

Notice to all Victorian Racing Pigeon Fanciers – Pigeon racing and training to resume

This morning I sent a further detailed email to Agriculture Victoria suggesting reasons why pigeon racing could be allowed to resume and requesting a meeting with Dr Graeme Cooke, Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). Later in the morning I received an email advising me that my enquiry had been escalated to the CVO for advice. In the afternoon I was contacted by Dr Joyce Holmes on behalf of Dr Cooke. We discussed my email and she advised me that it had been decided that pigeon racing would be exempt from the current Control Order and that loft flying, tossing and racing could resume. She went on to say that this advice would be confirmed in writing. This communication has now been received and is below. I am pleased to inform fanciers that they can now loft fly their birds and can also toss and race them. It is expected after the lockdown of most of Victoria's race teams that racing will resume on the weekend of the 22nd -23rd August however individual federations can make their own arrangements.

It has been a challenging 5 days since the Control Order was instigated. I thank all the fanciers who contacted me with advice and support. I would also like to thank Agriculture Victoria and specifically Dr Graeme Cooke for taking the time to consider my request. I appreciate how busy he must be and note that his confirmation email was sent at 7.30 pm. Like all fanciers I now look forward to enjoying the rest of the racing season.

Regards

Dr Colin Walker