



NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING

RACNG OPERATIONS MONTHLY REPORT
NO. 125 | WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2025

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc
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FY25 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| KPI | FY25 | FY24 Budget | | Commentary | Status v. budget |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|---|------------------|
| Funded prizemoney | \$88.98m | \$80.50m | \$89.02m | For FY25 to 25 May. Slightly below budget, well above last year. Net impact of abandoned, rescheduled, split & races with less than 10 runners + summer lift. | |
| Average funded prizemoney | \$43,386 | \$39,498 | \$43,916 | For FY25 to 25 May. Slightly below budget due to change in mix of races. Well up on last year due to impact of NZTR Summer of Racing increases. | |
| Race meetings | 248 | 241 | 249 | For FY25 to 25 May. 1 below budget, 7 more than last year although includes meetings partially run. | |
| Races run | 2,051 | 2,038 | 2,027 | For FY25 to 25 May. 24 more races than budget, 13 more than last year. | |
| Total starts | 21,342 | 21,778 | 22,275 | For FY25 to 25 May. Starts remain down against last year and budget. Fewer starts per starter. | |
| Average field size | 10.41 | 10.69 | 10.99 | For FY25 to 25 May. Below budget and last year. Fewer starts across more races. | |
| Races with less than 8 starters | 301 | 282 | 296 | For FY25 to 25 May. Higher than last year and budget. | |
| Individual starters | 4,086 | 4,098 | 4,057 | For FY25 to 25 May. Individual starters only 12 less than last season, 29 more than budget. | |
| Domestic turnover (FOB and Tote) | \$413.1m | \$388.7m | \$406.6m | For FY25 to 25 May. Slightly above budget (\$471m FY target v \$449m LY), well ahead of last year. | |
| Domestic market share (turnover) | 59.52% | 59.41% | 57.94% | For FY25 to 25 May. Now above last season and well above budget (using 3 year rolling market share). | |
| Active customers | 68,838 | 61,341 | 61,341 | Individual NZ Thoroughbred Customers for April. Up on last season, does include betcha. Estimated 80% new customers included in growth. | |
| Active customers | 82,989 | 66,659 | 66,659 | Individual NZ Thoroughbred Customers for March. Well up on last season, does include betcha. Estimated 80% new customers included in growth. | |

FY25 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| KPI | FY25 | FY24 Budget | | Commentary | Status v. budget |
|--|-----------------|-------------|----------|--|------------------|
| Domestic Gross Betting Revenue (GBR) | \$71.59m | \$71.90m | \$76.34m | For FY25 to 25 May. Entain NZ Gross Betting Revenue on NZ thoroughbred racing. Slightly down on last year and well down on budget due to lower fixed odds margin. Some mixed results last few weeks. | |
| Domestic market share (GBR) | 59.87% | 61.10% | 60.39% | For FY25 to 25 May. Down on last season and on budget (3 year rolling average in Code Funding Agreement). Lower fixed odds margin on NZTR races, with mixed results the last few weeks. | |
| TAB NZ distribution to NZTR (excl. Race Fields & Tabcorp, incl duty) | \$81.12m | \$79.95m | \$81.98m | For FY25 to 5 May (profit & duty payments received for Aug to Apr). Above last year due to higher market share & behind budget due to recalculation of profit. | |
| Export income (Race fields, now incl. Tabcorp) | \$16.92m | \$14.73m | \$14.63m | For FY25 to 20 May (Tabcorp & Corporate Bookmakers for Aug to Apr). Well ahead of budget and last year - includes back payments & some improved returns. | |
| Club & industry funding | \$23.87m | \$23.71m | \$24.19m | For FY25 to 30 April. Lower than budget, higher than last year due to timing & infrastructure spend. | |
| NZTR operational expense | \$9.09m | \$7.07m | \$9.31m | For FY25 to 30 April. Lower than budget due to timing, above last year due to increase in commitments. | |
| Fillies & Mares as % of individual starters | 51.30% | 50.85% | 50.00% | For FY25 to 25 May. Ahead of last season at the same time and well ahead of full season budget. | |
| Races at Strategic & Significant venues | 70.21% | 70.22% | 75.04% | For FY25 to 25 May. Slightly behind last season, further behind budget. | |
| Starts from strategic training tracks (17) | 81.32% | 80.94% | 80.00% | For FY25 to 25 May. Ahead of last year and ahead of full season budget. | |
| Key | | | | Favourable to budget or equal to or less than 1% unfavourable to budget | |
| | | | | More than 1% unfavourable to budget but equal to or less than 5% unfavourable to budget | |
| | | | | More than 5% unfavourable to budget | |

A photograph of a horse race starting gate with several horses and jockeys lined up, ready to start. The text 'KEY MATTERS AS AT 4 JUNE 2025' is overlaid in white.

