FACT SHEET

Racing Regulation Amendment (Board Amalgamation) Bill 2015

The *Racing Regulation Amendment (Board Amalgamation) Bill 2015* amends the *Racing Regulation Act 2004* to effect the amalgamation of the Integrity Assurance Board (IAB) and the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board (TRAB) as part of the Government's commitment to reducing the number of its boards and committees.

The IAB adjudicates appeals against certain statutory decisions of the Director of Racing, Tasracing and racing clubs, as well as appeals relating to disputed bets.

The TRAB adjudicates appeals against certain decisions and penalties imposed by stipendiary stewards under the *Rules of Racing* for all three codes of racing, as well as decisions of Tasracing and racing clubs to issue warning-off notices under the Racing Regulation Act.

In 2014, the former Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources undertook a review of the two racing boards in terms of their purpose, role, size, composition, cost and other relevant aspects, and identified that it was feasible for a single board to undertake the duties and responsibilities for both boards, and that amalgamating the IAB and the TRAB would deliver savings without compromising integrity.

The amalgamation of the IAB and the TRAB was accepted as a savings strategy in the 2014/15 State Budget.

In addition to the necessary savings, transitional and consequential provisions to give effect to the amalgamation of the IAB and the TRAB, the *Racing Regulation Amendment (Board Amalgamation) Bill 2015* also incorporates a recommendation of the independent panel established to review the 2010 legislative amendments to the racing appeal structure and processes. The panel's recommendation was to remove a restriction of the TRAB chairperson's powers to suspend a penalty pending the hearing and determination of an appeal in certain circumstances.

The restructured racing appeal system, which will see the IAB's powers and functions transferred to the amalgamated TRAB, is to commence on 1 July 2015.