

General Racing Industry Recommendations

Of the 110 recommendations:

- 79 accepted
- 26 accepted in-principle with further analysis or partnership needed to deliver with other agencies
- 5 not accepted

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| 1. | Adoption of the 'Hybrid' Organisational Model for Governance and Integrity | Accept | Racing Queensland (RQ) and the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) will be more closely aligned with shared day-to-day services. An independent Commissioner of Stewards will oversee integrity-specific roles and will report to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. |
| 2. | RQ Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Appointment and Remuneration Benchmarking | Accept in principle | The Queensland Government supports this recommendation in principle and will work with the RQ Board. Please note Queensland Government will follow the usual process for significant appointments and remuneration. |
| 3. | Reform the RQ Board | Accept | The RQ Board will be reformed to ensure broader representation across the industry. |
| 4. | Appointment of a Rural Advocate Director to the RQ Board | Accept | The Queensland Government recognises the importance of Country Racing to our state and will ensure the RQ Board has experience in regional and rural racing. |
| 5. | Elevate Wagering Integrity Role to General Manager within QRIC | Accept | Wagering integrity is essential to a strong racing industry. QRIC will ensure a lead wagering integrity role is included in its new organisational structure. |
| 6. | Clarification and Allocation of Functions | Accept | This will require a detailed review of the current <i>Racing Act 2002</i> and <i>Racing Integrity Act 2016</i> . |
| 7. | Board Accreditation Requirements | Accept | All RQ Board members will be required to have Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) or equivalent accreditation. We will examine what that looks like for club Boards, including the potential for partnership with AICD (or equivalent) to develop a racing-specific course for country club directors or committee members. |
| 8. | RQ Board Remuneration Commuted to Travel in Year One | Accept in principle | The Queensland Government will examine this recommendation in detail. It is important that RQ Board members are seen on the ground at racing events across the state. |
| 9. | Rebalancing Racing Australia Voting Power | Accept | The Queensland Government will support RQ to advocate for a greater voice within Racing Australia. |
| 10. | Whistle Blower Policy | Accept in principle | Acknowledging that RQ does not operate under Australian Securities and Investment Commission regulations, there will be a review of current policies in place. |
| 11. | Public Availability of Race Club Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings Minutes | Accept | RQ will work with Queensland race clubs to improve transparency and implement strong governance arrangements. |

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| 12. | Club Travel Governance and Spend Caps | Accept | Race clubs have a responsibility to their Boards and racing participants to operate sustainably. Enforcement of these rules must be considered in the clarification of allocations and functions. |
| 13. | Annual Financial Reporting Template for Clubs (Grants and Donations) | Accept | RQ to develop and make templates accessible. |
| 14. | Mid-Year Financial Reporting Template for Clubs | Accept | RQ to develop and make templates accessible. |
| 15. | Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Terrorism Financing Compliance Across Racing-Controlled Entities | Accept in principle | RQ will be tasked with reviewing which controlled entities fall within the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre's regulatory jurisdiction. |
| 16. | Related Party Transactions | Accept | Related party transactions will be prohibited for metropolitan and regional clubs without prior approval. Clear guidelines will be established for remote clubs. |
| 17. | Overheads Allocation Review | Accept | RQ to lead a review of the current club funding model in place across all three codes. |
| 18. | Racecourse Ownership and Land Audit | Accept | RQ will conduct an audit that will lead to a fulsome land register, helping clubs to understand and unlock the full potential of those sites. |
| 19. | Tiered Minimum Standards for Race Clubs | Accept | Although Queensland race clubs already have minimum standards in place, the review has recommended that these must be clearer. This will be an operational task for RQ. |
| 20. | Hub and Spoke Race Clubs | Accept | This will see larger clubs be voluntarily accredited as 'hubs'. They will be tasked with assisting voluntary smaller clubs, or 'spokes', to reduce administrative burden and ensure greater representation. |
| 21. | Asset Recycling Marketplace | Accept | This sustainability measure will see clubs be able to buy and sell infrastructure online. This process will be managed by RQ. |
| 22. | Establish a Race Club Fund Amalgam | Accept | Launch a joint industry fund to secure better returns for clubs. Queensland race clubs will be invited to invest in the fund, set to be managed by an Independent Racing Infrastructure Fund Board. Clubs would be able to track their investment in real-time and have access to their funds when needed, subject to appropriate oversight. |
| 23. | Establishment of a Future Fund | Accept | The Racing Infrastructure Fund and the Race Club Fund Amalgam will be managed together to provide greater returns. |
| 24. | Independent Racing Infrastructure Fund | Accept | The Queensland Government will establish an independent Racing Infrastructure Board to ensure arms-length governance to address historic concerns around investment decisions. Requiring all infrastructure projects to pass through the board also creates an internal check on club expenditure and enhances consistency in value-for-money assessments. |
| 25. | Corrections Racetrack Maintenance Work Experience Program | Accept in principle | RQ will engage with Corrective Services to explore the potential for a program for regional clubs. |
| 26. | Expansion of Virtual Signage at Racecourses | Accept | RQ will work towards expanding the current virtual signage agreements in place at clubs across Queensland. |

