



Brisbane Racing Club (BRC) would like to provide further information about the Club and the proposed redevelopment of the Stafford Bowls Club site.

BRC is the operator of Brisbane metropolitan racecourses, Eagle Farm and Doomben, and two Community Clubs, Gallopers Sports Club at Hamilton, and Souths Sports Club at Acacia Ridge. BRC (previously the Queensland Turf Club) has been racing at heritage-listed Eagle Farm in Ascot since 1865. The Club's core purpose is to ensure its sustainability and continue to grow its contribution to Queensland and to the communities in which it operates. Since the Club's formation in 1863, social interaction has been a key driver for membership and BRC is proud of the experiences delivered for the people of Brisbane.

BRC's business is to provide the best in hospitality, entertainment, and customer experiences. As well as hosting race days, BRC venues cater for celebrations of milestone birthdays, engagements and weddings, concerts, gala dinners, trade shows, exhibitions, business meetings, and more. BRC, Gallopers and Souths are all not-for-profit Clubs that focus on members, community partnerships and the provision of sporting facilities. Profits are reinvested to benefit members and these venues. BRC has approximately 4000 Full members and the two licensed Clubs, Gallopers and Souths, have a combined total of nearly 9000 members. Many of these members reside in Brisbane's inner northern suburbs.

BRC is strongly committed to supporting local communities, charity organisations and other groups across the city and state through fundraising, donations, community partnerships, and event and promotional support. The BRC Foundation was established in November 2018 as a formal initiative for community contributions and in 2021-22, the Foundation directly donated to more than 80 charities and community groups. BRC supports 50:50 Charity Raffles organised for all its major race days. In 2022, these raffles raised much needed funds for the Children's Hospital Foundation, Share the Dignity, Women's Legal Service Queensland, Guide Dogs Queensland, Transitioning Thoroughbreds Foundation, and Down Syndrome Queensland, to name a few. Each year the racecourses host the giving ceremony for the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust.

Last year, Gallopers and Souths provided more than \$400,000 of financial support to sporting and community organisations, including providing for and maintaining sporting fields and facilities for the Hamilton Bowls Club, Souths Juniors Magpies Rugby League, Acacia Ridge Bowls Club, and Acacia Ridge Soccer Club. Funding for Souths Magpies has assisted more than 450 junior players, reconditioned playing surfaces, opened up the club's facilities to provide better views of games, and enabled a pathway for junior players to the senior ranks via entry of a Magpies team into the Brisbane Rugby League competition. Most recently, Gallopers has partnered with Norths Rugby Union Club to help it grow its club by improving the accessibility of the sport to players, focusing on diversity and inclusivity.

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## EAGLE FARM & DOOMBEN

BRISBANE RACING CLUB LIMITED

PO Box 817 Hamilton Central, Queensland 4007. Administration Office: Eagle Farm Racecourse, 230 Lancaster Road, Ascot, Queensland 4007.

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ABN: 80 133 679 786 ACN: 133 679 786

BRC is also proud to partner with Opera Queensland (OQ) by bringing opera to the community and showcasing the talent of its young artists. In 2021, Eagle Farm Racecourse hosted the final performance of OQ's touring production of *Are You Lonesome Tonight*, and in 2022 the finale of the touring show *The Sopranos*.

Most of BRC's revenue comes from hospitality operations, broadcast rights for horse racing coverage, commercial property, its licensed clubs, memberships, and corporate sponsorship for events. All of the wagering revenue from racing events held at BRC's tracks flows to the Queensland Government authority, Racing Queensland, which then distributes prize money and funding for racing infrastructure around the state.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Deloitte Access Economics found that BRC generated \$158.4 million each year to the Queensland economy and provided direct and indirect employment to more than 1300 people (FTEs). According to Deloitte, this economic contribution to Queensland was greater than that of the AFL and comparable to the entire cruise industry.

BRC's strategy is to grow its hospitality business, broaden its contribution, and diversify revenues. Being a not-for-profit, BRC can take a long-term approach to investment decisions and, unlike many private sector investors, BRC invests in sites that will make a modest financial contribution over the long term. In the case of Stafford, BRC will first need to recover capital expenses, which could take a decade. BRC believes it and the Stafford community will both benefit from BRC taking a long-term view and funding this redevelopment. BRC will assume all risk and ratepayers will not need to fund the redevelopment.

BRC's investment at Stafford will generate jobs by reinvigorating the vacant site into a new Stafford Community Club. The site has fallen into disrepair over the years and BRC proposes a fully funded \$7.5 million redevelopment. With building costs rising, the actual cost is likely to be considerably greater.

BRC's plans for the site are to make it a family-friendly, Community Hub that will provide for organised outdoor sports for children, offer a fresh new dining experience in a family-friendly setting, and provide meeting space for community groups to access. The green space that was occupied by the bowling greens will be landscaped for multi-use sports fields and outdoor dining. The design of the proposed new Club will also celebrate the history of the property.

BRC was party to the original 2018 EOI with Crushers Leagues Club (Crushers) to redevelop the Stafford site. This was lodged with and approved by Brisbane City Council (BCC). The intent was that within five

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years of Crushers operating the new venue, BRC would take over operations. This intent was a condition in the original lease that was granted, thus allowing Crushers to assign the lease. In 2022, Crushers sought consent from BCC, the landlord, to assign the lease to BRC. BCC followed the procedure specified under the lease and granted consent.

BRC is not unlike Queensland Surf Life Saving Clubs, RSLs, Leagues Clubs, and many other not-for-profit groups which operate licensed clubs as part of the sustainability of their independent operations, while strongly supporting community sports and charities. BRC has committed to provide a minimum of \$200,000 each year in Community Support Contributions. This will include contributions to the Gibson Park Committee, which provides facilities in trust for Brothers Junior Rugby League Club, Stafford District Cricket Club and Padua College.

BRC takes seriously its commitment to best practice in responsible gambling and the public expectations in this area. In place at the proposed new Stafford Community Club will be industry-leading and proactive harm minimisation conditions outlined by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. These are currently not implemented at this level by any other licensed venue in Queensland. They include the provision of pre-commitment technology that gives patrons the option to set pre-determined limits to their play, along with regular staff training to identify problem gambling and minimise any potential harm.

In summary, BRC wishes to invest in and support the community of Stafford and the surrounding area through this proposed redevelopment, which will bring back to life a dilapidated site, neglected for some time.

**Tony Partridge**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Brisbane Racing Club

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