



2023

## **Legislative Council**

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# **Government Administration Committee 'B'**

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### **Final Report into the Roles and Functions of the Office of Racing Integrity**

**12 December 2023**

#### Members of the Committee:

**Hon Tania Rattray MLC (Chair)**

**Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC (Deputy Chair)**

**Hon Jane Howlett MLC**

**Hon Meg Webb MLC**

**Hon Josh Willie MLC**

**Hon Rob Valentine MLC**

On 28 March 2023, in accordance with Sessional Order 5 (14), Government Administration Committee 'B' resolved to establish a short inquiry process into the role and functions of Office of Racing Integrity with the following terms of reference:

1. *To review and report on the functions of the Office of Racing Integrity, including:*
  - a. *the regulation of the State's racing codes including how the Rules of Racing are effectively enforced and investigated; and*
  - b. *monitoring of the conduct of race meetings statewide;*
2. *Progress on implementing the recommendations covered by the Review of the Racing Regulation Act 2004: Securing the Integrity of the Tasmanian Racing Industry (the Monteith Review); and*
3. *Any other matter incidental thereto.*

The Committee conducted two public hearings with the then Minister for Racing, Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP and representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Office of Racing Integrity and Tasracing: Thursday, 13 April 2023 and Friday, 30 June 2023. No public submissions were called for.

An interim Report (No. 21 of 2023) was tabled in the Legislative Council on 28 September 2023. The Report contained 23 findings and made seven recommendations:

1. *The Murrihy Report in its entirety be publicly released in full as soon as practicable.*
2. *Legislative reform should be expedited to increase the independence of the Office of Racing Integrity.*
3. *The Monteith Review recommendations to improve animal welfare outcomes within Tasmania's racing industry be further progressed by the Government as a priority.*
4. *The existing Members' Statement of Expectations for Tasracing should be contemporised to include compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 1993.*
5. *The Government should ensure Tasracing has sufficient resources to fully fund retired greyhound rehoming services across industry and private providers.*
6. *Ensure funding agreements with the RSPCA Tasmania include funding for advocacy activities related to Government policy and legislative development.*
7. *Ensure complaint handling processes between the Office of the Minister and the Department are clearly defined in relation to conflicts of interest.*

On 17 October 2023, as a result of Ministerial Portfolio changes, the Minister for Racing portfolio was transferred to Government Administration Sessional Committee 'A': i.e., the Office of Racing Integrity was no longer under the scrutiny of the Committee.

Accordingly, the Committee resolved to finalise its short inquiry process into the roles and functions of the Office of Racing Integrity.

**DATE: 12 December 2023**



**HON TANIA RATTRAY MLC  
COMMITTEE CHAIR**