



# Media release

## Positive swab cases withdrawn

18 August 2017

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) has decided to discontinue proceedings against two trainers relating to five historical cases where positive swabs were returned to prohibited substances.

QRIC Commissioner Ross Barnett said both the A & B samples relating to each of the positive swabs that were detected prior to the Commission commencing on 1 July 2016 were tested at the Racing Science Centre and the second sample should have been tested at another accredited facility to confirm the findings.

“This departure from normal process occurred on the basis of legal advice sought, accepted and implemented before the Commission commenced which we now accept was misinterpreted. I am aware that there may be a third case subject to a similar outcome in the coming weeks,” Mr Barnett said.

“Following submissions by legal representatives for the trainers involved, Tony Gollan and Ricky Vale, the Commission has come to a decision that the matters should be discontinued.

“Changes to testing procedures which came into effect with the implementation of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* on 1 July 2016 now ensures complete clarity over the correct procedures to be followed and all testing since that date has strictly complied with these procedures.

“The decision to discontinue these historical matters is not a reflection of the honesty, dedication and professionalism of the QRIC staff involved including the stewards, veterinarians and Racing Science Centre analysts. All staff have acted in good faith and with integrity.”

The details of the cases are;

On 15 September 2016 stewards inquired into the circumstances surrounding the analysts’ findings that the urine sample taken from the Tony Golan trained thoroughbred Amexed at the Ipswich Turf Club race meeting on 18 June 2016, was found to contain the prohibited substances Prednisone and Prednisolone.

On 15 June 2017 stewards inquired into a report from the Racing Science Centre that Cobalt was detected in urine samples taken from the Ricky Vale trained Prince Dan at Mackay in March 2016, Reset Our World at Rockhampton in March 2016, Shepiktus at Rockhampton in March 2016 and Dexamethasone was detected in a urine sample taken from Prince Dan at Rockhampton in February 2016.

The findings and penalties for both trainers were confirmed at internal review and both appealed their decisions at QCAT, however all cases have now been discontinued by consent.

The outcomes of all races affected will now be returned to their original results.

ENDS..