

Meeting Minutes

Subject	Stakeholder Reference Group
Chair	Shane Gillard, Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner
Secretariat	Sandra Gordon, Office of the Commissioners
Date and location	Monday 30 October 2023, MS Teams / 40 Campbell Street, Bowen Hills
Timing	2:03pm – 3:35pm

Attendees

Name	Job Title	Area of Business	Attendance Mode
Shane Gillard	Racing Integrity Commissioner	The Commission	In person
Natalie Conner	Deputy Commissioner	The Commission	In person
Sandra Gordon	Principal Policy Officer	The Commission	In person
Jason Scott	CEO	Racing Queensland	Online
John Miller	CEO	Sunshine Coast Turf Club	Online
Mandy Paterson	Principal Scientist	RSPCA Qld	In person
Steve Woods	President (new)	Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club	In person
Peter Reid	Representative	Australian Veterinary Association	In person
Rhonda Stevens	Representative	Far North Country Racing	Online
Peter Laird	President	Qld Bookmakers Association	In person
Cam Partington	Qld State Executive	Australian Trainers' Association	In person
Bernie Ring	President	Redcliffe Harness Racing Club	In person
Wendy Jones	Treasurer	Standardbred Association of Qld	In person
Erin Cameron	Treasurer	Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club	Online
Karl deKroo	ED, Stakeholder Engagement	Entain Group	Online
Ian Brown	Racing Manager	Gold Coast Turf Club	Online
Stephen Nugent (proxy)	Govt and Industry	TabCorp	Online
Adam Gardini	Comms, Marketing and Media	Gold Coast Turf Club	Online

Guests

Name	Job Title	Area of Business
Josh Adams	Chief Steward Thoroughbred	The Commission
Cheriden Farthing	General Counsel	The Commission
Andrew Langford	General Manager Animal Care & Advocacy	The Commission

Agenda

Item #	Description	Topic Lead
1.	Welcome	Chair
2.	Previous minutes / actions	Chair
3.	Introduction to General Counsel	Chair
4.	Update on Racing Appeals Panel (RAP)	Cheriden Farthing - General Counsel
5.	Thoroughbred Racing Penalty Guidelines	Josh Adams – Chief Steward Thoroughbred
6.	Draft Extreme Weather Policy – consultation	Andrew Langford – General Manager Animal Care & Advocacy
7.	Tabling of VIC Racing Integrity Commissioners Report	Chair
8.	Late notice item - Jurisdictional comparison	Natalie Conner – Deputy Commissioner
9.	Draft 2024 Committee Charter	Secretariat
10.	Emerging Issues / Opportunities	All
11.	Future Agenda items	Secretariat, All
11.	Closing	Chair
12.	GAP Sub-committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft greyhound euthanasia rule	Natalie Conner – Deputy Commissioner and Andrew Langford – General Manager Animal Care & Advocacy

1. Welcome

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner and Chair, Shane Gillard, formally welcomed attendees and opened the meeting at 2.03pm.

The Chair provided acknowledgement of traditional owners.

2. Previous minutes/actions

The previous minutes for the meeting held on 22 June 2023, were confirmed without change.

Any outstanding actions were captured in the agenda items for this meeting.

3. Introduction to General Counsel

The Chair provided a formal introduction of the General Counsel, Cheriden Farthing to members noting that Cheriden commenced with the Commission on 31 July 2023.

Cheriden brings a wealth of leadership and public sector experience leading large in-house legal and corporate services teams in both government and commercial practice.

An overview of the General Counsel portfolio at QRIC was provided, which includes legal services, compliance assurance and regulatory intelligence.

4. Update on Racing Appeals Panel (RAP)

The General Counsel provided an update on the Racing Appeals Panel (RAP) which commenced on 31 March 2023.

The RAP not part of the Commission and is an independent entity in its own right. It was established to provide quick, accessible and fair reviews of stewards' decisions under the Rules of Racing for all codes of racing in Queensland. The Commission has no influence or jurisdiction over the RAP.

An overview of the types of applications and the outcomes from those applications for review was provided (noting this overview is based on general analysis of matters by the Commission). Having regard to the matters that have proceeded to the RAP, the majority of stewards' decisions have been upheld. Most applications for review have been focused on riding offences and prohibited substances.

Given the intent of the RAP to finalise review applications in a shorter timeframe, it was noted that appeals of RAP decisions are limited to questions of law.

QUESTIONS

Mr Cam Partington raised concerns about the RAP and asked where concerns over RAP logistics should be raised.

The Chair reaffirmed that the RAP is independent of the Commission and concerns should be raised independently with Chairperson of the RAP.

Ms Rhonda Stevens raised a specific concern about a matter where the decision of the Steward was overturned by the RAP and the Club was confused as to the outcome given the gravity of the animal welfare concerns involved. The Chair noted that the RAP could be likened to the "Umpire's decision" and neither the Clubs nor the Commission had a right of appeal. It was noted that the Commission carefully considers and applies the reasoning of the RAP when considering the outcome of a case and future cases.

Mr Partington questioned the cost to appear in the RAP. It was noted that a relevant consideration in respect of representation is the type of matter on appeal. For example, racing stewards appear before the RAP on occasions requiring technical expertise and in other matters, the Commission is legally represented where matters of legal consideration or submissions arise.

Mr Partington raised concerns about the RAP process which was considered to be costly to participants. It was raised that a mediation option with the Commission may be preferred prior to commencement of the RAP process.

The Chair noted that the RAP commenced to address feedback and concerns from industry and was designed to and has replaced the previous QRIC internal review process and QCAT (largely).

5. Thoroughbred Racing Penalty Guidelines

Mr Josh Adams, Chief Steward Thoroughbreds, provided an overview of the changes to the Penalty Guidelines, specifically the new Careless Riding Template (the Template).

The new Guidelines were approved on 29 September 2023 with an effective date of 1 October 2023 and are available at <https://qric.qld.gov.au/licensing-and-ownership/thoroughbred/standards-and-rules/>.

The Template formalises the process of how stewards come to a final penalty to allocate and ensures:

- consistency;
- transparency; and
- professional processes.

The Template provides four steps Stewards must consider when assigning a penalty:

- Step 1 – Determine the Grade of the charge
- Step 2 – Previous record AR131(a)
- Step 3 – Premium (Record)
- Step 4 – Feature Meeting Loading

There is also a discount for apprentices that is taken into account given that they are still training and learning.

7. Tabling of VIC Racing Integrity Commissioners Report

The Chair noted the VIC Racing Integrity Commissioner's Report and that it contained a series of recommendations that the Commission were currently working through with Racing Queensland.

The Report is available at https://racingintegrity.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/201869/Independent-Review.pdf.

6. Draft Extreme Weather Policy – consultation

Mr Andrew Langford, General Manager Animal Care & Advocacy, provided an overview of a proposed policy to cover the extreme weather across Queensland. Previously, the Commission had a policy purely based on heat and the Extreme Weather Policy was drafted to cover all types of weather.

The draft Extreme Weather Policy will have temperature cutoffs (based on wet bulb temperatures) and considers the health and safety of both animals and participants within the industry as paramount.

There was further discussion around the table in relation to the types of weather events that will be covered including fire (smoke), lighting, hail etc.

Dr Mandy Paterson asked if the draft policy would apply to greyhounds as they had a different tolerance to the larger racing animals.

Mr Langford noted that the policy would cover all three codes of racing, and this was addressed in the attachments.

The Chair noted that the policy provides specific matters of pertinence to each of the three codes (where relevant).

Dr Peter Reid noted that the Commission previously had a policy and inquired if that had been updated.

The Chair noted that it had been updated and expanded.

Dr Reid questioned if Clubs would have a responsibility to measure and record weather.

The Chair noted that the Commission would carry that responsibility, but it may be a worthwhile exercise to leave the wet bulb thermometers at Clubs for their use as well.

ACTION - *The Extreme Weather Policy will be provided to members out of session for feedback.*

8. Late notice item - Jurisdictional comparison

Ms Natalie Conner, Deputy Commissioner, spoke to some highlights from a report recently commissioned by KPMG covering a jurisdictional comparison of integrity services across Australia.

Key areas highlighted and discussed include:

- Comparison of functions performed by QRIC versus who performs them in other states
- Consideration of staffing and budgets within the context of the number and types of race meetings on a state by state basis
- Funding of the Commission since inception and sources of those funds
- Comparison of publicly available revenue as compared to other jurisdictions

9. Draft 2024 Committee Charter

Ms Sandra Gordon, Secretariat noted that it was time to review the Committee Charter as a best practice measure.

ACTION - *The Charter will be provided to members out of session and any feedback, comments or suggestions are to be provided by 30 November 2023.*

10. Emerging Issues / Opportunities

Dr Reid noted the reduction in injury rates at the Winter Carnival as a result of the extra measures the Commission had put in place but an increase statewide in fatalities. Requested that the Commission address how it responds to an analysis of the data compared to previous years and how changes are affecting the outcomes.

Dr Reid inquired about the availability of race day experienced vets. The Deputy Commissioner provided advice in relation to recruitment for vets and that it was a difficult process to find vets with race day experience. The Commission has hired two new vets with no race day experience and will train them through the Commission's Grow Your Own initiative. The investment in training and allowing vets to shadow experienced race day vets will boost the Commission's capability. It is hoped we will engage more vets in a similar capacity in the near future.

The Commissioner was pleased to announce that Dr Anil Prabhu, previously of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, would be joining the Commission and leading some reviews into capability and resources around the Commission's animal care pillar.

Mr John Miller raised the issue of barrier attendant and starter positions that still sit with the clubs and questioned if those would be moving to the Commission. The Deputy Commissioner agreed with Mr Jason Scott (CEO, RQ) to take the conversation offline for further discussion.

11. Future Agenda items

Future agenda items can be forwarded to the Secretariat before the next meeting and a request will be made closer to the next meeting date.

12. Closing

The main meeting concluded at 3.35PM

Next meeting to be set for February 2024.

13. GAP Sub-committee

The sub-committee were updated in relation to:

- the draft greyhound euthanasia rule; and
- the draft rehoming rule

The Deputy Commissioner provided an overview of some changes with GAP including:

- the Commission was working to boost intake and adoption numbers statewide;
- The Commission is in discussion with several rehoming groups, seeking to develop partnerships;
- an increase in the number of locations for GAP across the state with four kennel facilities now online in SEQ, one in Rockhampton and one in Townsville which will increase GAP's ability to take more greyhounds;
- the removal of pre-assessment for GAP;
- the Commission has hired a Regional Coordinator in Rockhampton (Ms Joanne Phillips) and is about to engage another officer in Townsville and advertise for someone in SEQ, their role is to engage with trainers earlier, providing rehoming advice, assistance and support;
- noted that although the Commission accepted dogs that were not desexed etc, already desexed dogs who are worm free, vaccinated, and had their dental clearance were given priority access via the Jump the Queue initiative;

It was noted that Racing Queensland is providing funding to trainers to prepare their dogs for rehoming (and priority access into GAP) via the Greyhound Rehoming Readiness Scheme.