

4 May 2026

Sean Carroll, Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner

# Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner completes investigation into the 2026 Hobart Cup

The Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner has announced the completion of the investigation into the incorrect placement of the starting barriers for the 2026 Hobart Cup, releasing [a public summary report](#) on his findings and recommendations.

The investigation follows the request made by Tasracing on 10 February 2026 pursuant to the Commissioner's functions under the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2025* (the Act).

The Commissioner found:

- Tasracing track operations staff relied on an incorrect Tasracing spreadsheet in marking the starting barriers for the Hobart Cup;
- the starter and barrier attendants identified the incorrect placement of the starting barriers after race 8 and advised the Chief Steward of the issue shortly prior to the scheduled race time for the Hobart Cup;
- in line with the authority of stewards under the Australian Rules of Racing, the Chief Steward made a decision to proceed with the race as scheduled, without adjusting the starting barriers;
- there was no stakeholder or public communication regarding the Chief Steward's decision, either prior to the race, or subsequent to the race taking place which compounded the impact of the Chief Steward's decision and undermined public confidence in the running of the Hobart Cup;
- upon becoming aware of the issue after the race, the Tasracing executive failed to escalate the issue.

Significant failings and areas for improvement were identified in Tasracing's policies and procedures, including deficiencies in documentation standards, clarity of roles

and responsibilities, and the absence of adequate escalation, verification, and critical incident management processes.

The Commissioner has proposed nine (9) recommendations to Tasracing, focusing on:

- technical and role specific induction, ongoing training, performance review and handover;
- preservation and recording of company knowledge, including standard operating procedures and audits;
- role knowledge, competency, accountability and performance;
- pre-race compliance and escalation processes for issues arising; and
- identification of a critical incident, communication and relevant procedures.

**Quotes attributable to Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner, Sean Carroll**

“I acknowledge the significant public and industry interest in the 2026 Hobart Cup, and the outcomes of this investigation.

The Hobart Cup is the centrepiece event on the Tasmanian summer racing calendar, and I share the expectations of the Tasmanian racing industry and broader public that all races conducted by Tasracing are held to the highest standard of integrity.

Tasracing is reviewing and improving its race day systems and procedures, with a greater focus on supporting staff to deliver their roles effectively and to the highest standard, to ensure that such incident does not happen again.”

Any questions from the public can be directed to the office of the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner by email to [enquiries@racingintegrity.tas.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@racingintegrity.tas.gov.au).