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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE – JUMPS RACING

Following a full review of the past two jumps racing seasons at Morphettville and meetings between Thoroughbred Racing SA (TRSA) and the South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC), TRSA has finalised the 2015 jumps racing program. Six jumps races will be held at Morphettville over four Saturdays during 2015.

This year's jumps season starts at Oakbank on Sunday 15 March ahead of the Oakbank Easter Racing Carnival and concludes at Morphettville on Saturday 29 August at the SAJC's popular Irish Race Day.

The number of jumps races scheduled at Morphettville has been reduced from nine to six to be run over four Saturdays instead of the seven previously. This is designed to strengthen the grassroots jumps racing program at the provincial tracks for local participants.

"While the SAJC Board has clearly advised that its preference is to cease jumps racing at Morphettville, my Board understands the role TRSA has in race programming for all thoroughbred racing in SA," SAJC Chairman Tony Newman said.

"We accept the reduction in the number of events and days on which jumps races will be held at Morphettville and TRSA's strategy to grow local participation through the provincial tracks, which is something we have been suggesting for some time."

TRSA Chair Frances Nelson said the scheduling of six jumps races over four race days at Morphettville maintains a metropolitan focus. "We look to provide some metropolitan opportunities for all racing and we believe this is important for this section of our industry as well, while also allowing us to grow local participation through the provincial tracks," she said.

Jumps racing is a longstanding part of thoroughbred racing in SA, and one that TRSA will continue to support. The TRSA Board acknowledged the SAJC Board's stated preference not to have jumps races at Morphettville; however, TRSA considers it important that jumps racing continues to have some metropolitan profile.

The important Irish Race Day and the key Grand National Hurdle and Steeplechase will still be run at Morphettville as the culmination of the jumping season, with two lead up races prior to these days.

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