



# Media Release

22 December 2016

## Resignation of Racing Australia Chairman

The Chairman of Racing Australia, Mr John Messara AM, has resigned from the Board of Racing Australia effective 1 January 2017 being the date when his resignation from the Board of Racing NSW takes effect.

Mr Russell Balding AO, the new Chairman of Racing NSW, has been nominated as Racing NSW's representative on the Racing Australia Board.

*"The last few years have constituted a period of significant change in the structure of Racing Australia. It has been a time of reform and modernization of the Australian Thoroughbred Industry. I feel privileged to have served with an exceptional Racing Australia Board, CEO and staff in achieving many improvements for our industry. I leave Racing Australia imbued with confidence that the progress achieved over the last few years will continue unabated."* Mr Messara said.

Frances Nelson QC, Deputy Chairman of the Racing Australia Board, paid tribute to Mr Messara saying that he had been a force for change.

*"John has been intimately involved in bringing about most significant administrative, integrity and animal welfare reforms in recent history. John has made a lasting contribution and I speak for all Directors when I say we will miss him for his leadership, vision and dedication to racing and breeding."*

**END**

*For further information:*

*Peter McGauran, Chief Executive Officer, Racing Australia*