



28 June 2024

Media Release

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Racing investigation update

The work of the independent stewards panel investigating the review findings is continuing.

On Friday 28 June, the Director of Racing wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) to advise the independent stewards panel investigating the allegations of race fixing and animal welfare identified in the Murrhiy Review requires more time to consider the evidence.

NRE Tas Secretary Jason Jacobi said there had been a delay in the finalisation of the investigation, but that it remains of utmost importance that the panel be given the time to fully and properly investigate the allegations of race fixing and animal welfare in the harness racing industry.

“The independent panel’s processes and outputs need to withstand the highest levels of public and legal scrutiny. This process cannot be jeopardised by rushing to complete the investigation,” Mr Jacobi said.

“The panel is undertaking a comprehensive process, actively gathering information from many sources and individuals.

“Since its establishment in late February 2024, the panel has made eight visits to Tasmania to assess local conditions and conduct interviews with witnesses and undertake other investigations.

“They are diligently working through this to ensure a very thorough legal and robust process is undertaken, and there is more work to be done.”

The independent stewards panel has assessed the 15 races identified by independent investigator Ray Murrhiy for further scrutiny under the Australian Harness Rules of Racing and has delivered an interim report on the outcome of this.

The interim report concluded that there was insufficient evidence to take any further action on 14 of the 15 races.

Further assessment of three races – one of the 15, along with the other races that were identified by Mr Murrhiy as potentially non-compliant - is ongoing.

“Given the work of the panel is an ongoing investigation it is not appropriate to make any further comment,” Mr Jacobi said.

The second Murrphy Review Implementation Committee Report will be published on the NRE Tas website (www.nre.tas.gov.au) on 1 July in line with the Government's commitment to publicly release quarterly updates.

This progress report will advise on the progress of all the Murrphy review recommendations.

ENDS

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