WHAT IS THE CUSHION TRACK?

The Sunshine Coast will be the home of the first synthetic racing and training surface in Queensland.

The Cushion Track is the first of its kind in Australia and differs from the synthetic tracks currently in use in Australia as it allows for vertical drainage. The Cushion Track has been designed for Queensland conditions, and in particular those encountered at Corbould Park.

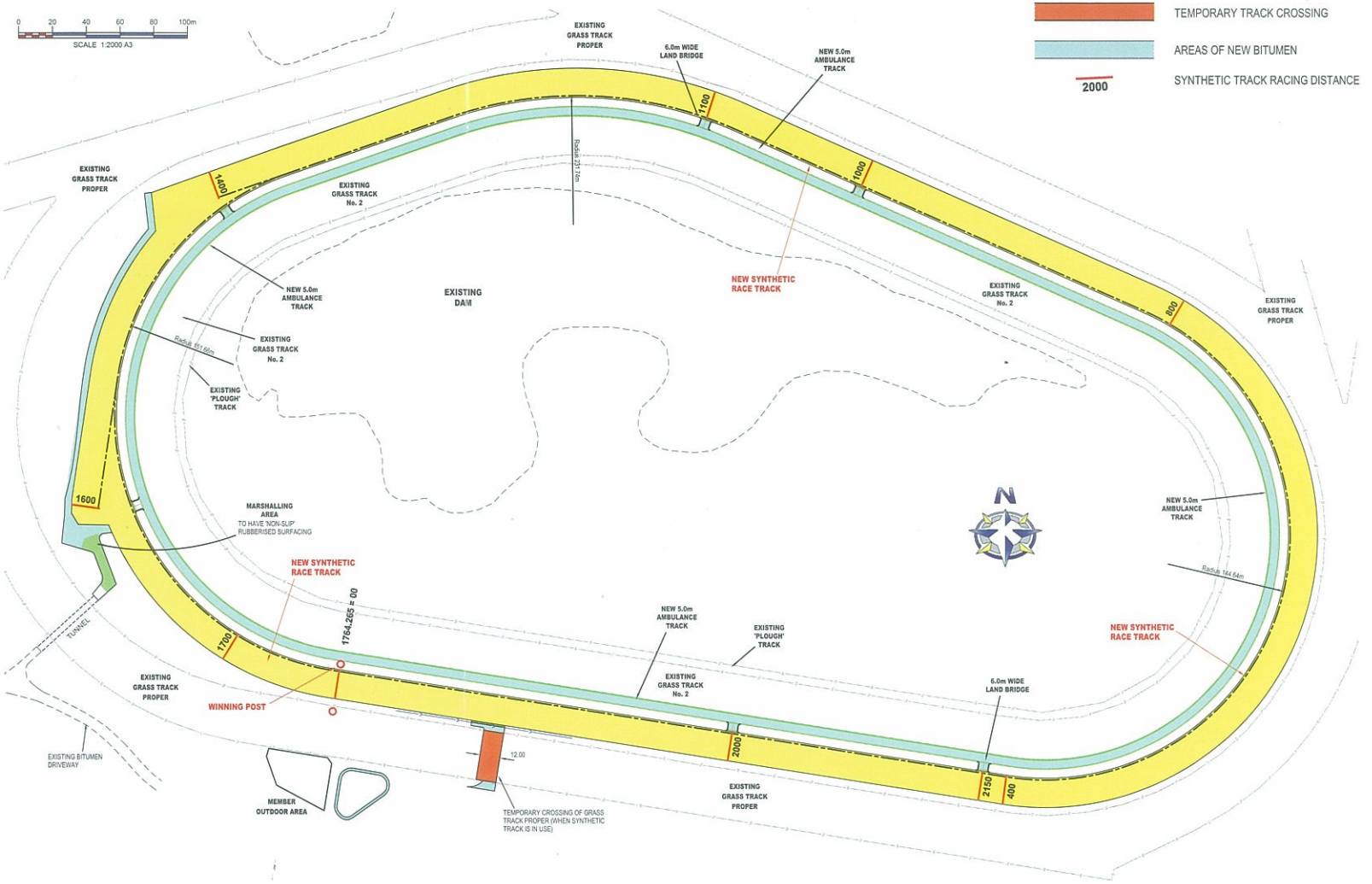
WHAT ARE THE CUSHION TRACK SPECIFICATIONS?

The Corbould Park synthetic surface replaces the sand track. The circumference is 1760m, the width is 18m and the synthetic surface is 175mm in depth and consists of a formulated mixture of long and short synthetic fibres, rubber, silica sand and wax. The materials used in the Cushion Track are new and not recycled, as is the case in some other surfaces. The use of new materials allows the replications of the surface and consistency in top up maintenance.

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER ADVANTAGES OF CUSHION TRACK?

The track will have the necessary camber, but a feature of this surface is 'vertical drainage' allowing the transfer of water rapidly through the surface and drainage layer, this water is then transferred horizontally through PVC.

The industry has relied in the past on unlimited water to produce grass surfaces, this is a luxury that will be difficult to sustain in the future as demands on a limited supply increase.

The synthetic surface is not intended to replace grass tracks, but to complement grass track sustainability. The benefits of synthetic surfaces include minimal irrigation, low maintenance costs, a safe and consistent surface in all weather conditions, improved rider safety and the substantial reduction in soft tissue injuries in horses by virtue of a consistent sub surface.

The track will not fix old injuries, but the consistent and softer surface will be a lot kinder on the legs of horse and rider, and may give some horses an extended career.