

**Stewards Report
Monday 23 February, 2015**



Panel: D Hensler, A Napier

Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) analyst's report of the urine sample provided on Friday 23 January, 2015 by TRNT licensed trainer Mr Chris Pollard. The analyst reported the presence of cannabis and methyl amphetamine at a level in excess of the threshold permitted under AR81B.

Evidence was taken from Mr Pollard and Mr J Keledjian, General Manager of ARFL.

Mr Pollard subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge under AR 81AA(1)(a), the specifics being that during trackwork at the Darwin Turf Club on Friday 23 January, 2015 he did provide a sample of his urine which upon analysis detected the banned substances cannabis and methyl amphetamine.

In determining penalty Stewards took into account:

- The charge relates to a "Horse Handler"
- Mr Pollard's guilty plea and co-operation throughout the proceedings
- His honesty in regards to the circumstances of the offence and genuine remorse for his actions
- The impact a penalty will have on his livelihood
- His previous offence under AR81A in 2011
- The reported levels in the analyst's report

Mr Pollard had his licence (in full) suspended for a period of 9 months.

Pursuant to AR 81D Mr Pollard was advised that if he undertakes drug counselling with an approved health professional and provides a written report as to his attendance and compliance with any recommendations arising from the counselling, the Stewards will consider reducing the period of suspension by 3 months. Mr Pollard was further advised that he must deliver a clear sample in accordance with AR 81A (4).

Acting under the provisions of AR 196(6)(a) Stewards deferred the commencement of the suspension for a period of (7) days to allow sufficient time for Mr Pollard to make suitable arrangements for the relocation of his horses.

David Hensler
Chairman of Stewards