



## TRNT Stewards Report – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

Panel: D Hensler, D Westover

Venue: Alice Springs Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings that the blood samples taken from NEXT GENERATION prior to competing and finishing 10th at the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018, contained the presence of the prohibited substance flunixin.

The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) issued a first certificate for this finding and the confirmation analysis was performed and the second certificate was issued by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL). Evidence was tendered by trainer Mr Russell Bell, RWWA Racing Industry veterinarian Dr J Medd and ARFL General Manager Mr J Keledjian.

Subsequently Mr Bell pleaded guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 178 with the specifics being that as the trainer of NEXT GENERATION he did bring that gelding to the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting held at Pioneer Park Racecourse on 16th December, 2018 for the purpose of engaging in race 5 the Merry Christmas Benchmark Handicap (1400m) with the prohibited substance flunixin being detected in the pre - race blood sample taken from the gelding.

In consideration of a penalty Stewards took into account the following factors:

- The seriousness of the charge
- The therapeutic nature of the prohibited substance
- The explanation accepted by the Stewards that the positive result was in all likelihood the result of Mr Bell's negligence in administering the substance within the withholding period recommended by his stable veterinarian
- His co – operation and admissions at an initial stable inspection and during the inquiry and his accurate treatment records
- His early guilty plea
- His long involvement in the industry and personal circumstances
- Previous positive swab breach in 2013

Mr Bell was fined the sum of \$5000

Acting under the provisions of Australian Rule of Racing 177, the Stewards disqualified NEXT GENERATION from tenth placing in race 5 on 16th December, 2018.

Mr Bell was advised of his rights of appeal.

David Hensler  
TRNT Chairman of Stewards