

## Stewards' Report

### Stewards' Report – Prohibited Substance Detected in Rider Sample

**Date: 26 June 2025**

**Panel: Ross Neal (Chairman), Darryl Griffiths**

Racing Queensland Stewards have today concluded an inquiry into a report received from Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) regarding a sample provided by licensed jockey Aidan Holt at the Cairns Racecourse on Thursday, 15 May 2025.

Analysis of the sample detected the presence of a prohibited substance, banned under the provisions of AR 139(1)(a), which states:

**AR 139(1)(a)** – A rider breaches the Australian Rules of Racing if a banned substance under AR 136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider.

#### **Charge:**

That Mr Aidan Holt, being a licensed jockey with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, did provide a urine sample at Cairns Racecourse on Thursday, 15 May 2025, which was found to contain the banned substance **phentermine**, contrary to AR 136(1) of the Australian Rules of Racing.

Mr Holt was advised of the finding and was stood down from riding pending the outcome of the Stewards' inquiry.

Following consideration of the evidence, including:

- Mr Holt's guilty plea and full admissions
- His personal circumstances
- His disciplinary history
- The need for both general and specific deterrence
- The principles of penalty: rehabilitation, denunciation, and proportionality
- Relevant penalty precedents

The Stewards imposed a penalty of **four (4) weeks' suspension** of Mr Holt's licence to ride in races. This suspension is to be **backdated to Wednesday, 18 June 2025**, being the date he was initially stood down, and will conclude at **midnight on Wednesday, 16 July 2025**.

This outcome reflects the seriousness with which breaches of the substance rules are treated. Penalties are intended to punish wrongdoing and deter similar conduct by others.

The racing industry must uphold the highest standards of integrity and safety. All licensed riders are reminded of their obligations under the Rules of Racing and the necessity of strict compliance.

Mr Holt was advised of his rights of appeal.