

# Stewards' Report

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 9 May 2024
<b>Panel:</b>	Mr P McLean (Chairperson), Mr C Ferguson
<b>Person:</b>	Mr Eric Conroy
<b>Rule:</b>	GAR 165(c)(ii)
<b>Charges:</b>	That Mr Eric Conroy, a licensed greyhound trainer, breeder and owner, engaged in conduct of an offensive nature during a telephone conversation with an employee of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission on 26 April 2024
<b>Penalty:</b>	Two (2) month licence suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months, together with a \$1,500.00 fine of which \$750.00 was wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months

---

On 9 May 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) stewards concluded an inquiry into the conduct of licensed trainer, breeder and owner Mr Eric Conroy towards an employee of QRIC via telephone on 26 April 2024.

Evidence was tendered by Mr Eric Conroy and Ms Alison O'Connor, Administration Officer of QRIC during the inquiry.

After considering all the evidence, stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 165(c)(ii), which provides:

*An offence is committed if a person (including an official):*

*(c) engages in contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to:*

*(ii) any officer, employee or member of a Controlling Body*

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

That Mr Eric Conroy, a licensed trainer, breeder, and owner, engaged in conduct of an offensive nature during a telephone conversation with Ms Alison O'Connor, an employee of QRIC, on 26 April 2024.

Mr Conroy entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made submissions in respect of penalty.

In determining the matter of penalty, stewards considered the following:

- Mr Conroy's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;

- Mr Conroy's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer and owner, being approximately thirty (30) years;
- Mr Conroy's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Conroy's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of any nature;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Conroy and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents;
- the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, the stewards imposed a two (2) month licence suspension, with stewards electing to wholly suspend the penalty under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breaches of a similar nature, together with a \$1,500.00 fine, with stewards electing to suspend \$750.00 of the penalty under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breaches of a similar nature.

Mr Conroy was advised of his right to a review of the decision.