

16 December 2026

Dear Recognised Industry Organisations,

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has decided to pause all racing at RACE Awapuni for the remainder of the 2025-26 season. I know how disappointing this is for our participants, trainers, owners, jockeys, Club staff, volunteers and everyone who has invested so much in this venue.

Over this recent period, there have been a series of short-term fixes and 'wait and see' approaches regarding the track. That has been very hard on participants and has understandably affected confidence. We acknowledge this is not good enough for the Central Districts region or the wider industry.

Our focus now is on getting this right for the long term. The next phase of work will be in the hands of world-leading track experts, with clear standards and independent oversight. At this stage, we are not in a position to confirm further details about the future work programme, but as soon as we have further clarity, we will share this with the industry. Awapuni deserves that, and the industry has every right to expect it.

The venue changes for Awapuni's remaining 2025-26 programmed meetings will be communicated in due course.

Yours in racing,



Matt Ballesty
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing

Issued by the Office of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing

18 Dick Street, Cambridge 3434

Tel: 0800 WINNER (946 637)

International: +64 4 576 6240

office@nztr.co.nz