

Department of Treasury and Finance

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Ms Fiona Murphy
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition

Dear Ms Murphy

Response to Questions on Notice - Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 2026 providing Questions on Notice following Treasury's appearance before the Joint Standing Committee Hearing on 4 August 2026. I provide the following responses:

1. What is the current percentage of the point of consumption tax that is being returned to racing?

The estimated outcome with respect to the point of consumption (POC) tax for 2026-27 is \$7.8 million, equating to 52 per cent of actual POC tax revenue received by Government.

2. When did the former Treasurer ask Treasury for advice on options for efficiencies from Tasracing in the context of budget repair?

In June 2022, the then Treasurer requested that Treasury identify potential Budget savings. Treasury subsequently presented to the Government in November 2022 on challenges and opportunities more broadly with respect to Government businesses, including a recommendation that it prepare a paper on the funding provided to Tasracing and issues relating to that funding. This paper was provided in August 2023.

3. What was the amount saved by changing the treatment of the policy towards Tasracing, resulting from the discovery of the unsigned amending deed?

The net amount saved by the reimplementation of the efficiency dividend, taking into consideration the compounding effects of indexation, is estimated to be \$2.2 million in the three years to 2026-27.

4. What is the net saving to the budget for the years up to 2029 resulting from this policy?

The reimplementation of the efficiency dividend is estimated to deliver net budget savings of \$5.8 million by 2028-29, taking into account the compounding impacts of indexation.

5. Was Tasracing funding, for a five-year period, operating under an agreement that had not been signed?

The Third Deed of Variation between the Crown in Right of Tasmania (represented by the Department of Treasury and Finance) and Tasracing amended the definition of 'Indexation Factor' in clause 1.1 of the agreement by removing '-0.01'. The deed was signed by Tasracing, but not by the Minister for Racing, and was intended to take effect from 1 July 2018.

Grant funding continued to be provided to Tasracing under the Second Deed of Variation dated 15 October 2015 throughout this period, with the amount paid determined by the annual Budget appropriation.

6. Does Treasury have an up to date understanding of the employment impact of the racing industry's economic contribution?

Treasury and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania are currently undertaking an assessment of options available to the Government regarding the future funding model for the Tasmanian racing industry. The Assessment is due to be provided to the Government by 31 August 2026. The Terms of Reference for the Assessment require it to have regard to the purpose of Government funding and the economic benefits that are attributable to the thoroughbred and harness codes.

Should you have any queries or require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Dean Burgess on (03) [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

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Gary Swain
Secretary

27 August 2026