

INDUSTRY NOTICE – LICENSED VENUE STANDARDS REVIEW

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred, Harness and Greyhound
Description	Licensed Venue Standards
Date of Publication	October 1, 2026
Closing Date for Feedback	October 30, 2026
Feedback/Queries	venues@racingqueensland.com.au

Background

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) has conducted a review of the Licensed Venue Standards (**LVS**) applying to thoroughbred, harness and greyhound licensed venues, and is proposing updates to the LVS framework arising from that review.

The review is consistent with the reform agenda of *The Next Lap*, with a key focus on improving the clarity of the LVS while ensuring they remain practical and fit for purpose, having regard to the varied nature of racing venues across Queensland and the different levels of racing and training activities conducted at those venues.

The proposed LVS are intended to provide a clearer and more practical set of venue standards focused on participant safety, animal welfare, racing integrity and fit-for-purpose core racing infrastructure.

In conducting the review, RQ has undertaken preliminary engagement with relevant integrity, participant and industry stakeholders across the three codes.

Key Changes

The proposed LVS include several changes to the current framework:

1. *New venue classifications for thoroughbred venues*

The current Thoroughbred LVS uses a tier-based framework to determine the standards applying to licensed thoroughbred venues, generally by reference to the Tier Rating of the club holding the licence for the venue.

Under the proposed new framework, thoroughbred venues will instead be classified into four categories having regard to the type, number and frequency of race meetings conducted at the venue, together with relevant broadcast, wagering, integrity and operational considerations.

The proposed venue classification framework, as determined by reference to the RQ race dates calendar, is as follows:

Category	Classification	Venues/Locations
Metropolitan / Provincial	Venue ordinarily holds at least one Metropolitan or Provincial meeting in a calendar season.	Eagle Farm, Doomben, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Cairns.
Country A	Venue ordinarily holds at least 9 Country meetings, at least one of which is a TAB meeting, in a calendar season.	Mt Isa, Kilcoy, Gatton, Beaudesert, Dalby, Warwick, Emerald, Longreach, Roma.
Country B	Venue ordinarily holds 1-8 Country meetings, at least one of which is a TAB meeting, in a calendar season.	Gympie, Innisfail, Thangool, Barcaldine, Bundaberg, Burdekin, Nanango, Barcoo, Bowen, Cloncurry, Chinchilla, Yeppoon, Birdsville, Ewan.
Country C	Venue ordinarily holds Country Non-TAB meetings only in a calendar season.	All remaining Country Non-TAB venues.

The proposed venue classifications seek to better recognise the diversity of operating environments, infrastructure arrangements and racing and training activities across venues.

The Harness and Greyhound LVS will continue to apply a single set of standards to all licensed venues within each code.

2. Updated and streamlined format

The proposed LVS have been updated to present the requirements in a clearer, more streamlined and accessible format, helping clubs identify the standards relevant to the safe and proper conduct of racing and, where applicable, training activities at their venues.

3. Separation of licensing standards and infrastructure specifications

Under the proposed new framework, the LVS will focus on venue licensing requirements, while more detailed guidance for the planning, design and construction of new infrastructure and major refurbishments will be addressed separately through an “Infrastructure Specifications Framework”.

This approach is intended to distinguish between the standards that are relevant to venue licensing and the specifications that apply to the delivery of future infrastructure projects.

4. Risk-based compliance and rectification process

The proposed framework includes a risk-based compliance and rectification process to support proportionate and practical management of identified non-compliances, having regard to the nature and severity of the issue. In practice, rectification timeframes and any interim risk controls will reflect the nature and severity of the non-compliance and the risks arising from it.

Consultation Documents

RQ is seeking stakeholder feedback on the following draft standards:

- [2026 Draft Licensed Venue Standards – Thoroughbred;](#)
- [2026 Draft Licensed Venue Standards – Harness;](#) and
- [2026 Draft Licensed Venue Standards – Greyhound.](#)



These draft standards can also be downloaded from the Licensed Venue Standards page for the relevant code of racing on the RQ website: racingqueensland.com.au/about/rules-and-policies/licensed-venue-standards

How to Provide Feedback

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the proposed LVS in accordance with the details table set out on page 1. Any queries may also be directed to venues@racingqueensland.com.au.

Following consultation, RQ will consider the feedback received and make any appropriate changes to the proposed LVS, with a view to implementing the new LVS framework in December.

