

FACT SHEET

Racing Regulation and Integrity Bill 2024

The Racing Regulation and Integrity Bill 2024 is made to regulate thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing, to ensure the integrity of persons involved in such racing, to safeguard the welfare of animals, and for related purposes.

The Bill repeals the *Racing Regulation Act 2004* and delivers on recommendations for legislative change identified in the Government's response to the review of the *Racing Regulation Act 2004: Securing the Integrity of the Tasmanian Racing Industry* by Mr. Dale G. Monteith.

The Government appointed Mr. Monteith to conduct the review with a view to strengthening the integrity model in the Tasmanian racing industry, as well as animal welfare, because the *Racing Regulation Act 2004* had not been substantially reviewed since its inception.

Extensive consultation was undertaken during the drafting of the new legislation. Key stakeholders, including racing integrity bodies at a national and State level, racing industry groups, animal welfare groups, Government Agencies and affected employees were consulted and given the opportunity to comment on it.

The Bill strengthens the Tasmanian racing integrity and welfare model by introducing reforms as outlined below.

1. The removal of the Director of Racing and Office of Racing Integrity

The Bill allocates integrity and welfare functions between the newly created Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner and Tasracing Pty Ltd (Tasracing).

2. The Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner

The Bill creates the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner with powers to set integrity and animal welfare standards for the racing industry, with comprehensive investigatory functions.

The Bill also gives the Commissioner the power to hold own-motion inquiries into systemic issues in racing, as well as to inquire into systemic issues in racing as referred to it by the Minister for Racing.

The Commissioner will have broad referral powers, including to Tasmania Police, the Integrity Commission, Tasracing and appropriate bodies enabling it to operate within the national racing integrity system.

The Commissioner will report to the Minister for Racing.

3. The Integrity and Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The Bill creates an Integrity and Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to advise the Commissioner on animal welfare, biosecurity, and integrity matters.

The Bill provides for the Advisory Committee to include representatives from Tasracing, Biosecurity Tasmania, and RSPCA Tasmania.

It will also include two persons nominated by the Commissioner, giving scope for the Commissioner to be advised by persons with knowledge of the racing industry, welfare, veterinary science, and other expertise.

4. Integrity governance in Tasracing Pty Ltd

The Bill enhances integrity governance in Tasracing, making it operationally responsible for all three codes of racing, which includes pre-race day and race day management, stewards, and daily animal welfare. The Bill establishes an Integrity Unit in Tasracing for these purposes, which is separate from its commercial and administrative arms.

As the Principal Racing Authority, Tasracing will retain responsibility for making Rules of Racing for each code, by adopting National Rules and by prescribing local rules. Administrative responsibility for the Rules of Racing is allocated to the Tasracing Integrity Unit.

The Unit will be led by a Chief Racing Integrity Officer. Its activities will be overseen by a Racing Integrity Committee comprising two non-executive Board members of Tasracing and two independent persons appointed by the Minister for Racing with appropriate knowledge and experience, one of whom will be appointed as its Chair.

The Bill requires Tasracing to submit an annual plan to the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner for endorsement, including budgets, for integrity and animal welfare in racing. The Commissioner will review these plans and will be able to make recommendations in relation to them.

5. Retention of the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board

The Bill retains the independent Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board as the hearer of appeals in relation to decisions of Tasracing and stewards' decisions, as before.

6. Regulation of bookmaking

The Bill introduces additional measures for the regulation and administration of bookmakers. The Racing Integrity Committee will review applications for registration as a bookmaker. Further, the Bill removes the power to make Sports Betting Rules to apply to bookmaking, which the *Racing Regulation Act 2004* assigned to the Director of Racing. The Bill empowers the Governor to make Regulations for purposes relating to bookmaking.

These reforms give the racing industry a modernised and fit-for-purpose structure for its regulation and operation, as well as its integrity and animal welfare responsibilities.