

## STEWARDS DECISION

### OFFICE OF RACING INTEGRITY

and

### MR ANTHONY BULLOCK

<b>Date of hearing:</b>	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Stewards Panel:</b>	Neil Finnigan (Chair), Dominic Tyson & Roger Brown
<b>Present:</b>	Mr Anthony Bullock & Mr Ben Yole (Support person)
<b>Rule:</b>	Tasmanian Greyhound Racing Rule 159(3)(b)
<b>Charge:</b>	That licensed Public Trainer in the greyhound code, Mr Anthony Bullock, did possess a part of an animal, that being the tail of a pademelon ( <i>Thylogale billardierii</i> ), being attached to the lure in a bullring located on premises at 2616 West Tamar Road, Exeter, which would be capable of being used as bait, quarry, or lure.
<b>Plea:</b>	Not Guilty
<b>Stewards Findings:</b>	Guilty
<b>Penalty:</b>	On being found guilty, the Tasmanian Greyhound Racing Local Rule 159.1 requires that the penalty imposed must be disqualification for the period of Mr Bullock's natural life.

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### Investigation

1. On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Office of Racing Integrity Stewards conducted inspections of Mr Bullock's property at Exeter.
2. During these inspections greyhounds were assessed, kennels and beddings evaluated, and training areas inspected, including Mr Bullocks bullring complex.

3. While inspecting the bullring complex the Stewards found an animal part, later confirmed to be the tail of a pademelon, attached to the lure in a bullring at the eastern end of Mr Bullock's property. At the time of inspection Mr Bullock was registered as a public trainer in the greyhound code by the Tasmanian Office of Racing Integrity (ORI).
4. On the Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023, the Director of Racing, Mr Justin Helmich, acting under GAR 169(5), suspended Mr Bullock's licences pending the outcome of an inquiry into the presence of an animal part being located in the bullring.

## Decision

5. On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Stewards conducted an inquiry into the matter with Mr Bullock, who was accompanied by his support person, Mr Ben Yole. At the inquiry Mr Bullock called a number of witnesses.
6. Following consideration of all the evidence adduced during the inquiry, the Stewards issued Mr Bullock with a charge pertaining to him being in contravention of Tasmanian Greyhound Racing Rule 159(3)(b), alleging he was in possession of an animal part which was capable of being used as a bait, quarry, or lure. *Rule 159(3) reads -*

*A person who, in the opinion of a Controlling Body or the Stewards:*

*(b) attempts to possess, has possession of, or brings onto any premises, grounds or within the boundaries of any property where greyhounds are, or activities associated with greyhound racing occur or are intended to occur, any animal carcass or part of an animal, for the purpose of being, or which is reasonably likely to be or capable of being, used as bait, quarry or lure;*

7. Mr Bullock pleaded not guilty to the charge.
8. Following submissions to support his not guilty plea, and Stewards being mindful of the definition of "*possession*" as described in the Tasmanian Greyhound Racing Rules where Mr Bullock is required to *prove that he did not know of the existence* of the pademelon tail, rather than simply state he did not know it was there, Mr Bullock was subsequently found guilty of the charge.
9. On finding Mr Bullock guilty the Stewards were required to impose the penalty prescribed in Tasmanian Local Rule 159.1 which states –

*Notwithstanding the penalties stipulated in GAR 159(3), a person who, in the opinion of the Stewards or Controlling Body is deemed guilty of an offence under the provisions of that rule must be disqualified for the period of their natural life.*

## 10. Outcome

Mr Bullock is disqualified for the period of his natural life.

Mr Bullock was advised of his rights of appeal.

**Decision Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023