



## **Introduction**

1. My name is Wendy Cooper I am the Executive Officer for the NZ Trainers' Association.
2. I am a Stakeholder Council member of the Primary Industry Training Organisation and the Chair of Industry Partnership Group representing Equine and Racing.
3. I have been also involved in the equine sector in a wide ranging number of roles including being a member of the government appointed NZ Racing Industry Board 1998-2001; Consultant for NRM horse feeds 1996-2000; the Event Organiser of Expo Horse an equine industry event held in 1992 and 1996; Coatesville Pony Club Newsletter writer, Instructor and Treasurer 2000-2009; Showhunter Waitemata - committee member 2006-2009

## **Background**

4. The New Zealand Trainers' Association (Inc) is an incorporated society that was established in 1975. It is to provide a collective voice for licensed thoroughbred racehorse trainers throughout New Zealand. The aim of our organisation is to encourage, promote and advance generally the interests of racehorse trainers and to deal with all matters conducive to the advancement of racing in general.
5. We represent approximately 900 members across five regional branches throughout New Zealand. The Waikato branch has the largest membership by a significant amount.
6. The New Zealand Thoroughbred Industry on a whole contributes more than \$1,635 million to the New Zealand economy, on economic terms it is comparable in size to the New Zealand Wine and the New Zealand Seafood Industry.
7. The racing industry in the Waikato region is estimated to be responsible for the generation of more than \$370.47million in value added contribution to the GDP.
8. New Zealand's two largest training centres are located in the Waikato – Cambridge and Matamata.
9. There are around 260 thoroughbred racehorse trainers licensed in the Waikato and a further 50 who run pre-training businesses where horses are prepared for racing. There are 10 licensed clubs who run 75 race meetings at 7 venues. There are 4,400 thoroughbred horses in training. Trainers' total expenditure in the Waikato region is approximately \$119.702million.
10. The Waikato region thoroughbred industry as a whole supports around 3,500 full time jobs within the Waikato. This does not account for all the associated industries, such as farriers, vets, feed merchants etc., that racing industry contributes to economically.

11. Trainers in New Zealand generally come from a horseman's heritage where generations of stockmen who understand both the horse and the land have gone before. They have massive investment in specialised equipment and land suitable for training horses.
12. Horses in training to race are kept in a combination of paddocks, stables and yards. In the case of the latter two, the manure is cleared on a daily basis and often sold in bags on the side of the road. Horses are not in training 12 months of the year however, so when they are spelling are grazed in paddocks, often at thoroughbred breeding studs or specialised agistment centres around the Waikato.
13. Horses are produced as athletes not as production animals like dairy, beef, sheep and deer. As a result, equine management is significantly different to the rest of the pastoral sector, including nutritional requirements, pasture management, and housing.

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**Wendy Cooper for  
New Zealand Trainers Association**

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