

Stakeholder Reference Group Minutes of Meeting

Subject	Stakeholder Reference Group
Chair	Shane Gillard, Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner (QRIC)
Secretariat	Patrice Reid, Office of the Commissioners
Date and location	Thursday 22 nd June 2023, via MS Teams or Newstead Room, Quest Breakfast Creek, 15 Amy Street, Albion
Timing	2:30pm – 4:30pm

Attendees

Name	Job Title	Area of Business	Attendance Mode
Shane Gillard	Racing Integrity Commissioner	QRIC	In person
Natalie Conner	Deputy Commissioner	QRIC	In person
Chris Reid	GM External Affairs	QRIC	In person
Jason Scott	CEO	Racing Queensland	In person
John Miller	CEO	Sunshine Coast Turf Club	Online
Luke Gatehouse	CEO	Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club	Online
Lydia Deutscher	GM Government & Industry	Tabcorp	In person
Mandy Paterson	Principal Scientist	RSPCA Qld	Online
Rob Essex	President	Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club	Online
Peter Reid	Representative	Australian Veterinary Association	In person
Adam Gardini	A/CEO	Thoroughbred Owners Association	Online
Peter Laird	President	Qld Bookmakers Association	In person
Cam Partington	Qld State Executive	Australian Trainers' Association	In person
Natalie Rintala	General Manager	Townsville Turf Club	Online
Jim Byrne	President	Qld Jockeys' Association	Online

Apologies

Name	Job Title	Area of Business
Karl deKroo	ED, Stakeholder Engagement	Entain Group
Andrew Nicholl		Australian Trainers' Association

Selina Rumble	Racing Manager	Tabcorp
Gaylene Teichmann	President	Standardbred Association of Qld
Bernie Ring	President	Redcliffe Harness Racing Club
Peter Flynn	Representative	Downs Region Country Racing
Tony Partridge	CEO	Brisbane Racing Club
Darren Garrard	QLD President	BOTRA
Erin Cameron	Treasurer	Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club
Dean Shannon	CEO	Entain Group
Shatha Hamade	Legal Counsel	Animals Australia
David Woodhouse	Representative	Leichardt Country Racing
Matt Rudolph	GM Racing	Brisbane Racing Club
Lizzy King	CEO	Toowoomba Turf Club
Ian Mill	CEO	Rockhampton Jockey Club
Ian Brown	Racing Manager	Gold Coast Turf Club
Rhona Stevens	Representative	Far North Country Racing
Tim Dunn	CEO	Ipswich Turf Club
Michael Geraghty	President	Qld GBOTA

Guests

Name	Job Title	Area of Business
Josh Adams	Chief Steward Thoroughbred	QRIC
David Farquharson	Chief Steward Harness	QRIC
Wade Hadley	Chief Steward Greyhound	QRIC
Andrew Langford	GM Animal Care and Advocacy	QRIC
Dominique Murphy	General Counsel	QRIC

Agenda

Item #	Description	Topic Lead	Timing (minutes)
1.	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Welcome/apologies	Chair	2:30 – 2:35
2.	Previous minutes - Update on GAP discussion	Chair	2:35 – 2:40
3.	Participant Conduct	Dominique Murphy	2:40 – 2:50
4.	Regional hubs	Natalie Conner	2:50 – 3:00
5.	Update from Chief Stewards	Josh Adams David Farquharson Wade Hadley	3:00 – 3:30
6.	Key Issues / Opportunities	All	3:30 – 3:50
7.	Closing	Chair	3:50 – 4:00
8.	Sub-committee Greyhound Adoption Program	Chris Reid Andrew Langford	4:00 – 4:30

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner (Chair) formally welcomed the attendees and opened meeting at 2:34pm.

The previous minutes for the meeting held on 13 March 2023, were confirmed.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

- Animal Welfare Strategy – QRIC will seek nominations from SRG members to be involved in an education program about better animal care once the Strategy has been finalised.
- Participant Conduct – QRIC will seek nominations from SRG members to be involved in consultative working group to develop a policy or statement outlining the expected conduct. This topic is addressed as part of this meeting agenda.

3. Industry Participant Conduct

QRIC presented the expected behaviours outlined in the Rules of Racing under each code and what steps should be taken if conduct is an issue.

The SRG attendees advised the existing rules and procedures in place were sufficient and matters are dealt with locally.

4. Regional Hubs

QRIC provided an update on its expanding regional footprint and explained the shift to decentralise and regionalise operations. Through this regionalising approach, QRIC is supporting employment of local people and industry and has increased its visibility on-track. The shift has also reduced health and safety concerns for QRIC including addressing fatigue management issue and reducing the amount of travel required. The regional hubs assist with accommodating additional race day staff (as part of the transition of race day responsibilities from clubs to QRIC), without compromising the delivery of stewarding services on race days.

Further clarity on the hub approach was sought by RQ's Mr Jason Scott and AVA's Mr Peter Reid, and Townsville Turf Club's Ms Natalie Rintala shared her positive experience of having a hub in Townsville, including the ability to have direct access to QRIC staff.

5. Update from Chief Stewards

Thoroughbred

Mr Josh Adams, Chief Steward, Thoroughbred, provided an update on topics relevant to thoroughbred stewarding, including:

- Winter Carnival
- Attraction and retention of stewards
- Supporting the expanding racing calendar
- Review of penalty standards once the Racing Appeals Panel (RAP) has been running for 12-18 months to ensure stewarding original decisions are consistent with precedence set by RAP.

The SRG discussed the matter regarding QRIC deciding to scratch Fireburn. It was agreed that vet advice was paramount and widely supported in this matter, however improved communication was required on QRIC's behalf.

Action: QRIC to develop and issue communication memo advising participants of their requirement to notify stewards of tactics 30mins prior to race.

Harness

Mr David Farquharson, Chief Steward, Harness, gave an update on his harness racing responsibilities, including:

- Current stewarding cohort and recruitment of cadets
- Frequency of harness racing in Queensland
- Roles of harness stewards including assessing gear to ensure it meets standards.

Greyhound

Mr Wade Hadley, Chief Steward, Greyhound, provided an update on the key issues relevant to greyhound racing, including:

- Current stewarding cohort and focus on training
- Frequency of greyhound racing in Queensland
- Numbers of active trainers, registered greyhounds, greyhounds whelped and migration of dogs and trainers from other jurisdictions

- Integrity and compliance activities including kennel inspections, out of competition testing and analysing intelligence, including betting data, to inform swabbing strategy
- Educating industry on animal welfare matters to prevent live-baiting and participant obligations to socialise greyhounds to ensure retired dogs have best chance of being rehomed
- Swabbing results demonstrating high numbers of positives to prohibited substances
- Recently implemented greyhound welfare initiatives and exploring digital solutions to enhance greyhound traceability.

6. Key Issues / Opportunities

A matter was discussed regarding issues with Workcover and insurance concerns for trainers and the issuing of licences to track riders. This is creating difficulties in getting people into clubs to learn how to become a jockey / track rider. The Chair determined this matter will be worked on off-line with the relevant stakeholders.

An update on the fit and proper person test was requested. This item will be addressed at the next SRG meeting.

Future meeting agenda topics:

Fit and proper person

ENDS