



# CHAIR'S UPDATE

## MAY 2024

**Kia ora everyone, I hope all is well with you. Following on from my last update I thought I would share some further information to keep you abreast of where some things are positioned and what the Board is focused on.**

### **HRNZ Board Work Plan**

The Board met out of cycle in April to scope out and align on the Board's priority areas of focus through to October. We reviewed that draft plan at our May meeting and the finalised work plan is attached for your information.

Some key points to note are:

- We have established a new Board sub-committee to work directly with management and John Mooney to keep things moving in the dates and horse utilisation space. We have also scoped out the comms approach to ensure we deliver the key messages and material to all stakeholders given the volume of content and the importance of it.
- **Code Funding and TABCORP** – a major area of focus. We are close to an aligned position on code funding with the other codes, which is positive. We hope to announce this in more detail in the next week or two. The TABCORP negotiations are just starting and this is another major focus point for the Board. For those that do not know, TABCORP are licensed by the racing codes as our major Australian product partner. They also, currently, are our major partner for international marketing and product rights. Effectively, TABCORP control the majority of the combined distribution of racing product into our international markets, and in particular Australia. This is now up for renewal and all the codes are working together to secure the best possible commercial outcome for racing in New Zealand with TABCORP.
- **Entain** – I have been working closely with John Mooney and Mauro Barsi to ensure the operational and strategic alignment of activity with Entain. It's an important relationship, one the Board is very focused on. We want to make sure we remain close

with Entain, to ensure we secure the best return and outcome for our sport, through having a strong working relationship with them.

- **We have some business as usual activity** – SOI/Business Plan/Budget/Cost Review to deliver and the Audit and Risk Sub-Committee is leading the work on this with management. We have some statutory requirements around the SOI and Business Plan that we just have to meet but our intention is to keep things relatively consistent with last year, recognising that there will be a strategic review early next year. We have to prepare an operating budget and that work is underway with oversight by the Audit and Risk Sub-Committee.
- We are also taking the opportunity to review a number of projects and initiatives via the Audit and Risk Sub-Committee. We have a major need to support and fund the new racing calendar for 24/25 and beyond so this workstream and review is both timely and important.

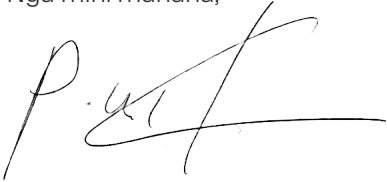


## CEO Recruitment

The CEO appointment panel – myself, John Hartnell, Alan Isaac and Richard Stenhouse, have been working hard over the last six weeks or so. The panel has conducted a number of interviews with a long list of candidates, then down to a short list and lastly to identify a preferred candidate, to recommend to the HRNZ Board. We have been impressed with the calibre of people who have put their hand up for the role, and through a very solid process, the panel has ultimately identified and settled on a preferred candidate. That candidate is going through the last stages of due diligence in the appointment process to satisfy the panel's requirements. The last outstanding step will be a final presentation to and meeting with the HRNZ Board. All things going well and to expectation, I anticipate we would be in a position to confirm the CEO appointment by the end of June.

Lastly, thank you for taking the time to read this brief update and the accompanying work plan, which I hope you find both informative and useful.

Ngā mihi mahana,



**Phil Holden**

Chair; Harness Racing New Zealand Board

## OUR MISSION IS:

TO CHAMPION THE SPORT, CELEBRATE THE PARTICIPANTS,  
AND HAVE THE HORSE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO



# HRNZ BOARD WORK PLAN

May 2024



		APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE	1. <b>DATES CALENDAR 2024/25</b> ○ SUBMISSION ○ HORSE UTILISATION/POPULATION ○ COMMS STRATEGY						
VICE CHAIR	2. <b>FEATURE / GROUP RACES (STRUCTURE)</b>						→
BOARD	3. <b>CODE FUNDING AGREEMENT TABCORP AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS</b>						
BOARD	4. <b>SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM) - CONSTITUTION</b>						
CHAIR	5. <b>CEO RECRUITMENT / ONBOARD</b> ○ COMMS STRATEGY						
CHAIR/BOARD	6. <b>ENTAIN PARTNERSHIP (BOARD) TAB OPERATIONAL RELATIONSHIP (CEO)</b>						
BOARD	7. <b>BUSINESS PLAN / SOI</b> 8. <b>FY25 BUDGET</b> 8. <b>REVIEW COSTS / FUNDING</b>						
AUDIT & RISK							
AUDIT & RISK	9. <b>REVIEW PROJECTS &amp; INITIATIVES</b>						

