

# Stewards Report

## Stewards Report: Trainer Mark Currie

**Date: 22 May 2025**

**Panel: Clayton Warren, Brett Wright, Edward Scott & Emily Tickner**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance meloxicam was detected in blood samples collected from QUEEN ASSASSIN & ZIN ZAN READY at Eagle Farm on 28 December 2024 & Kilcoy on 26 January 2025 respectively.

The inquiry was commenced on 16 April 2025 with documentary evidence being tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL), along with evidence from Licensed Trainer Mr Mark Currie.

After considering all of the evidence Stewards issued Mr Currie with two charges pursuant to AR240(2) & a further two charges pursuant to AR104(1) as follows:

### **AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting:**

*(2) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse has been 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 any sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.*

### **Charge 1**

On 28 December 2024, you Mr Mark Currie, as the trainer of QUEEN ASSASSIN, did have that mare presented to Eagle Farm racecourse for the purpose of participating in Race 10, the Sky Racing Benchmark 90 Handicap over 1000m, where a pre-race blood sample taken from that mare was found to contain Meloxicam; a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing pursuant to Division 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 (Prohibited List B) as a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) capable at any time of directly or indirectly causing an action and/or effect within the digestive system, and/or musculoskeletal system and is categorised as an analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic agent in breach of AR 240(2).

**Plea – Not Guilty**

**Finding – Guilty**

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## **Charge 2**

On 26 January 2025, you Mr Mark Currie, as the trainer of ZIN ZAN READY, did have that gelding presented to Kilcoy racecourse for the purpose of participating in Race 4, the Somerset Regional Council Australia Day Benchmark 55 Handicap over 1200m, where a post-race blood sample taken from that gelding was found to contain Meloxicam; a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing pursuant to Division 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 (Prohibited List B) as a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) capable at any time of directly or indirectly causing an action and/or effect within the digestive system, and/or musculoskeletal system and is categorised as an analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antipyretic agent in breach of AR 240(2).

**Plea – Not Guilty**

**Finding – Guilty**

***AR 104 Trainers must keep treatment records:***

*(1) A trainer must record any medication or treatment administered to any horse in the trainer's care by midnight on the day on which the administration was given.*

## **Charge 3**

You, Mr Mark Currie, as the trainer of QUEEN ASSASSIN, did fail to record the administration of the medication meloxicam given to that mare on 25 December 2024 in any treatment record.

**Plea – Guilty**

## **Charge 4**

You, Mr Mark Currie, as the trainer of ZIN ZAN READY, did fail to record the administration of the medication meloxicam given to that gelding on 22 January 2025 in any treatment record.

**Plea – Guilty**

Mr Currie pleaded guilty to charges 3 & 4 and after pleading not guilty to charges 1 & 2 was found guilty after making brief submissions in his defence. The matter was then adjourned to permit Mr Currie to make submissions pertaining to penalty in writing

which were tendered on 30 April 2025. Stewards then sought clarification on several matters prior to delivering penalty on 22 May 2025.

In determining penalty Stewards gave consideration to the following:

- Seriousness nature of the breaches
- Negative impact on image of industry
- Relevant precedent
- Relevant pleas
- The timing of the breaches; noting Mr Currie had not been notified of the initial sample discrepancy prior to the second sample being collected meaning there was no opportunity to amend stable practices prior to that second occurrence
- Disciplinary history; noting these were Mr Curries equal 5<sup>th</sup> breaches of AR240(2) since 3 August 2022
- Penalty submissions
- Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)
- Racing Integrity Act 2016 (Qld)
- Level of culpability & blameworthiness
- General & Specific deterrence
- Principle of totality

Stewards subsequently determined, considering the general circumstance of the matter that an appropriate starting point for penalty for Charges 1 & 2 should commence at a monetary fine of \$10,000 each, meaning a total amount of \$20,000. Along with a 6-month suspension of license in full, wholly suspended under the provisions of AR 283(5) for a period of 24-months for each breach. In considering the specifics of the matter however, with particular mind to the principle of totality, Stewards determined that a total monetary penalty of \$15,000 be imposed in respect of Charges 1 & 2. Additionally, regarding the suspended suspensions, Stewards determined that these were to be treated as wholly concurrent. The suspended suspensions are to be enlivened if, at any time, a breach of AR 240(2) or any similar rule occurs within the operative period of the suspended suspensions, being 22 May 2025 to 22 May 2027. Additionally, Stewards determined with attention to all the relevant facts and circumstances, that penalty for charges 3 & 4 should be treated collectively and that a fine of \$500 should be imposed.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of AR240(1), Stewards disqualified QUEEN ASSASSIN & ZIN ZAN READY from the relevant races and amended the placings accordingly.

Mr Currie was advised of his right to an appeal.