1. The *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (RI Act*)* established the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC), an independent statutory body with a range of functions regarding the integrity of the racing industry, including the greyhound, thoroughbred horse and harness horse racing codes. QRIC was established as a body which would be independent of Racing Queensland and the racing industry. A review of the operation of the RI Act was undertaken in 2019, with the release of a discussion paper for public comment. Key issues raised by stakeholders related to arrangements for review of decisions made by QRIC stewards under the rules of the three codes of racing – internal review by QRIC, further review by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT), and stays that may be granted pending review.
2. In September 2020, the Queensland Government committed to establishing a Racing Appeals Panel within QRIC, to conduct internal reviews of stewards’ decisions.
3. An improved model is proposed with an independent Racing Appeals Panel replacing internal reviews and most QCAT reviews of stewards’ decisions. Key aspects of the model include:
   * establish the Racing Appeals Panel with members to be appointed by the Governor in Council;
   * reduce the statutory period for lodgement of an application for first level review of stewards’ decisions from 14 calendar days to three business days;
   * reduce the statutory maximum period for first level review of most decisions to 7 business days from application, but retain 20 business days if the penalty imposed involves a suspension, or other disqualification, of three months or more;
   * allow appeal of Panel decisions to the QCAT Appeal Tribunal only against the size of a penalty if the penalty involves a suspension or other disqualification of three months or more;
   * establish a presumption against the QCAT Appeal Tribunal granting a stay of a Panel decision pending appeal if the alleged breach involved a serious risk to animal welfare, human safety or the integrity of racing.
4. Cabinet approved the development of amendments to the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* to implement the proposed policy and legislative changes.
5. *Attachments*:
   * Nil.