



## **Introduction**

1. My name is Justine Sclater, I am employed as the Chief Executive of New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association.
2. I have a lifetime involvement in the New Zealand thoroughbred breeding industry and I am a private thoroughbred breeder who runs a small commercial agistment and breeding operation in Matamata.
3. In 2017 I was employed by the NZTBA as their Business and Operations Manager and in 2018 was promoted to the current position of Chief Executive.
4. In 2013-2016 I was employed for Waikato Stud NZ leading thoroughbred producer as their client liaison and nominations.
5. From 2010-2013 I was the Haunui Farm Nominations Manager.
6. From 2010 I have been the owner operator of Kirkwall Thoroughbreds a boutique thoroughbred agistment and sales preparation farm.
7. I am also the part owner of a family owned dairy farming operation at Te Poi near Matamata.

## **Thoroughbred Breeding Industry**

8. The New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association is an incorporated society and was established in 1948, with the aim of providing a collective voice for thoroughbred stallion and broodmare owners big and small throughout New Zealand.
9. We represent approximately 1500 members across eight regional branches throughout New Zealand. Our aim is to promote and ensure co-operative efforts in all matters pertaining to the production and improvement of the thoroughbred and the best interests of thoroughbred breeders.
10. The industry on a whole contributes more than \$1,635 million to the New Zealand economy, which on economic terms it is comparable in size to the New Zealand Wine and the New Zealand Seafood Industry
11. In the Waikato region the racing industry is estimated to generate more than \$370.47 million in value added contribution to the GDP. There are approximately 1,124 thoroughbred horse breeders based in the Waikato and their expenditure is around \$138.02 million. The cost of producing thoroughbreds equates to \$206.5 million annually in the Waikato. Over 55.6% of all thoroughbred breeding expenditure occurs in the Waikato Region.
12. 34% of thoroughbred broodmares in New Zealand are based in the Waikato region. Over 44% of New Zealand's annual foal crop are raised in the Waikato. Around 65% of New Zealand thoroughbred stallions are based in the Waikato which provides

significant income to the region. Over 2800 thoroughbred broodmares are used for breeding in the Waikato region annually.

13. In the Waikato region the breeding industry employs approximately 930 staff and over 800 volunteers, however the thoroughbred industry as a whole support around 3,500 full time jobs in the Waikato. This does not account for all the associated industries that support the breeding industry such as veterinarians, farriers, feed merchants.
14. In 2018 the National Karaka Yearling sales contributed a combined aggregate of \$77,017,750 of which the majority of the horses sold were raised in the Waikato region.
15. For more detail on the Thoroughbred Industry see attached *Size and Scope of the New Zealand Racing Industry*, prepared by IER, February 2018.

### **Involvement of NZTBA in the Healthy Rivers Process**

16. In December 2017 I was asked by a fellow breeder if NZTBA had any awareness of the Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1(PC1) and if it could impact our thoroughbred industry. From here I did some research, and this led to an introduction to Sally Linton, Sustainable Options, who has helped us to understand the process's involved and the potential impact on our livelihoods if we were not as an industry involved in the process.
17. We found that there had been no consideration of the potential impacts on equine properties in the development of PC1 and consider there is a significant difference between the practices on thoroughbred breeding properties and other pastoral industry's such as dairying.
18. As an industry we are trying to raise an athlete therefore it is a different mechanism to raising a food producing animal. Our farms are generally compliant as they are well planted with trees and all waterways are fenced off, any obstacles that present hazards are fenced as we don't want to risk any potential injury. Horses are also housed indoors during wet and cold weather. I consider our current farming methods while aimed to producing a high class athlete, also generally demonstrate environmental Good Management Practice (GMP).
19. We as the NZTBA have taken a lead role in this process on behalf of the entire equine industry and have taken the following steps to educate our members and the equine community as a whole;
20. The NZTBA have consulted with our members and promoted PC1 through our database to our members providing information on the process and its effects. We are aware that this will eventually affect other regions therefore we intend to educate all of our members throughout New Zealand. To do this we have and are intending to –
  - a) Continue conversations with other sector groups within the Equine industry, including harness racing, thoroughbred racing, Equestrian Sports New Zealand;
  - b) NZTBA has met with Waikato Regional Council (WRC) to find out what as an industry we can do better and explain our property practices that would meet an environmental GMP such as fencing off waterways and minimal

use of nitrogen fertiliser. We intend to continue to consult with and seek advice from WRC.

- c) We have held a focus group discussion with WRC and leading industry participants and facilitated by Sally Linton to identify what could be considered the key environmental issues for the equine sector as the first step in identifying equine specific environmental GMP's
- d) We are planning going forward to hold a field day at a leading stud farm to discuss the GMP's that have been identified and promote these as well further identify other practices that should be considered.
- e) The overall aim is to develop a manual of good equine environmental stewardship along the lines of the Deer Industry Environmental Code of Practice 2018 (presented in Hearing 1, Day 9, Item 1)
- f) To continue the promotion of equine GMP through our quarterly digital publication, The NZTBA Breeders Bulletin
- g) To post information on our website on equine specific environmental GMP's.
- h) Going forward we plan to involve the Equine Research Foundation in projects that assist our industry in leaving a minimal environmental footprint.

**Date: 23 April 2019**

**Justine Sclater for NZTBA**