

Education, Employment and Training Committee
Report on the Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022
Queensland Government Response

Introduction

On 24 February 2022, the Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament.

The main policy objective of the Bill is to amend the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* to reform the review processes for decisions made by stewards under the rules of racing by:

- replacing the current internal and external review processes for decisions made by racing stewards under the rules of racing with review by an independent panel;
- ensuring reviews are finalised within a reasonable timeframe; and
- reducing serious welfare, human safety or integrity risks by preventing relevant decisions from being stayed pending hearing of an appeal by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

The Bill also provides for the online publication of stewards' reports, and makes a number of technical and minor amendments to the Act.

After introduction, the Bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee (the committee) for consideration.

On 8 April 2022, the committee tabled its report in relation to the Bill.

Recommendations

The committee made 5 recommendations. The Queensland Government response to the committee's recommendations is provided below.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022 be passed.

Government response

The government accepts this recommendation.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Minister in her second reading speech clarify whether a 'racing decision', as defined in clause 24 (proposed section 252AA) of the Bill, includes a decision made by a steward under the rules of racing, irrespective of whether the rules expressly refer to a 'steward' as the decision-maker.

Government response

The government accepts this recommendation. The Minister will clarify, in the second reading speech, the intended scope of a 'racing decision'.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Minister in her second reading speech clarify the intended meaning of 'extent' in clause 24 (proposed section 252AU(2)) of the Bill.

Government response

The government accepts this recommendation. The Minister will confirm, in the second reading speech, that 'extent' is intended to refer to the size of the penalty.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the Minister in her second reading speech clarify the timeframes intended to apply to the publication of stewards' reports.

Government response

The government accepts this recommendation. The Minister will clarify the availability of stewards' reports in the second reading speech.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Minister in her second reading speech clarify the eligibility for appointment to the Panel for employees of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, persons registered or licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, and board directors of licensed clubs under proposed s 252BD Eligibility for appointment in clause 24 of the Bill.

Government response

The government accepts this recommendation. The Minister will clarify eligibility of these classes of persons in the second reading speech.