

# MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

## **Oversight of Racing Victoria's decision to withdraw charges against Messrs Richard Laming, Marnu Potgieter and MD Zeyaur Rahman by the Victorian Racing Integrity Board and Racing Integrity Commissioner**

The Victorian Racing Integrity Board this week forwarded to Racing Victoria its determination in relation to proposed disciplinary action against a senior steward.

The disciplinary action arises out of the steward's conduct whilst giving evidence to the Victorian Racing Tribunal in February 2021. The Board has informed Racing Victoria that it expects Racing Victoria to make public its decision once it has considered the Board's determination.

The Board is also considering the circumstances surrounding the withdrawal of charges against Mr Laming and others. Racing Victoria has already provided material to the Board for its consideration. On 9 March, it requested additional documents which Racing Victoria has provided today.

Separately, the Racing Integrity Commissioner has also requested a briefing from Racing Victoria. The Commissioner will undertake his examination of the matter expeditiously. Once his enquiries are concluded, the Board will consider whether it is necessary to provide advice and/or make recommendations to Racing Victoria concerning its prosecution and enforcement processes.

The Board and the Commissioner are committed to providing a full and public explanation about the circumstances of the withdrawal of charges as soon as is practicable.

### **Quotes attributable to the Chair of the Victorian Racing Integrity Board, The Hon. Jack Forrest QC**

*"Accountability, transparency, and public confidence in the integrity of racing mean that there must be full public disclosure of the stewards' conduct, including publication of details about relevant actions and the disciplinary action taken."*

### **Quotes attributable to the Racing Integrity Commissioner, Sean Carroll**

*"The matter has received significant media attention questioning the conduct of Racing Victoria stewards and the integrity of the evidence given by them before the Tribunal. Clearly, there is potential for damage to public and industry confidence in the integrity of the Victorian Racing Industry which demands independent assessment."*

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