

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Short inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's response to serious allegations within harness racing

ASKED BY: The Hon Dean Winter MP, Member for Franklin

ANSWERED BY: The Hon Minister Jane Howlett MP, Minister for Racing

QUESTION 1:

The date of meeting with Mr Pullen. (*Question asked on 1 March 2025*)

ANSWER:

Wednesday, 17 February 2021.

QUESTION 2:

Minister, were you briefed, informed, or involved in any of the decisions around Mr Shinn's inquiry [into the Tasmania Cup Race on 13 March 2021] effectively being quashed, and Mr Murrehy being brought in? (*Question asked on 1 March 2025*)

ANSWER:

The Tasmania Cup was held at Elwick on the evening of Saturday 13 March 2021. The all clear was given on the judge's placings, however all parties were notified that an inquiry would be conducted as to whether Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 174(1) should be invoked.

On Sunday 14 March 2021, a Statement was released on Twitter that "Stewards will be conducting an inquiry relating to Race 7, the Ladbrokes Tasmania Cup Final 2021, which was conducted at Elwick on Saturday, March 13, 2021."

On 15 March 2021 the Office of Racing Integrity released a media statement stating that, "After consideration and acting under the provisions of AHRR181, the Acting Director of Racing, Mr Tony Latham has appointed Mr Ray Murrphy to lead the investigation."

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania records indicate that on 15 March 2021 a Minute to the Minister was provided to the Minister's Office. The Minute was signed by the Minister on 9 April 2021. The Minute notes the Acting Director intention under AHRR 181 to appoint an independent person to lead an inquiry.

On 20 April 2021, a decision was made that Mr Nicholson was guilty of breaking AHRR 174 and his drive was relegated from its first (1st) placing to fourteenth (14th).

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Howlett', is written over the printed name.

Jane Howlett MP
Minister for Racing

Date: 7.5.2025

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date of issue 15th March 2021

Review of LADBROKES TASMANIA CUP FINAL 2021

On Saturday 13 March 2021 the Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) steward's panel inquired into the events of Mr Rhys Nicholson's drive of BULLY'S DELIGHT in race 7 at the Ladbrokes Tasmania Cup Final 2021.

As a result of the track inquiry, Mr Nicholson was charged with improper whip use, pursuant to AHRR 156(2)(a) and improper Driving (Hocking) pursuant to AHRR168(1)(e). Mr Nicholson was fined \$3000 and suspended from driving in races for six weeks for his actions during the race.

On Sunday 14th March 2021, ORI announced via Twitter they would be conducting a further inquiry relating to race 7 to consider invoking AHRR 174(1).

After consideration and acting under the provisions of AHRR181, the Acting Director of Racing, Mr Tony Latham has appointed Mr Ray Murihy to lead the investigation.

For media enquiries contact:
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