

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Mr Tim Cook

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Panel: Shane Larkins, Hayden Gillett, Sharon Coulthard, Shikira Stehbens**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today conducted an inquiry into an incident that occurred during the conduct of the trials run at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on 18 August 2023.

After considering the evidence and submissions, inclusive of a medical report, presented by licensed trainer Tim Cook, Jim Murdoch KC (Acting on behalf of Mr Cook) and Apprentice jockey Erin Molloy, Mr Cook was issued with a charge pursuant to AR 228(b) which states:

*"A person shall not engage in: misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;*

The specifics of the charge being that, as a licensed trainer, when attending the trials conducted at the Rockhampton Jockey Club Racecourse on 18 August 2023, when preparing OUR BERLINETTA for trial three he struck the horse across the muzzle area with a backhand motion with his right hand, which in the opinion of stewards was improper.

Mr Cook pleaded not guilty to the charge. After consideration of submissions in relation to the defense of the charge Mr Cook was found guilty

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards acknowledged Mr Cook's record over a thirty-year involvement in the industry, his personal circumstance and co-operation. Stewards were mindful that Mr Cook had four prior offences under the conduct rules, however none of those were of a compatible nature with this matter. Stewards were also mindful of the need for deterrence both specific and general and considered previous determinations of a similar nature.

Mr Cook was fined \$2000 with \$1000 of the penalty suspended for a period of 2 years, on the basis he does not re-offend under the conduct rules for that period.

Mr Cook was advised of his rights to appeal.