

Media release

Testing regime increases for Winter Carnival racing

3 May 2017

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission will carry out an enhanced testing regime during the 2017 thoroughbred and harness racing Winter Racing Carnivals.

QRIC Commissioner Ross Barnett said the testing enhancements supported the regulation of prohibited substances during Queensland's premier racing carnivals.

"In January, the Commission's operational units collaborated to successfully implement a number of in and out of competition sampling and testing strategies for the 2017 Magic Millions race day, and the Winter Carnival will see a similar escalation to ensure the integrity of racing during its busiest period," he said.

"The Carnival sees some of Queensland's richest races as high class competitors converge to Queensland from all over the country and New Zealand for these premier events in both equine codes.

"The QRIC Racing Science Centre, Veterinary Services, Stewarding and the Integrity Regulatory Unit will work overtime to provide a level playing field for all racing participants during the Winter Racing Carnival.

"While it won't be immediately obvious that our testing regime is more robust over the carnival period, I can assure participants that we have it ramped up," he said.

Commissioner Barnett has taken this opportunity to inform the thoroughbred industry that QRIC Chief Thoroughbred Stipendiary Steward Allan Reardon has agreed to stay on in his role for at least another year.

"There had been some industry speculation that Allan may retire, but I am pleased to announce that I have asked Allan to stay on in his role and he has accepted.

Allan's 40 years of stewarding experience is invaluable to the Commission and as a well known face within the industry, Allan's reputation is unsurpassed," he said.

Allan says he was glad he was asked to stay on.

"I appreciate the offer to continue, as long as I stay healthy I'll do it, otherwise when my contract was finished, I would have walked away and that would have been the end of me for racing, but I'm glad he made the offer," Allan said.

Images of Allan Reardon available, contact Vincene Overs vincene.overs@qric.qld.gov.au