Peter Styles
Minister for Racing Gaming and Licensing

**NT Totalisator Licence wins Territorians a better deal**

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New products and services for punters will flow from the eagerly awaited awarding of the new 20 year totalisator licence, Racing Gaming and Licencing Minister Peter Styles said today.

Mr Styles said the Northern Territory Government has selected a preferred proponent for the totalisator license following extensive consultation and negotiation to secure the best outcome for Territorians.

The renewal was progressed through a competitive process which began in November 2014 and was completed this month (August).

Mr Styles said the current licence has been extended for a further two months to allow detailed terms and conditions to be negotiated with the preferred proponent UBET NT Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Tatts Group, ahead of the new 20 year licence being issued.

"This will ensure there is no disruption of service for the racing industry, punters, hotels and clubs," Mr Styles said.

"This new 20 year agreement will also mean more job opportunities for Territorians, a better outcome for the thoroughbred and greyhound racing sectors and a lower overall call on taxpayer funds.

"Awarding the NT totalisator licence is a significant decision and one that the Northern Territory Government has not taken lightly.

"We have focussed on ensuring the best value for money for all stakeholders.

"The agreement delivers a greater dollar return to the Territory, increased employment opportunities and a better experience for punters through a new suite of products and a better experience in retail outlets.

"The licence allows for the operator to pool bets on approved events and then deduct a commission. The remainder of the pool is divided amongst the winning wagers. The more winning bets the lower the dividend.

"This is a longer term agreement that is a sustainable outcome for the racing sector and taxpayers."
Mr Styles said the Government had also negotiated increased training for staff working in venues to ensure they are better equipped to support responsible gambling.

"The Northern Territory Government would like to thank both proponents for being open and engaged during the briefings and negotiations and each of the industry representatives," Mr Styles said.

"I would also like to thank key local stakeholders including representatives from the Australian Hotels Association, pubs, Clubs NT, Thoroughbred Racing NT and the Darwin Greyhound Association who have been actively engaged in the process so far and will also be consulted in the development of the final terms and conditions."

A totalisator is a betting scheme in which all bets are pooled, commissions are deducted and the remainder is returned to winning bets.

The NT Totalisator Licensing and Regulation Act allows a totalisator licence to be issued if approved by the Director-General Licensing.

UBET NT currently holds the NT totalisator licence and exclusively holds all retail outlets including pub, club and casino outlets. They also have on course outlets at major racing venues including Fannie Bay, Pioneer Park and Winnellie Park.

The Northern Territory racing industry consists of thoroughbred and greyhound racing. Thoroughbred racing is held at Fannie Bay racecourse in Darwin, Pioneer Park racecourse in Alice Springs and country tracks at Adelaide River, Pine Creek, Katherine and Tennant Creek. More than 70 meetings per year are held in Darwin and Alice Springs and, generally, one meeting a year at the country tracks.

The sole greyhound racing track is at Winnellie Park in Darwin with current meetings generally held every Sunday evening.

TAB facilities are available at all thoroughbred race tracks and the greyhound facility.

Thoroughbred Racing NT is the principal race club for the Northern Territory, while the Darwin Greyhound Association is responsible for greyhound racing.

UBET has the totalisator licence in Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia. Tabcorp hold the licence in Victoria, New South Wales and ACT. Western Australia is the only jurisdiction where the Totalisator is government owned.

Tatts Group has held the licence for 15 years since the government privatised the NT TAB in 2000.

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