

Stakeholder Reference Group Minutes of Meeting

Group	Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG)
Chair	Shane Gillard – QRIC Commissioner
Secretariat	Chris Reid, QRIC GM External Affairs
Date and location	Mon 29.08.22, via MS Teams & Newstead Room, Quest, Breakfast Creek
Timing	6:30pm – 8:48pm

Members

Name	Job Title	Area of Business	Attendance Mode
Shane Gillard	Racing Integrity Commissioner	Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC)	In person
Natalie Conner	Deputy Commissioner	QRIC	In person
Chris Reid	GM External Affairs	QRIC	In person
Brendan Parnell	CEO	Racing Queensland (RQ)	MS Teams
Ben Mannion	CEO	Queensland Thoroughbred Owners' Association (QTOA)	In person
Pam O'Neill	Secretary	Queensland Jockeys' Association (QJA)	In person
Cam Partington	QLD State Executive	Australian Trainers' Association (ATA)	In person
Gaylene Teichmann	President	Standardbred Association Queensland (SAQ)	MS Teams
Daren Garrard	QLD President	Breeders', Owners' Trainers', Reinspersons' Association (BOTRA)	In person
Shatha Hamade	Legal Counsel	Animals Australia (AA)	MS Teams
Dr Mandy Paterson	Principal Scientist	RSPCA QLD	MS Teams
Dean Shannon	CEO Australia	Entain Group	MS Teams
Lydia Deutscher	GM Government & Industry	Tabcorp Limited	In person
Tony Partridge	CEO	Brisbane Racing Club (BRC)	In person
Tim Dunn	CEO	Ipswich Turf Club (ITC)	MS Teams
Ian Brown	Racing Manager	Gold Coast Turf Club (GCTC)	MS Teams
John Miller	CEO	Sunshine Coast Turf Club (SCTC)	MS Teams
Lizzy King	CEO	Toowoomba Turf Club	In person

Natalie Rintala	General Manager	Townsville Turf Club	In person
Ian Mill	CEO	Rockhampton Jockey Club (RJC)	MS Teams
Bernie Ring	President	Redcliffe Peninsula Harness Racing and Sporting Club (RPHR&SC)	In person
Rob Essex	President	Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club (IGRC)	In person
Luke Gatehouse	CEO	Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club (BGRC)	In person

Apology

Stephen Lennon	President	Queensland Greyhound Breeders' Owners' and Trainers' Association
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Agenda

Item #	Description	Topic Lead	Timing (minutes)
1.	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Attendance (welcome/apologies)	Chair	5
2.	QRIC SRG Charter	Chair	5
3.	Expectations	Chair	5
4.	Introductions	All	15
5.	One Industry/QRIC Overview	Chair	15
6.	Engagement Strategy	CR	15
7.	Resourcing Strategy	Chair, All	15
8.	Industry Sampling	Chair, All	15
9.	Key Issues / Opportunities	All	20
10.	Closing	Chair	5

1. SRG Charter

The Charter as distributed was endorsed.

2. Expectations

The Commissioner noted that the SRG was a consultative forum, not a decision-making forum. It is a forum for open communication and advice. While full and frank discussions can occur, they must be undertaken with respect to all persons.

The focus of SRG is intended to be strategic, rather than focussing on specific operational decisions. It is intended as a forum for industry members to have their say.

There is an ability to create subgroups for particular issues.

5. Industry/QRIC overview

QRIC's functional model, focusing upon five QRIC priorities: Integrity, Sustainability, Industry Growth, Animal Care and Safety was explained to the SRG. The previous focus of Engagement, Education and Enforcement was also covered but the current strategy has a larger focus upon engagement and education. Other points of interest include:

- Animal care as a responsibility of every functional area. Animal care is an intrinsic consideration within every QRIC role – it is not limited to one branch of QRIC;
- A new role of Chief Veterinarian (rather than a Director of Animal Welfare).
- New area of External Affairs to better improve our focus on media, communications, and government relations. An engagement strategy is to be developed to provide better communication by QRIC to the industry;
- The three Chief Stewards of each code have been elevated into the Executive Leadership Team of QRIC, having more of a say in the management of the organisation and having direct access to the Deputy Commissioner, rather than having access through another director;
- New General Counsel; and Upon the creation of the Racing Appeals Panel, the Internal Review function will continue, but with fewer applications.

SRG members discussed the importance of animal tracking, as well as the difference between animal care and animal welfare.

The Commissioner commented on the challenges of resource allocation across the vast state of Queensland. QRIC has a significant casual workforce located regionally, particularly in stewarding, as well as sample collection officers, judges, starters, and the clerk of scales (where these roles are provided by QRIC). It was noted that 80 percent of QRIC staff were involved in race day operations.

6. Engagement Strategy

QRIC's Engagement Strategy is one of four key enabling strategies that support QRIC's regulatory strategy, the other three being:

- The Racing Animal Welfare Strategy
- The Integrity Strategy; and
- The Workforce Development Strategy.

The objectives of QRIC's Engagement Strategy are to:

- Promote voluntary compliance by providing awareness and explanatory material to participants of the racing industry to help them understand what they need to know and what they need to do.
- Drive cultural change and best practice within the industry by setting and communicating expectations around the practices and conduct of participants.
- Maintain public confidence in the racing industry by proactively and transparently reporting core integrity and animal welfare datasets, enforcement outcomes and industry success.
- Develop and nurture relationships with industry stakeholders to help realise the One Industry vision.

Recently, QRIC undertook a survey about community perceptions of QRIC and integrity in Queensland's racing industry. 971 Queenslanders were surveyed by an independent external market research company. The requirements were to live in Queensland, have some awareness of QRIC, and have watched or placed a bet on a race meeting in Queensland during the last 12 months.

Of those surveyed, 87 percent thought the integrity of racing in Queensland had either not changed or improved over the last 12 months. 79 percent were confident that Queensland racing is run with integrity.

Other highlights and key takeaways from the survey were shared with the group. The group also discussed ways in which QRIC could improve its communication with the industry.

7. Resourcing Strategy

SRG discussed how QRIC can better service the regions, including the challenges of nationwide shortages within the stewarding profession and QRIC's strategy to focus on the cadet steward program. The decision to create a second Deputy Chief Steward for the Thoroughbred code, based regionally to support coaching and mentoring was discussed. The role will be advertised soon.

8. Sampling Strategy

The new QRIC sampling strategy was introduced. The key differences include not testing every winner, as this is too predictable, but instead the sampling strategy will be intelligence-led and have an element of surprise using random selection.

SRG members queried the value of pre-race testing and the potential for it to impact animals before a race. The Commissioner indicated he was happy to look into the results of pre-race analysis to demonstrate its value as part of a swabbing strategy.

The SRG supported the new sampling strategy.

9. Key Issues and Opportunities

SRG members raised several issues and opportunities including:

- Considering the introduction of temporary licences for stable hands and trainee jockeys;
- Examining inconsistencies with stewards attending trackwork and jump outs;

- Allowing competitive racing for all levels of dogs and master racing for older greyhounds. The issues around a potential increase in injuries with older dogs racing were also discussed;
- Possible reforms to the scheme for rehoming thoroughbreds, including amendments to be considered where the contribution to rehoming is made when the animal starts its career; and
- Considering offering endoscope services for equine animals in the future.

Future Agenda Items

Topics put forward as future agenda items included:

- The role of starters and judges, and whether they are a club employee or QRIC employee.
- Code-specific meetings.

The meeting concluded at 8.48pm.