KEY MATTERS AS AT 4 JUNE 2025

LICENSING & REGISTRATIONS

CPD Requirements

Another reminder to all Class A Trainers that the Human Resources and Immigration CPD module must be completed to be eligible for licence renewal for the 2025/2026 season. A big thanks to those trainers who have completed this requirement. Those who have not completed the CPD requirements will not be sent a licence renewal notice. Please contact Hayley Thistoll (Education Coordinator) for those needing assistance.

Colour Renewals

Colour registration renewals commenced at the end of May. This process is automated, and all owners and trainers who hold colours will receive an email containing their Renewal Number, Entity ID, and a link to complete their renewals online for the upcoming five-year period.

We are currently investigating improvements to the colour renewals system and will endeavour to implement these in due course. In the meantime, colour renewals will continue to be processed using the existing system.

Licence Renewals

Licence renewals were rolled out earlier this week, and all licence holders should have received their renewal notice by now. If you have not received a notice, please contact NZTR.

- No additional downloads will be required, as updates will occur automatically in the background.
- Once payment is received, the Digital Licence ID expiry date will be updated within 24 hours.
- On 1 August, the new season details will automatically update on the Digital Licence ID.
- If a licence renewal is not completed by this date, the licence will be automatically removed from the holder's device.

A photograph of a horse race starting gate. Several horses and jockeys are lined up in their stalls, ready to start. The jockeys are wearing colorful silks. The horses are dark-colored. The background shows a green field and some structures.

KEY MATTERS AS AT 4 JUNE 2025

TRACKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Awapuni

Renovation work at RACE Awapuni is ongoing with the track having been undersown and fertilised, as well as decompaction work completed with machinery. Liam O'Keeffe will undertake a track inspection Monday 2 June, with a further update communicated to the industry following this inspection.

Ōtaki

NZTR and the Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club can confirm that the Ōtaki track was subject to intentional turf damage, which compromised the safety of the racing surface. In response, security cameras have been installed and are now fully operational.

Since the incident, significant remedial work has been undertaken to support the safe return of racing. An inspection conducted on 22 May by NZTR, the RIB and the Regional Track Advisor confirmed strong progress, with healthy turf regrowth aided by favourable weather conditions. A further assessment is scheduled for the week commencing 2 June. NZTR will communicate an update to the wider industry following this inspection.

Hawkes Bay Racing

As noted in a release Wednesday 21 May: Pending approval by the NZTR Board, we can confirm that work will progress on a partial re-cambering of the bends leaving the home straight (1600m & 1400m) of the Hastings racetrack.

Notwithstanding any unforeseen circumstances, this significant, expert-led investment will allow for a safe and confident return to racing in Hawke's Bay for spring 2026. This work is essential to ensuring a sustainable future for racing in the region.

In parallel, further planning is underway to determine the long-term vision for racing in the wider Hawke's Bay area. NZTR and Hawke's Bay Racing expect to share more detailed updates with members and the public in July.

We would like to thank our East Coast racing clubs who continue to work together to shape a strong and sustainable future for the industry and the community. We look forward to a return to racing in the Hawke's Bay Region.



KEY MATTERS AS AT 4 JUNE 2025

WELFARE

Know Your Thoroughbred Clinics

A successful clinic with over 30 attendants was held in Ohaupo in April and the upcoming clinic in Levin on Kings Birth is fully booked. Two more clinics are booked for July (Christchurch and Taupo). This will bring the total for the 24/25 season to 8.

National Thoroughbred Week (Nov 20-24, 2025)

. If you are interested in being involved, please email thoroughbredwelfare@nztr.co.nz. Website is now live at <https://thoroughbredweek.com.au/>

Race Fatalities

EMRP has reviewed 13 Raceday Fatalities this season. 8 MS and 5 CV.

OTTB Weekend Round-Up Results

NZTR Weekend Round-Up can be found [here](#)

Acknowledged Retrainer Network

We would like to acknowledge the racing connections that ensure their horses arrive in the right condition to start work at the retrainers. Recently we have had two horses arrive (from one trainer) with a fresh set of shoes, a dental in the last 10 days, and in good body condition. Unfortunately, this is not the case across the board and the retrainers are still expected to take on horses that are not fit to start work.

Welfare Cases

The team is currently supporting 5 horses that require support through the SPCA. A joint venture between the Welfare Team and the RIB saw Tracey Oakes and Anna Palmer attend the Wellington SPCA centre to talk to the new intake of SPCA Inspectors about how our agencies work together and what we do in the welfare space to ensure a good life for our horses. The 1% Levy and how this is spent was covered. This was well received.

