1. The *Racing Integrity Act 2016* established the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission an independent statutory body, with a range of functions regarding the integrity of the racing industry, including greyhound, thoroughbred horse, and harness horse racing codes.
2. The Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022 makes key policy changes:
* establishment of an independent external Queensland Racing Appeals Panel to provide merits review for stewards’ decisions;
* reducing the statutory period for lodgment of an application for first level review of stewards’ decisions from 14 calendar days to three business days;
* reducing the statutory maximum period for first level reviews of most decisions from twenty business days to seven business days from application, but retaining it at twenty business days if the decision were a penalty of three months or more;
* restricting access to stays of panels’ decisions pending appeal for cases involving serious offences relating to animal welfare, human safety or the integrity of racing;
* allowing appeal of Panel decisions to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) in its jurisdiction as an Appeals Tribunal on a question of law, but only on the extent of the penalty and only where the decision is a penalty of three months or more.
1. The Queensland Racing Appeals Panel would consist of a Chairperson and a pool of members who will provide for a faster review of stewards’ decisions by a specialist body, with limited grounds for further review. The Panel’s Chair will have to have at least five years’ legal standing, and members may sit with the Chairperson on matters who are selected from a panel of individuals with significant racing or other relevant expertise.
2. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries released a discussion paper on the proposed changes to the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* for public consultation in June 2019 and further targeted consultation with racing industry stakeholder during 2021. Feedback received through this process has been considered in preparing the changes to the *Racing Integrity Act 2016.*
3. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022 into the Legislative Assembly.
4. *Attachments*:
* [Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility with *Human Rights Act 2019*](Attachments/SoC.PDF)