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| 27. | Infield Activation and Shared Use | Accept | Racetrack infields can often be under-utilised assets. The RQ Infrastructure team, in conjunction with clubs, will assess opportunities to activate infields to generate revenue or for community use. |
| 28. | Social Media Strategy and “Daily Press” Model | Accept | Conduct an audit of social media strategies currently employed by regional and rural clubs. The findings will determine how best to roll out packaged social media support to clubs across the state. |
| 29. | Monthly Wagering and Betting Tax Payment Schedule | Accept | Queensland Treasury to determine the schedule of Betting Tax payments to RQ. |
| 30. | Transparency in Appeals Panel Performance | Accept In Principle | This recommendation will be examined in conjunction with the clarification and allocation of functions (Recommendation 6). The Racing Appeals Panel (RAP) performance data will now be published within industry-facing publications. |
| 31. | Adoption of Excluded Persons and Locations Protocol to Strengthen Animal Welfare Protections | Accept in principle | Further investigation will be required to ensure adherence to human rights and privacy laws. |
| 32. | Conduct a Jurisdictional Analysis of Wagering Integrity Systems | Accept | Investigate what systems and tools are available to ensure QRIC is equipped with the best possible technology to uphold wagering integrity. |
| 33. | Swab Blitz | Accept | A random race in all three codes will be drawn each week, in which all runners will be subject to a pre-race or post-race swab. This will be rolled out in a staged process as capacity is built within QRIC. |
| 34. | Cross-Code Swabbing Reform | Accept | A minimum of three swabs per race will be introduced across all three racing codes. This will be rolled out in a staged process as capacity is built within QRIC. |
| 35. | National Post Racing Welfare System | Accept in principle | RQ to investigate. This will require the participation of other Australian racing jurisdictions and governments to enable lifetime traceability. |
| 36. | Traceability Framework and Digital Passport Rollout | Accept | Commence work to develop an industry-leading platform to better track the lifespan of racing animals from birth to end of life. |
| 37. | National Benchmarking and Expansion of the Queensland Off The Track Program (QOTT) | Accept | QOTT has been a major success. It will continue to be benchmarked against other states with an aim to continue improving the program into the future. |
| 38. | Save A Horse Australia (SAHA) | Accept in principle | RQ (through the QOTT program) will continue to support SAHA and work to further raise public awareness, advocate for national approaches and investigate the charitable foundation model. |
| 39. | Greyhound Welfare in Corrections and Community Support Programs | Accept in principle | RQ to consult Corrective Services to consider developing a program that would see prison inmates train and care for retired greyhounds. This would be supported by the Greyhound Retirement Program. |
| 40. | Reduction of Point-of-Consumption Tax (POCT) Rate from 20% to 15% | Not accepted | The Racing levy and POCT will remain unchanged. Government will instead deliver a \$200 million Racing Future Fund, a new look program to help deliver modern and fit-for-purpose racing infrastructure across the state, while also providing a platform for industry wide investment opportunities. |
| 41. | Removal of \$300,000 POCT Threshold | Not accepted | As there will be no change to the POCT, the threshold will remain in place. |

