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MEDIA RELEASE

INTRODUCING THE MELBOURNE CUP CARNIVAL'S NEWEST INITIATIVE GREEN FIELDS

The Victoria Racing Club is pleased to announce the commencement of Flemington Green Fields, a program of sustainability initiatives intended to achieve higher standards in responsible event and venue management. With the assistance of our Sustainability Partners; AGL, Cleanevent and SecondBite, Flemington Green Fields aims to reduce the environmental impact of the 2008 Melbourne Cup Carnival with the long term strategy of further developing these systems and processes to enhance our environmentally sustainable practices.

Our three primary partners in this initiative bring considerable expertise to the program.

AGL Energy Limited (AGL) is Australia's largest integrated renewable energy company and is shaping the future of Australia's energy supply in an increasingly carbon constrained future. They will be providing 100% GreenPower™ for all the race days of the Melbourne Cup Carnival and is working with the VRC to develop and implement a range of energy efficiency measures at Flemington Racecourse. GreenPower™ is renewable energy sourced from the sun, wind, water and waste and is government accredited.

AGL's Managing Director, Michael Fraser says, "AGL's leadership position in renewable energy enables us to provide our partners with extensive sustainability services and advice.

"AGL and the Victoria Racing Club have been around for a very long time in Australia with histories dating back more than a century and a half. We are pleased then to be working in partnership with the VRC to be doing things for a better future for all Australians by making the Melbourne Cup Carnival a more sustainable event.

"It's great to see one of Australia's largest and most iconic events taking a call to action and working with us to create long term strategies to ensure they are and will remain an environmentally sustainable event. AGL sees this sustainability partnership as one that will deliver immediate and long term benefits."

AGL will also assist the VRC by offsetting carbon emissions resulting from fuels used at Flemington by the VRC during the Melbourne Cup Carnival¹, such as diesel, LPG and natural gas. AGL is sourcing off-sets from its methane flaring project at Whittlesea. Methane flaring offsets are considered to be one of the best types of offsets currently available in the Australian market. Methane is significantly more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide and is one of the six greenhouse gases recognised by the Kyoto protocol.

The VRC is also partnering with Cleanevent to deliver a low litter event and have developed a strategy to increase the proportion of recyclable waste and minimize waste to landfill. Cleanevent is internationally recognised for its expertise in waste management at major events and have tailored a Waste Minimization Plan that utilizes on site recycling infrastructure, waste supervision and auditing and is supported by educational communications to patrons.

Craig Lovett, Founder and Director of Cleanevent says, "The Melbourne Cup Carnival is an enormous, highly complex and unique event. We have a partnership in the true sense of the word and we are putting it to good use by sharing expertise, collaborating on strategic planning and implementing management action plans – all in pursuit of sustainability."

To further reduce waste, SecondBite a dynamic not-for-profit organisation, will collect fresh and nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste, and redistribute to those in need. This will be the second year SecondBite have worked with the VRC and as an extension to the partnership; SecondBite will provide a team of *Sustainability Ambassadors* to assist in educating patrons about the programs in place and encouraging them to use the recycling facilities available.

"Last year the Melbourne Cup Carnival was the first major event to partner with SecondBite in the collection and redistribution of surplus fresh food. Since then many other major events have become involved. We congratulate the VRC on its vision and the subsequent development of Flemington Green Fields, SecondBite is delighted to be involved", says Executive Director Katy Barfield.

VRC Chief Executive, Dale Monteith explains "As the Melbourne Cup Carnival is one of the most popular and highly attended sporting events in Australia, the VRC recognizes that we have a responsibility to actively seek and implement programs that will improve our environmental performance. The programs we put in place now will act to ensure that the Melbourne Cup Carnival and Flemington Racecourse are sustained and protected for generations to come."

Beyond the Melbourne Cup Carnival, Flemington Green Fields will continue to work with the Club's Sustainability Partners to ensure continuous improvement in the area of environmental sustainability into the long term.

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¹ AGL have taken fuel amounts directly purchased by the VRC from records provided by the VRC.