that rely on the horse racing industry for their livelihood”

“The redevelopment and increase in race meetings will help secure hundreds of jobs in the local area”