A photograph of several horses and jockeys in a starting gate, ready for a race. The horses are in various colors, and the jockeys are wearing colorful silks. The background shows a green field and a fence.

KEY MATTERS AS AT 4 JUNE 2025

WELFARE

Reinstatement to Racing for horses that have had a 12-month break

This is a new developing policy that NZTR are currently working on to ensure the best welfare outcomes for our horses. We need to ensure that all horses returning from long layoffs or previous retirement are ready for racing as the risks are potentially damaging to racing's horse welfare and our continued social licence. Having this measure in place requiring a Veterinary Clearance and a Trial to Stewards satisfaction is a positive step forward and this policy will be further developed and consulted soon. This policy brings NZ into line with several other international jurisdictions.

EMRP – Raceday and Trial fatalities

The recent meeting of Raceday Veterinarians, RIB, HRNZ and NZTR discussed the process currently in place for racedays and future improvements. Having the crematorium in place will alleviate some of the difficulties that clubs face when a fatality occurs. The process for this is currently being drafted. The crematorium is nearly fully functional and is on track to open by the end of June.

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KEY MATTERS AS AT 4 JUNE 2025

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- The date has been set for the 2024-25 New Zealand Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards, taking place on Sunday 7th September 2025, at GLOBOX Arena, Claudelands, Hamilton. Please keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) or [Awards page](#) for updates and ticket sales. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah Howard [via email](#).

LOVERACING.NZ WEBSITE UPDATE

- The future launch of the new LOVERACING.NZ website will be decided as an outcome of the current Board strategy process that will inform NZTR priorities over the next few seasons. This investment has not been wasted, instead paused to align with strategy.



KEY REMINDERS AS AT 4 JUNE 2025

OPTIONS FOR REPORTING BULLYING AND HARASSMENT ISSUES

NZTR emphasises that there are avenues available for any participants who feel they have been badly treated to report their concerns and have them addressed.

Industry participants can be assured that the NZTR Board and management have zero tolerance for sexual harassment and bullying in the industry. Fair and respectful treatment of all participants is a fundamental expectation for involvement in our sport.

The industry, in partnership with the Salvation Army, employs two full-time welfare support staff, who are available to discuss any personal issues, and complaints can be made to any NZTR staff member.

The complaints will be taken seriously, with the priority being the rights and wishes of the complainants.

Participants can also directly contact the Racing Integrity Board, through the racing integrity line, with the option of leaving their contact details or an anonymous message.

If you have any concerns about the way that you or anybody else in the industry have been treated, the following can be contacted:

- Andrew McKerrow (welfare support): 029 771 2398 andrew_mckerrow@nzf.salvationarmy.org
- RIB racing integrity line: 0800 748 123 [Online Message Form](#)
- Neil Grimstone (RIB Manager Integrity Assurance): 021 272 6009

NZTR seeks ways to collaborate with clubs and sector groups to ensure that awareness of this issue is increased, and that any persons affected by bullying or harassment feels aware and empowered to bring this to attention of their preferred contact.



RIO UPDATE AT 4 JUNE 2025

RACING INTEGRITY BOARD UPDATE

Lightning Policy

In consultation with the Codes the RIB is finalising a RIB operational policy to be adopted when there is a risk of lightning at a race or trial or other activity that is regulated or overseen by the RIB. This policy, and in particular the "30/30 Rule" mirrors those of Racing NSW and Racing SA (as examples).

In general, the "30/30 Rule" is a widely recognised guideline for lightning safety across various outdoor activities. This rule advises individuals to seek shelter if the time between observing a lightning flash and hearing its corresponding thunder is 30 seconds or less, indicating that the lightning is approximately 10 km's away. Furthermore, it recommends waiting at least 30 minutes after the last thunderclap before resuming outdoor activities to ensure the storm has moved a safe distance away.

Though lightning events may be relatively infrequent in New Zealand, the consequence of a lightning strike is no different, and we recognise the heightened risks on horseback or when assembling in or near starting gates/boxes etc. Clubs may each consider adopting the policy for daily operations.

This policy is attached. Any feedback can be provided to marty.burns@rib.org.nz

RIB Operational Changes – Swabbing

The RIB has reviewed the operational processes for race day swab collection. While collection, bagging, confirmation and dispatch of samples will continue to be undertaken by Swabbing Officials with no change in their handling processes, they will no longer be supervised by Investigators. This realignment recognises the competence of Swabbing Officials and is an efficiency measure to allow Investigators to focus their skills on their primary responsibilities and imperatives.