

Stewards Report: Mark Currie

Date: 13 June 2023

Panel: Clayton Warren, Tony Preston & Emily Tickner

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance MELOXICAM was detected in a urine sample taken from TURBOART at Chinchilla on 20 March 2023.

Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL), along with evidence from licensed Trainer Mr Mark Currie.

After considering all of the evidence Mr Currie was issued with a charge pursuant to AR240(2) which reads:

Subject to subrule (3), if a horse has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in any sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.

The specifics of the charge being that licensed Trainer Mr Mark Currie did have the horse TURBOART presented to Chinchilla on 20 March 2023 for the purpose of engaging in the *Metal Recycling Specialist Benchmark 65 Handicap* over 1030m and a post-race urine sample taken from the gelding was found to contain the prohibited substance MELOXICAM.

In determining penalty Stewards gave consideration to Mr Currie's guilty plea and forthright evidence as well as his recent poor record in relation to rules associated with prohibited substances. Stewards noted this was the third (3rd) such occasion Mr Currie had been charged under related rules since a charge under the provisions of AR241 in August 2022, which was associated with the prohibited substance MELOXICAM. Stewards also considered Mr Currie's personal and financial circumstances, relevant penalty precedents as well as the negative impact such breaches have on the image of the industry and the need for any penalty to act not only as a specific deterrent to Mr Currie but to the industry cohort as a whole.

Mr Currie was subsequently fined the sum of \$8,000.

Mr Currie was advised of his right to an appeal.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of AR240(1), Stewards disqualified TURBOART from winning the *Metal Recycling Specialist Benchmark 65 Handicap* over 1030m and the placings were amended as follows:

**Chinchilla 20 March 2023 – Race 7- Metal Recycling Specialist Benchmark 65
Handicap 1030m**

1st- OAKFIELD TARGET

2nd- PHIONAIX

3rd- FITZROY BOY

4th- BULLETIN(USA)