

RACING INTEGRITY ESTABLISHMENT BOARD

FEBRUARY 2021

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



I hope you all had a relaxing Christmas break and found some time to enjoy the festival racing over summer. I had the pleasure of being hosted at the Boxing Day races at Ellerslie by Lyn Stevens, Chair of the JCA. I also spent time with the Minister for Racing Hon Grant Roberston and Palmerston North MP, and ex JCA panelist, Tangi Utikere at the Karaka yearling sales. I spoke to a number of people at these events and I have been impressed by the enthusiasm of many to make the new Racing Integrity Board system work.

RACING INTEGRITY BOARD (RIB) IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Officials at the Department of Internal Affairs have advised that a 1 May 2021 start date for the Racing Integrity Board is no longer achievable given the timing of Parliamentary processes which must be followed to enact supporting Regulations. We have agreed with the Department an alternate commencement date of 1 July 2021.

RIB APPOINTMENTS

All code and TAB NZ nominations for people to be appointed to the new board have now been submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs. These nominations will be discussed with the Minister for Racing, who will make the appointments after the Appointment and Honours Cabinet Committee process has been followed. We expect board members to be announced in April at the earliest.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

In order to ensure appropriate leadership of the RIB is in place by its start date, the Establishment Board determined at its last meeting to move forward with recruitment of a Chief Executive. Racing New Zealand was consulted on the draft Position Description and the project team are now reviewing proposals from executive recruitment agencies, to identify a suitably experienced firm to assist with the process.

RIB BUDGET CONSULTATION

The RIB's operating and capital budgets for the 21-22 financial year are to be approved by the Minister for Racing after consultation with the codes and approval from the funder, TAB NZ. The consultation process began this month with initial discussions being held with TAB NZ. Code consultation was expected to occur in the latter part of February and early March but the change in the RIB commencement date will require reworking of budget estimates. Code consultation is therefore expected to occur in mid to late March.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This month we convened a working group of code and RIU representatives responsible for animal welfare issues to endeavour to reach a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of the codes and the RIB under the new regulatory framework. All attendees considered the meeting to be very constructive and expressed interest in this forum continuing.

BRANDING

The project team have designed a temporary logo for the RIB, pending a more deliberate branding and communications exercise which the new Board executive may wish to carry out. You will see this on project documentation as we get closer to 'go-live'.



WEBSITE

A critical sub-project is the design and support of a website for the RIB. There will be a single basic RIB website on day one, with links to the existing (unbranded) RIU and JCA websites if necessary. Functionality enhancements and the upload of historic judicial decisions will then take place as 'phase 2' as soon as possible after that.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS

With the assistance of a staff reference group, the transition project team undertook a stocktake of technology used by the RIU and the JCA in December. As a statutory body, there will be expectations that the RIB will meet the technology and information management standards expected of a government organisation. The Establishment Board has therefore approved a Technology Transition Plan which includes the immediate procurement of a provider to implement a desktop environment which meets industry best practice and government expectations of a body that holds sensitive and personal information and has the functions of the RIB.

