

A strong voice for our future

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor backs country racing in Central Queensland

Country Racing in Central Queensland will share in an overall \$35.2 million commitment that will provide a purse for prize money and maintenance of tracks and facilities under a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government.

Keppel MP Brittany Lauga spent last Saturday at the Callaghan Park races and welcomed the Government's commitment which will see \$15 million a year over two years dedicated to prize money and \$2.6 million per year over two years for maintenance of racetracks.

"Queenslanders know that Country Races bring regional towns together," Ms Lauga said.

"Race days bring towns alive with benefits for local shops and businesses, and an atmosphere that attracts tourists, city folk and locals.

"Importantly, Country Races are good for jobs, not just trainers, jockeys and strappers but flow on jobs in small businesses providing over 2,400 jobs across 102 country towns.

Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Gladstone MP Glenn Butcher said the Palaszczuk Government had always looked after Country Racing, and was willing to continue this commitment and provide even more for country racing into the future.

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“By supporting Country Racing we are supporting regional Queensland, regional jobs, and great race days for towns right across our state,” Minister Butcher said.

“Labor has always backed Country Racing, and we will keep backing it.”

Member for Rockhampton Barry O’Rourke said racing meant a lot to so many Queensland towns.

“Some race meets go back decades – and are anticipated events on many calendars, especially in the recovery from the impacts from this year’s health crisis,” Mr O’Rourke said.

“While the economic impact of racing in regional and country Queensland is established, the social impact can be just as great with many clubs becoming an integral part of the local community.”

PHOTOS: Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga and Minister for Regional Development Glenn Butcher at the Rockhampton Jockey Club’s race meeting at Callaghan Park on Saturday.

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