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| 42. | Race Field Fees Aligned with National Average | Not accepted | As the POCT will remain unchanged, no changes will be made to Race Field Fees. |
| 43. | Support the Implementation of a National Tote | Accept in principle | Subject to regulatory approval. The Queensland Government and RQ will continue to engage with Tabcorp. |
| 44. | Strategic Engagement with the World Pool, the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Japan Racing Association | Accept in principle | RQ and its metropolitan race clubs will continue to update their strategies. |
| 45. | Support for Rural Pubs, Clubs and "In-Play" Technology | Accept in principle | Subject to regulatory approval. RQ to investigate ways in which it can offer strategic support. |
| 46. | Post-traumatic stress disorder Equine Therapy Program for Veterans and Police | Accept | The RQ animal welfare and infrastructure teams to work with veteran and police representatives to determine viability and a suitable location. |
| 47. | Riding for the Disabled | Accept | RQ will engage with Riding for the Disabled Queensland (RDAQ), and its 15 accredited centres, to investigate the need for a metropolitan centre. |
| 48. | Volunteers Reward and Recognition Program | Accept | The Queensland Government and RQ will expand the 'Cheer A Volunteer' program by providing modest incentives to volunteers that help bring racing to life. |
| 49. | "You Are Not Alone" Mental Health Weekend | Accept | RQ will work with race clubs to raise funds and awareness for this important cause. |
| 50. | Industry Academy and Skills Pathway Program | Accept | Acknowledging the current Registered Training Organisation status of RQ, alignment with TAFE Queensland and Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students standards will be investigated as part of the implementation program. |
| 51. | Stewards Workforce and Capability Reform | Accept | The Queensland Government will support the establishment of a formal stewarding qualification pathway and transition to a predominantly full-time workforce. |
| 52. | Regional Skilled Migration Pathway for Jockeys and Farriers | Accept in principle | RQ will be tasked with developing a workforce plan and to engage with the appropriate federal departments, clubs, and participant groups to deliver a skilled migration pathway. |
| 53. | Apprentice Deed and Child Safety Compliance | Accept | The Queensland Government will move to formalise the apprentice deed and to mandate blue card registration for all participants working with minors. |
| 54. | Barrier attendant accreditation | Accept | RQ will be supported to facilitate a formal certificate aligned with existing industry standards across thoroughbred and harness racing. |
| 55. | Remote Stewarding and Technology Deployment Steward | Accept | RQ and QRIC will develop a program to trial a 'Stewards Bunker' from a central location. |
| 56. | Annual Feature Race Calendar | Accept | RQ and clubs across the state will formalise a rolling 12-month feature race calendar that provides certainty to industry, local communities and tourists. |
| 57. | WorkCover Insurance and Levy Distribution Reform | Accept in principle | RQ to engage with WorkCover Queensland to investigate ways in which industry-specific issues can be addressed. |
| 58. | Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Racing | Accept | Engage an external expert to work with RQ and deliver an Artificial Intelligence strategy for Queensland racing. |

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| 59. | Southeast Queensland (SEQ) 15 Point Plan | Not accepted | After a thorough consultation process between the Government, the reviewer and stakeholders, a new plan has been announced and will be implemented by the Queensland Government and RQ. The new plan is contained within <i>The Next Lap: A plan for the future of Queensland racing</i> . |
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Appendix B – Thoroughbred Recommendations

