

Question on Notice

No. 102

Asked on 6 February 2020

MR P WEIR asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON S HINCHLIFFE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to cobalt testing in race horses—

Will the Minister advise (a) whether trainers are informed of the reading levels if their horses return a positive cobalt reading that is under the designated threshold and (b) why trainers are not given test results even if they do not breach the current threshold for cobalt?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Condamine for the question.

- (a) If a cobalt reading does not exceed the regulated threshold, it is not deemed a positive cobalt reading and the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission does not inform trainers if a reading is under the regulated threshold.
- (b) Cobalt can be misused by trainers to improve the performance of racing animals through its potential to act on the process that regulates red blood cell production. There is no requirement for test results to be given to trainers if they do not breach the regulated threshold.