



# NEW SOUTH WALES HARNESS RACING CLUB LTD

INCORPORATED IN NSW IN 1902

Friday 24th April 2009

## Harness Racing Move to Provide Major Jobs and Building Boost for NSW

**THE REDEVELOPMENT OF HAROLD PARK PACEWAY WOULD BE A MAJOR BOOST TO THE NSW ECONOMY WITH AN INVESTMENT VALUE OF UP TO \$760 MILLION, THE CREATION OF SOME 5,000 CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND 480 PERMANENT JOBS, AS WELL AS SECURING THE JOBS OF THE 29,000 EMPLOYED IN THE HARNESS RACING INDUSTRY ACROSS NSW, ACCORDING TO HAROLD PARK OWNERS, THE NSW HARNESS RACING CLUB (NSWHRC).**

Preliminary ideas for the site announced today by the Club could also generate flow-on benefits of up to \$618 million and 21,000 jobs in the existing economy, if the site (owned freehold by NSWHRC since 1911) is redeveloped following the Club's decision to relocate to Menangle Park in Sydney's south west.

NSWHRC CEO John Dumesny said the preliminary ideas include:

- major new inner city parks to be dedicated as new public open space connecting Forest Lodge, Glebe and Annandale to Jubilee Park
- restoration of the historic Glebe tram sheds, opening them to the public for commercial and/or community uses
- pedestrian and cycle links through the site providing access for local residents to the Jubilee Park light rail station
- mixed use development potentially including housing, open space, new sporting areas, student housing, aged care accommodation, affordable housing for key workers, educational uses, small scale retail, community facilities, commercial or live/work areas.

Mr Dumesny said the sale of the site would be critical to the future of the NSW Harness Racing Industry which employs 29,000 people across NSW and contributes \$683 million annually to the NSW economy.

"The sale of the 10.5 hectare Harold Park site will enable us to retire debt and invest in much-needed infrastructure upgrades at Menangle Park and regional NSW, including Bathurst, Tamworth and the Riverina, without relying on government handouts," Mr Dumesny said.

"An appropriate redevelopment of the site could generate an investment of up to \$760 million and create up to 5,300 construction jobs and 480 ongoing jobs," Mr Dumesny said.

The Club is aiming to rezone the site and is applying to have it declared a State Significant Site as it meets four out of five key criteria required to qualify for State Significance. Potential sites are only required to meet one of the key criteria in order to qualify for State Significance.

Mr Dumesny said the Club has no firm proposals for the site at this stage but hoped to develop plans with the local community and relevant agencies over the coming months.

“We believe that some form of mixed use zoning would be appropriate for the site and we are committed to a process involving expert planning, environmental and architectural advisers, State and Local Government, our neighbours and the local community in order to determine the best use for the site and to ensure the best financial return for the Club,” Mr Dumesny said.

“Once a planning process has been determined the Club will commence detailed site planning and consultation with our neighbours, local interest groups, City of Sydney and Leichhardt Council and the State Government,” Mr Dumesny said.

Mr Dumesny said the Club had a long history in the area with harness racing commencing at Harold Park in 1902.

“We are very keen to involve the local community as a part of the redevelopment process,” Mr Dumesny said.

“This is a large site suitable for primarily residential development and done well, a combination of uses could provide many benefits for the Forest Lodge, Glebe and Annandale communities.

“There are great opportunities for new public open space, restoring the tram sheds and opening them to the public and boosting the viability of the inner west light rail route,” Mr Dumesny said.

The site offers an ideal opportunity for urban renewal, located just 2kms from the CBD, adjacent to Jubilee Park light rail station and with close access to major transport routes including Parramatta Road, Victoria Road and the Western link road.

The decision to move from the site was announced publicly in October 2008 following a meeting of over 300 Club members, at which 90 percent voted in favour of the relocation.

In the early 1900s Harold Park became the major destination for Harness Racing, drawing average crowds of 15,000 each Friday night. At its peak in the 1960s the club attracted crowds of over 50,000 and surrounding suburbs were home to people associated with the industry including owners, trainers, strappers, bookmakers as well as stabling facilities for the horses.

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