

Tuesday 6 October 2009

COALITION BACKS BALLARAT CUP TO RUN AS PRELUDE TO MELBOURNE CUP

A Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will work with Racing Victoria Limited to ensure the Ballarat Cup runs before Melbourne Cup Day.

Ballarat Turf Club's push to switch the Ballarat Cup to the Gold Nugget Stakes date is a commonsense move for the City's premier race day.

Ballarat must be given the opportunity to capitalise on its Cup being part of the exciting build up to the Melbourne Cup – just as is the case with the Geelong Cup and more recently Bendigo.

Switching the Cup to an October date gives Ballarat Turf Club a new chance to market Ballarat and the City's ability to host a premier race day – not just for the local racegoers, but for all of those interested in the Spring Carnival.

Ballarat should be given every opportunity to attract the best horses who are getting ready and attempting to qualify for the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups.

Ballarat once attracted horses that had run the Melbourne Cup, but in recent years very few, if any, Melbourne Cup runners have gone on to compete in the Ballarat Cup.

By holding the Ballarat Cup in October this great provincial Cup will once again attract top level Melbourne Cup contenders which will generate greater interest, bigger crowds and much higher turnover on and off the course.

This will provide a real boost to the Ballarat Turf Club and the economy of Ballarat.

The Bendigo Jockey Club was successful in rescheduling its Cup meeting to the Wednesday prior to the Melbourne Cup, in place of the Werribee Cup meeting.

A Coalition Government will work with Racing Victoria Limited to ensure the Ballarat and Bendigo Cups once again become premier events on the Spring Racing Carnival calendar, and that both Cups are Melbourne Cup qualifying events.