



Media release

15 November 2017

Man charged following Toowoomba incident

A 73-year-old man has been charged with a number of offences following the alleged assault of two Queensland Racing Integrity Commission stewards at a property west of Toowoomba.

It's alleged the offences occurred while the stewards were conducting an inspection of stables at a Southbrook property yesterday.

The accused man has been charged with one count of robbery whilst armed, one count of attempting to enter a premises with intent, two counts of assault occasioning bodily harm whilst armed, one count of serious assault of a person over 60 years of age, one count of serious assault of a public official and one count of wilful damage.

The man has been released from the Toowoomba watch house on conditional bail and is due to appear in the Toowoomba Magistrates Court on the 13th of December.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner Ross Barnett said the stewards were acting within their lawful responsibilities when they were subjected to an unprovoked attack.

"It's very fortunate that neither of the officers has suffered any long term damage as a result of what occurred yesterday but having engine degreaser sprayed directly into their face and eyes was a very concerning incident," Commissioner Barnett said.

"I should stress that this is very unusual within the racing industry and most participants treat stewards with respect.

"We of course will not condone any assault on any of our staff and when anything like this happens we will ensure that the people responsible are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Commissioner Barnett said.

Yesterday's incident was captured by a body worn camera worn by one of the Commission's stewards.

"We took that decision to issue body worn cameras for the safety of our staff but also it's the best evidence available if we're going to be alleging that participants are involved in a breach of the rules of racing or anything more serious," Commissioner Barnett said.

"To have an audio and visual recording of what our stewards heard and saw is incredibly powerful evidence and it's a clear and independent record of what's occurred," he said.

If you have any information about serious misconduct in racing, contact Crime Stoppers on their toll free number 1800 333 000 or e-mail reportsomething@qric.qld.gov.au

ENDS
