



Racing Integrity  
Commissioner

# MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday 2 March 2023

## **Release of public summary report of review of integrity processes and systems relevant to the investigation conducted Racing Victoria Ltd into persons connected with Aquanita Racing Australia Pty Ltd**

The Racing Integrity Commissioner, Sean Carroll, has today released a [public summary report](#) of his review of integrity processes and systems relevant to the investigation conducted Racing Victoria Ltd (RVL) into persons connected with Aquanita Racing Australia Pty Ltd (Aquanita).

In October 2021, the Commissioner informed RVL that he would conduct a review of its integrity processes and systems relevant to its investigation into allegations of systemic 'stomach tubing' and other breaches of the rules of racing by persons connected with Aquanita.

This decision was made once all Aquanita disciplinary processes had concluded and followed an assessment of the many complaints and enquiries received by the Commissioner's office about the Aquanita case.

The Commissioner's review examined over 500 documents, 30 interview transcripts and 120 spreadsheets of wagering data, and focused on the following RVL integrity processes and systems:

- the adequacy of the Aquanita investigation
- the identification and management of perceived, potential and actual conflicts of interest arising from the professional and personal relationships that exist between relevant staff, directors and industry participants
- the wagering analysis undertaken to identify and investigate race fixing
- the identification and investigation of the use of other substances and training methods prohibited under the rules of racing.

The Commissioner identified deficiencies in certain aspects of the RVL's investigation processes and systems. However, as RVL has already rectified a number of these issues and is taking steps to address others, the Commissioner determined that it was unnecessary to make recommendations about these matters.

The Commissioner otherwise found no evidence of:

- any undeclared or mismanaged conflicts of interest, or inappropriate participation or interference in any Aquanita decision-making by any person
- any deficiencies in the wagering analysis undertaken by RVL
- the administration of any other banned substances or use of other improper training methods by any person connected with Aquanita.

For these reasons, the Commissioner considers that there is no basis to take any further action in relation to Aquanita at this time, unless and until such time as any new evidence is provided to his office.

### **Quotes attributable to Racing Integrity Commissioner Sean Carroll:**

"I acknowledge the significant public and industry interest in the Aquanita case. In reviewing the investigation, I found it to be an incredibly unique and particularly complex matter.

"Notably, the investigation undertaken by Racing Victoria Ltd resulted in seven licensed persons receiving substantial disqualifications from thoroughbred racing, including three life bans.

"Whilst the investigation was ultimately successful, certain deficiencies in the Racing Victoria Ltd investigation processes and systems in place at the time meant that evidence was either not obtained, destroyed, or permanently lost. As a result, the question of whether others had knowledge of, or were implicated in, the systemic doping at Aquanita can never be answered."

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