

RACING INTEGRITY ESTABLISHMENT BOARD

NOVEMBER 2020



ABOUT

Most of you will know by now that I have been appointed as Chair of the Establishment Board for the new Racing Integrity Board (the RIB).

The Minister for Racing appointed the members of the Establishment Board after receiving nominations from each racing code and TAB NZ. My fellow members are:

- **Kristy McDonald** ONZM QC (Former Chair Judicial Control Authority for Racing, Board member RITA and TABNZ)
- **Dr. Trish Pearce** (Veterinarian Executive Advisor (prev Chair) New Zealand Equine Health Association)
- **Ray Murrehy** (Former Chairman of Stewards Racing NSW, international racing integrity consultant)
- **Brent Williams** (Former Stipendiary Steward, Board member of the Judicial Control Authority for Racing)

We are looking forward to working with stakeholders to set up what will be an important agency in maintaining and strengthening public confidence in the integrity of racing.

Sir Bruce Robertson

RACING INTEGRITY UNIT AND JUDICIAL CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR RACING

One of the Establishment Board's objectives is to manage the transfer of the functions, staff and assets of the Racing Integrity Unity (RIU) and the Judicial Control Authority for racing (JCA) to the new RIB. Employees of the RIU and the JCA will come across to the RIB on their existing employment terms and conditions. Reporting and management lines will stay as is, consistent with statutory obligations.

PROJECT UPDATE

PROJECT TEAM

A transition project team has been established to support the Establishment Board, led by Neville Harris. Sarah Burnett will be the project's principal point of contact (sarah.burnett@tab.co.nz). Board enquiries will be dealt with by Holly Couch, Board Secretariat (hollycouch.rib@gmail.com).

The project team has been working constructively with Mike Godber of the RIU and Catherine Hutton of the JCA on transition planning and will continue to engage closely with them going forward.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We have spent the last two months meeting with transition project stakeholders such as the Chairs of the RIU, the JCA, and the racing codes, code CEs, Racing New Zealand, TAB NZ, the racing laboratory and RIU staff. Much of this engagement has been of a due diligence nature and while we had the opportunity we also sought informal feedback on the current raceday adjudicative model and any future opportunities for change.

We have appreciated the opportunity to observe the Stipendiary Stewards, swabbing officials and the JCA panel at work at the harness/greyhound race meeting at Addington last month. There are also plans to visit the racing laboratory and attend the Thoroughbred race meeting on 5 December at Trentham.

RULES WORKING GROUP

A technical working group has been constituted with code representatives to review the stewarding and adjudicative rules of practice and procedure in the various racing rules.

We propose to align the rules to a common standard where that can be agreed, with a consistent rule set applicable to all codes. We have held a series of working group meetings and the next step will be to consult with the RIU and JCA on our drafting proposals. This is a significant piece of work and is a precondition to the implementation of the RIB.

The rules revision exercise will proceed in a form to permit (or at least not exclude) adoption of alternative adjudicative models in future by the RIB. Technology solutions, particularly prompt accessibility and availability of race films, and remote participation in hearings or inquiries will also continue to be investigated by the project team for the purpose of informing the RIB of the viability of alternative adjudicative models.

CONTRACTS

A register of all significant contracts in place with RIU and the JCA has been compiled and those contracts are being reviewed with recommendations being prepared for each in terms of the transition to the RIB.

ESTABLISHMENT BOARD KEY DECISIONS

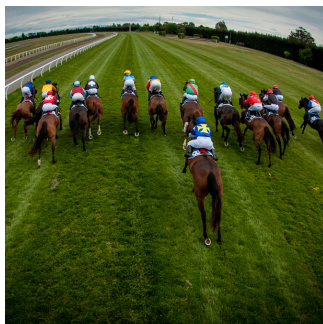
Going forward, the Establishment Board proposes to issue this form of project update after each monthly meeting to keep staff and other stakeholders informed as to progress with the transition of the functions of the RIU and the JCA to the RIB.

The Racing Industry Act 2020 sets out the objectives of the Establishment Board and in brief the critical issues to address are:

- The future framework and organisational design of, and transition to, the RIB;
- Raceday and non-raceday integrity activities;
- The effective separation of enforcement and adjudication functions within the RIB and;
- Animal and participant welfare.

There will be other matters of course but these will be a principal focus of the Board's attention.

Significant decisions taken by the Establishment Board so far include:



- Agreement in principle to a **1 May 2021 RIB implementation date**.

Subject to confirmation that RIB board members can be appointed and in place and the necessary supporting Regulations brought into force by then.

- Delivery of a new raceday adjudicative model, whilst desirable, is not a requirement that the Establishment Board must meet so no change to the status quo is proposed during the transition period.
- Welfare and counselling services provided by the Salvation Army to racing licence holders is not an appropriate function or role for the future RIB.



There is no question of the importance and value of the Salvation Army work but it is a matter of determining where it will occur within the industry structure. We have raised the matter for discussion with Racing New Zealand.

BUSINESS MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

RIU AND JCA STAFF

Staff are able to make use of the Benestar workplace wellness service (through the TAB NZ account) for any free confidential coaching and support they would like during the transition period. Staff are asked to advise Benestar that they work for the RIU or the JCA, simply for accounting purposes at our end. (Benestar ph 0800 360 364 or benestar.com, company id NZRB, token n25)

ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN

Organisational design has been discussed by the Board in the context of the high-level functions of the RIB.

The Racing Industry Act 2020 imposes significant commitment from the RIB on matters such as rules development, reporting to Ministers, and the production of annual reports and Statements of Intent. The RIU has also been previously heavily dependent on the provision of corporate services by NZRB (now TAB NZ). A corporate and governance function is likely to be required within the RIB to ensure these functions can be discharged.

There is also a significant new animal welfare responsibility which is not highlighted within the existing bodies. A working group is being established including representatives of the codes and the RIU, and our board member Dr Pearce, to review and advise on the animal welfare role and responsibility boundaries as between the codes and the RIB.

PAYROLL AND HR KIOSK

RIU payroll, HR Kiosk, and finance functions are currently outsourced to TAB NZ. The project team is supporting the RIU to bring these services back in-house in anticipation of migration of staff to the RIB.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS

Technical advice will be obtained on the business and ICT systems of the RIU and JCA and integration and migration to the RIB.