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| 60. | Country Cups and Town Plates Enhancement | Accept | RQ will liaise with country race clubs as part of the implementation of the annual race calendar. |
| 61. | Battle of the Bush Series Expansion | Accept | RQ will liaise with country race clubs as part of the implementation of the annual race calendar. |
| 62. | Implementation of ‘Super Maidens’ Race Series | Accept | RQ will commence planning to secure sponsorship and introduce the ‘Super Maidens’ concept for Queensland thoroughbred racing. |
| 63. | Benchmarking Thoroughbred Ratings | Accept | RQ will conduct a national benchmarking review comparing Queensland’s system with other states. |
| 64. | Recalibration of Thoroughbred Race Meetings | Accept | RQ will liaise with country race clubs as part of the implementation of the annual race calendar, with an offer to voluntarily reduce race meetings in exchange for enhanced features. |
| 65. | Queensland Thoroughbred Incentive Scheme Reform | Accept | RQ will undertake several measures to reform the Queensland Thoroughbred Incentive Scheme (QTIS). |
| 66. | QTISx Cancellation | Accept | QTISx will be cancelled and replaced by the new QTIS Life scheme. |
| 67. | QTIS Initial Payment | Accept | RQ will re-introduce registration payments to QTIS. |
| 68. | QTIS LIFE – Lifetime Starter Bonus Scheme | Accept | RQ will launch this new bonus scheme for QTIS eligible horses, aimed at increasing participation in country races. The funding model will be determined in consultation with industry. |
| 69. | Hendra and Queensland Thoroughbred Incentive Scheme | Accept in principle | RQ to work collaboratively with industry to improve vaccination rates among horse populations. |
| 70. | Tier Renaming and Scheduling Framework | Accept | RQ will liaise with industry to introduce a new framework, noting race and race meeting scheduling is a function of RQ. |
| 71. | Brisbane Racing Club (BRC) John Power Stand Redevelopment | Accept | The Queensland Government and RQ will form a partnership with BRC to deliver a new grandstand at Eagle Farm. This partnership honours the \$25 million Racing Infrastructure Fund commitment. This partnership will be in support of BRC commercial ventures over an agreed period, consistent with ensuring the Queensland Government is repaid the significant investment in a full and timely manner. |
| 72. | Restoration of Toowoomba Night Racing | Accept | New lighting infrastructure will be installed at the Toowoomba Turf Club (thoroughbred track) to ensure night racing continues. |

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| 73. | Coordinated approach to Night Racing | Accept | Clubs and RQ will continue to work collaboratively to develop a reimagined night racing schedule that considers both commercial outcomes and participant welfare. There are currently no plans to introduce night racing at Doomben as suggested in the recommendations. |
| 74. | Starlink for Rural Clubs | Accept | The Queensland Government will support RQ to work with country race clubs on the delivery of satellite internet connection. |
| 75. | Jockey Retirement Fund (JRF) | Accept | The Queensland Government will establish a new JRF, with contributions made to riders that compete in non-TAB country races. |
| 76. | Trainer Attraction Strategy | Accept | RQ will work with regional race clubs to encourage trainers to open satellite stables across the state. |

Appendix C – Harness Recommendations

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| 77. | Harness role on the RQ Board | Accept | The Harness RQ Board member role will be continued. |
| 78. | Harness CEO at RQ | Accept in principle | RQ to ensure that the new organisational structure includes a senior harness executive. |
| 79. | QBRED Bonus System | Accept | RQ will seek to amend the QBRED Bonus System to spread benefits more evenly across ages while ensuring the QBRED scheme maintains its status as a national leader. |
| 80. | Toowoomba Lights and Track | Accept | Harness racing will be reinstated at Toowoomba following works to the original track. |
| 81. | Marburg Super Site | Accept | Marburg will receive upgrades that will see it become a new elite training centre for Queensland harness racing. |
| 82. | Norwell Sale | Accept | The Norwell site purchased by the former government as an alternative to Albion Park harness racing will be sold as part of RQ assets recalibration. |
| 83. | Albion Park Closure | Not accepted | Harness racing will continue at Albion Park and become Queensland's new 'Racing HQ'. It will house RQ, QRIC and a new Racing Science Centre. |
| 84. | Development of SEQ Harness 'North Star' Series | Accept | RQ will work with industry to develop a series across the new and upgraded tracks, with finals hosted at Albion Park. |
| 85. | Harness Driver Silks | Accept in principle | RQ will consider previous trials and feedback from Wagering Service Providers and broadcasters. |
| 86. | Handicapping Harness Review | Accept | RQ will continue to work with Harness Racing Australia (HRA) to review policies and procedures annually. |
| 87. | Gate Attendants | Accept | RQ, QRIC and race clubs will collaborate to undertake this recommendation. |

