

2 February 2026

Sean Carroll, Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner

## **Assessment of Tasracing Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare**

In October 2024, Tasracing Pty Ltd (Tasracing) released a code of practice for racehorse welfare. At the time Tasmania was, and it is at present, one of only a few states in Australia to possess such a code. Since its introduction, animal welfare standards and community expectations have continued to be raised in the media.

With the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* having commenced on 1 February 2025, the Tasmanian Minister for Racing, the Hon Jane Howlett MP, wrote to Tasmania's Independent Racing Integrity Commissioner, Sean Carroll, requesting he undertake, with the assistance of Tasracing and other relevant stakeholders, an assessment of Tasracing's Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare to ensure that the animal welfare systems and processes it codifies meet contemporary community expectations as relate to animal accommodation and protection from weather extremes.

To assist in this assessment the Commissioner engaged the services of Dr Kate Savage, equine internal medicine specialist and past president of the World Equine Veterinary Association, to provide independent advice on animal welfare matters, equine medicine, and the assessment of the Code of Practice.

After a thorough consultation process the Commissioner completed his assessment of the Code of Practice and provided this assessment to Tasracing and Minister Howlett. In the assessment the Commissioner made 7 recommendations as well as recommendations as to the detail of the Code of Practice.

These recommendations can be found below.

## **Updated Tasracing Code of Practice for racehorse welfare**

As a result of the Commissioners assessment, Tasracing has conducted an extensive review of the Tasracing Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare and recently released an updated version of the code of practice. The updated version of the code of practice for racehorse welfare can be found on the Tasracing website [here](#).

Tasracing in conjunction with TAS Tafe, is developing an education and training package for the Code of Practice with the intention of commencing education training for racing participants by 1 April 2026.

### **Quotes attributed to Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner Sean Carroll**

*“I would like to acknowledge the Racing Minister, the Hon Jane Howlett, for requesting that I conduct an assessment of the Tasracing Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare, and to thank all those who made submissions to my office during the assessment period. Ensuring that our industry maintains animal welfare standards that continue to evolve in line with changing community expectations is essential to maintaining public confidence. This Code of Practice will go a long way toward ensuring those standards are met, and I commend Tasracing for producing this updated Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare.”*

### **Quotes attributed to Tasracing Chief Executive Officer Andrew Jenkins**

*“Tasracing recognises the importance of ensuring and maintaining high standards of Racehorse Welfare, and this was the driving force behind the introduction of the Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare in October 2024. I would like to recognise the work of Chief Veterinary & Animal Welfare Officer Dr Martin Lenz who developed the original Code of Practice and the subsequent incorporation of the recommendations from the Commissioner’s office.”*

## ***Racing Integrity Commissioners Recommendations from assessment of Tasracing Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare***

**Recommendation 1:** Tasracing review the Code of Practice in light of the assessment and address each of the areas of improvement and recommendations identified to ensure alignment with best practice, the Animal Welfare Act and that the Code of Practice meets contemporary community expectations.

**Recommendation 2:** The Code of Practice must specify that in the instance of breach of a Code of Practice standard, penalties and provisions to safeguard the welfare of the animals will apply. For the avoidance of doubt, the Code of Practice should clearly articulate that the sanctions are the minimum that can be applied by Tasracing, and that it has discretion to impose additional or more severe sanctions depending on the severity of the breach(es).

**Recommendation 3:** Tasracing establish and roll out to the racing industry participants, a compulsory training and education program, developed in consultation with subject matter experts, to address all matters in the Code of Practice, in particularly education on assessing the welfare of racehorses.

**Recommendation 4:** Tasracing consider extending the powers of the CRIO (or their delegate) in the Tasmanian Local Rules of Racing (or via the Code of Practice) to: ensure all stables and properties are approved by the CRIO as part of the licence registration and renewal processes;

- enable the ability of the CRIO to revoke or vary any approval at their discretion should the conditions of the premises change;
- enable the CRIO to issue notices for rectification to a premises, with timeframes and interim measures such as temporary removal of animals (by the owners) until rectification completed to the satisfaction of the CRIO; and
- enable the CRIO to impose a range of penalties and provisions to safeguard the welfare of the animals as detailed in Recommendation 2.

**Recommendation 5:** Given the importance of this Code of Practice as it relates to animal welfare, Rule 27.1 (and Rule 1.1 of the Tasmanian Harness Local Rules of Racing) and Rule 27.2 (and Rule 1.2 of the Tasmanian Harness Local Rules of Racing) should each be amended, explicitly addressing this Code of Practice. The Local Rules of Racing should then be updated to ensure that any further Codes of

Practice established by Tasracing are also specifically referenced in the Local Rules of Racing.

**Recommendation 6:** It is understood that Tasracing is presently preparing a similar code of practice as it relates to the welfare of racing greyhounds. It is recommended that any code of practice for racing greyhound welfare published by Tasracing considers and ensures the matters raised in this assessment, including the Animal Welfare Act are relevantly addressed by that code of practice.

**Recommendation 7:** Under section 53(1) of the Racing Regulation and Integrity Act, the Commissioner can prepare and issue standards including, but not limited to, standards relating to integrity and animal welfare, having regard to the animal welfare standards or animal welfare guidelines issued under the Animal Welfare Act that are applicable to racehorses and racing greyhounds, and the functions and powers of Tasracing. To this end, I have instructed my office, with the support of Dr Kate Savage, in consultation with the Integrity and Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Tasracing and others, to prepare a Standard to support the Code of Practice, addressing the key matters raised in section 53(4) of the RRI Act. This Standard will ensure that Tasracing maintains a suitable Code of Practice that continues to meet contemporary community expectations as they relate to the welfare of racehorses.

Contact: Sean Carroll

Phone: [enquiries@racingintergity.tas.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@racingintergity.tas.gov.au)