

## **Media alert**

**11 September 2024**

### **Positive feedback following trials and jumpouts at Ellerslie**

As part of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's (NZTR) return to racing protocols, Auckland Thoroughbred Racing (ATR) held a successful day of trials and jumpouts at Ellerslie yesterday. The trials featured 129 horses running against the rail, which was positioned 12 metres out, while an additional 56 horses participated in jumpouts outside cones on the outer section of the course proper.

Senior jockeys provided positive feedback on the improved track traction; a key focus of the maintenance work undertaken since May.

While jockeys noted that the grass cover could have been better, ATR expects it to improve as its ongoing fertiliser programme continues, and spring weather promotes growth.

Paul Wilcox, CEO of Auckland Thoroughbred Racing, says "we're pleased with how the track performed during the trials and jumpouts, and it's encouraging to receive positive feedback from the senior jockeys noting their comments about grass cover. We're looking forward to our first race meeting of the season on 21 September."

NZTR representative and former steward, Matthew Williamson, states "yesterday's trial meeting was a success with the track performing well. Feedback from senior jockeys was positive with the surface providing good purchase".

**- ENDS -**

### **For further information, please contact:**

Craig Baker

Executive General Manager, Racing & Operations | Auckland Thoroughbred Racing

[Craigb@ellerslie.co.nz](mailto:Craigb@ellerslie.co.nz) | 027 441 2920