



Victoria and South Australia are the only states that still allow jumps racing. Every year horses suffer horrific injuries or die in jumps events in Victoria. The Greens have a plan to end to jump racing to ensure the safety of horses and jockeys.

Jumps racing events force horses to jump over steeples or hurdles over long distances at speed. A large number of falls occur in the later stages of races when the horses are fatigued.

The combination of these factors is deadly, resulting in horrific injuries such as broken necks and legs and the deaths of horses both on the track and after jumps event every year.

Animals Australia report that 58 horses have been killed on the track in jumps racing and trials in Victoria over the last ten years. Within the last four years (2014 – 2018) the figure is 20 deaths. ⁱ

Queensland abolished jumps racing in 1903; it was stopped in Western Australia in 1941; it was banned in New South Wales in 1997, and the last jumps race held in Tasmania was in 2007.

Campaigns to end jumps racing in Victoria and South Australia are ongoing. The Greens are part of those campaigns.

The Greens' plan will:

- **Ban jump racing by amending the Racing Act 1958 to make it illegal; and**
- **Ensure Victorian Racing Industry Funds subsidies are redirected towards assisting the transition for horses, jockeys and trainers.**

JUMPS RACING IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN FLAT RACING

Findings from a 15 year study into jumps racing, conducted by the University of Melbourne, found that jumps racing is more dangerous than flat racing with catastrophic limb injuries 18 times more likely, cranial, back and neck injuries 121 times more likely and sudden death to be 3.4 times more likely in jump events. In jumps racing, one horse dies for every 115 horses that start in a jumps race compared to one death for every 2,150 horses that start in a flat race. ⁱⁱ

As far back as 1991, a Senate Select Committee report on Animal Welfare recommended that jumps racing be phased out because of its inherent cruelty. The report stated that:

'Based on evidence received during the inquiry, the Committee has serious concerns about the welfare of horses participating in jump races.

These concerns are based on the significant probability of a horse suffering serious injury or even death as a result of participating in these events and, in particular, steeplechasing.

This concern is exacerbated by evidence suggesting that, even with improvements to



the height and placing of jumps, training and education the fatality rate would remain constant.

The Committee, therefore, can only conclude that there is an inherent conflict between these activities and animal welfare.

Accordingly, the Committee is of the view that relevant State Governments should phase out jumps racing over the next three years.'ⁱⁱⁱ

The Greens and animal welfare groups have long campaigned to ban jumps racing in Victoria but Labor and the Coalition continue to support it despite the ongoing injuries and deaths.

References

ⁱ Animals Australia - Horse Racing - Jumps Racing death files:
<https://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/jumps-racing-death-files.php>

ⁱⁱ Boden LA et al. (2006) Risk of fatality and causes of death of Thoroughbred horses associated with racing in Victoria, Australia: 1989-2004:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16866197>

ⁱⁱⁱ Parliament of Australia - Aspects of Animal Welfare in the Racing Industry – Report by the Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare