

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Tom Button

**Date: 13 April 2024**

**Panel: Ross Neal, Darryl Griffiths, Kieran Dean**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) stewards today conducted an inquiry at the Townsville stewards room into a report from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) that the prohibited substance dexamethasone was detected in a pre-race blood sample taken from MAKE IT FLASHY, which was unplaced in Race 2 at Townsville Turf Club on 20 February 2024. Trainer Mr Tom Button was in attendance.

After considering all the evidence, in that MAKE IT FLASHY, was brought to the Townsville Turf Club on 20 February 2024 and competed in Race 2 'BENCHMARK 58 – 1609 Metres' - a pre-race blood sample of MAKE IT FLASHY was collected which, upon initial and referee analysis, revealed the sample to contain dexamethasone, a substance prohibited under the Australian Rules of Racing AR 240(1).

Mr Tom Button was charged and pleaded guilty to contravening AR240 (2), which states –

*“Subject to subrule (3) , if a horse is 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 a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any person who was in charge of the horse at the relevant time breaches these Australian Rules”.*

Accordingly, Mr Tom Button was fined \$2,000. In assessing penalty, the stewards considered the following:

1. Mr Tom Button's exemplary record over a long period of training in the thoroughbred industry.
2. Mr Tom Button's guilty plea.
3. Penalty precedents for the prohibited substance dexamethasone.
4. The negative impact such breaches have on the image of racing.
5. The need for a penalty to serve as an appropriate deterrent to ensure racing is conducted free of prohibited substances.

Under the provisions of AR 240(1), MAKE IT FLASHY was disqualified from its 9<sup>th</sup> placing in the above-mentioned race.

Mr Tom Button was advised of his appeal rights.