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The SAROA Case for the Adelaide Cup to be run in May

Newspaper reports indicate that TRSA is once again approaching the State Government requesting a Public Holiday in May for the purpose of transferring the running of the Adelaide Cup from the current date in March to sometime during May.

SAROA commends TRSA for continuing to pursue this change and is eager to support TRSA in its push to return the Adelaide Cup to a May date.

Racehorse owners as a group are the largest investors in the SA Racing Industry and their continued support is necessary for the Racing Industry to survive. Owners have a vital interest in all matters relating to the SA Racing Industry.

SAROA believes it incumbent upon it, on behalf of its members, racehorse owners in general and the racing industry to put forward a position on the running of the Adelaide Cup being moved from the current March date to May.

SAROA strongly supports the change of date subject to the following conditions.

1. The running of the Adelaide Cup to be held in May.

It is SAROA's belief that the likelihood of the meeting being disrupted by rain in May is no greater than a disruption due to excessive temperatures in March. Furthermore, even in the case of heavy rain, modern tracks are able to better withstand such conditions than did the older tracks. The Parks track is an excellent draining and drying surface and if the Morphettville track was deemed too wet to safely race on, the races could be run on the Parks track with little disruption. That option is of no help in the case of excessive temperatures. The chance of rain disruption could be diminished by running the Cup early in May.

Tracks in May are likely to be softer and present a better surface for the well-being of the horses. On a hot day a good track at the start of the day will deteriorate to a hard track within a few hours.

2. That the Adelaide Cup is run on a Monday following the Goodwood Handicap

This would tie in the Cup with the other major races staged during the Adelaide Autumn Carnival. The Carnival would be further boosted by moving the Cup lead-up races such as The Birthday Cup and the Lord Reims to April/May.

Interstate trainers and owners would be afforded the opportunity to bring horses not only for staying races but for all the race types and distances staged during the Carnival.

Traditionally the Cup is run on a Monday and would give the SA Racing Industry another major race day. With the running of the Goodwood Handicap and other feature races on the preceding Saturday and the Cup on Monday we would have a weekend of racing excellence around which we could build a local and tourism event.

It would be the major race meeting on that day and attract the largest share of interstate punters' wagering.

3. The Adelaide Cup is NOT run on a Public Holiday.

There are many reasons to avoid running the Cup on a Public Holiday not the least being that the industry is held ransom to the whims of Government. If it was run on a non-public holiday the Racing Industry could decide when to stage the meeting without reference to Government. The Industry could then decide on the change and implement it for 2017.

Other reasons against a Public Holiday are

- The working hours of people have changed and are much more flexible. Therefore many people could attend the Cup without losing any worktime.
- On a Public Holiday children are home from school thus making it necessary for parents to arrange for the children to be cared for or to not attend the Cup to care for their children or to be involved in activities with their children.
- It has been demonstrated that a Public Holiday is not required for bumper crowds to attend race meetings. Locally the Balaklava Cup day and interstate the Oaks Day meetings are examples.
- A Public Holiday will be 'hi-jacked' by other organisations to stage their own functions thus competing for the public's discretionary spending dollar. A blockbuster game staged by the AFL at the Adelaide Oval

would be a disaster. Attendance at the Cup would be greatly diminished not only due to those attending the football game but also those staying home to watch it on TV.

- The SAJC, Trainers and Owners would avoid the substantial expense of penalty rates.
- The SA economy would be boosted without the loss of productivity.

4. The Adelaide Cup is Linked to the Sydney Cup

The Adelaide Cup should be run, say 3 weeks after the Sydney Cup. This would allow trainers and owners of horses competing in the Sydney Championships to bring their horses to Adelaide to compete in the SA Carnival. Therefore the Adelaide Cup would be run on the first or second Monday of May thus further reducing the chance of disruption due to wet weather.

5. The March Public Holiday to be retained.

Subject to Government agreement, the March Public Holiday should be retained for the Magic Millions 2yo race and the day be built around the MM race and the finals of series races, followed by the MM yearling sales.

I and members of the SAROA committee are available to meet with TRSA and SAJC representatives, and other industry participants to more fully discuss and debate SAROA's position.

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There is no Racing without Owners