Appendix D – Greyhound Recommendations

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| 88. | Greyhound role on the RQ Board | Accept | The Greyhound RQ Board member role will be continued. |
| 89. | Greyhound CEO at RQ | Accept in principle | RQ to ensure that the new organisational structure includes a senior greyhound executive. |
| 90. | QGOLD Starter Payment | Accept | The QGOLD program will be amended to appropriately fund the new Greyhound Retirement Program. |
| 91. | Greyhound Syndication – “Q Syndications” | Accept | RQ will work with industry and the appropriate bodies to make greyhound ownership more accessible to the sport’s growing fan base. |
| 92. | Implement a Greyhound Digital Passport | Accept | Work will commence to develop a digital passport to track greyhounds from birth, through their careers, into retirement and end of life. Once established, it is intended that the passport is introduced to the thoroughbred and harness codes. |
| 93. | Cross-Jurisdictional Greyhound Welfare Partnership and Digital Tracking (RQ and Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW)) | Accept in principle | RQ to work towards a potential partnership with GRNSW. |
| 94. | Greyhound Retirement Program | Accept | A new program will be launched that aims to ensure appropriate levels of funding are available for greyhounds to receive whole of life care. |
| 95. | Greyhound Race Day Gaps | Accept | RQ will continue working to update its existing race frequency policies. |
| 96. | Amend Water Policy | Accept | Noting that trainers are currently able to provide water to greyhounds pre-race upon request, RQ and QRIC will liaise with industry to update policies. |
| 97. | Introduce Automatic 14-Day Stand Down for Fallen Greyhounds | Accept | New rules will be implemented that will see greyhounds automatically stood down for an appropriate period after being subject to a fall during a race. In the first instance, RQ will advocate for national agreement on an appropriate stand down period following a fall. In the absence of national agreement, RQ will progress the requirement as a local rule. This will complement the existing stand down policies in place for greyhounds injured during a race, including those injured as the result of a fall. |
| 98. | Repeal the Compulsory Muzzling of Greyhounds | Accept in principle | Queensland Government to engage with local councils to assess the practicalities of this recommendation and to ensure implementation is consistent with evidence-based best practice. |
| 99. | Kennel to Couch: Transforming Greyhound Adoption Through a Charitable Foundation | Accept | RQ, QRIC and industry to form a working group that will investigate the benefits of transitioning the Greyhound Adoption Program to a charitable foundation. |
| 100. | Introduce a Mandatory Greyhound Licence Training Scheme | Accept | Introduce mandatory annual training in addition to the current licensing standards in place. |
| 101. | Preferential Box Draw | Accept | RQ to take an evidence-based approach to the implementation of preferential box draws on one and two-turn tracks, complementing the approach already taken to straight track racing. |
| 102. | Statewide Transition to Six Dog Racing for non-Refurbished Tracks | Accept in principle | RQ to take an evidence-based approach to assess optimal field sizes at tracks across the state. |

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| 103. | Programming and Grading | Accept in principle | RQ will undertake a detailed examination of each of the items listed in this recommendation, noting that RQ is responsible for grading and programming. |
| 104. | Greyhound Race Day Scratching | Accept | The RQ greyhound team will work with industry to determine a best-practice approach. |
| 105. | Central and North Queensland Greyhound Series – ‘Reef Series’ | Accept | A new series taking in new and refurbished tracks across North and Central Queensland will be launched. |
| 106. | Introduction of “SIXY” Bet Type for Greyhounds | Accept in principle | Subject to regulatory approval. RQ to engage with Tabcorp and broadcasters to assess the merits of this proposal, in line with the evidence-based approach to field sizes. |
| 107. | Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club Relocation | Accept in principle | Further investigation required. |
| 108. | Townsville Greyhound Racing Club Relocation | Accept in principle | Further investigation required. |
| 109. | Deliver High-Quality Track Rebuild at Bundaberg Greyhounds | Accept | RQ has commenced preliminary work to deliver a high-quality grass to sand conversion. |
| 110. | Communications and Promotional Push in Greyhound Racing | Accept | RQ will be responsible for implementation. |