

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, RACING AND
OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

DIRECTOR-GENERAL BRIEFING NOTE

Approved

Deletion of personal information

Director-General

Date 9 July 2025

☒ Copy to Minister's Office

SUBJECT: Post Design and Construction Investigation of The Q

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended the Director-General:

- **approve** the Terms of Reference for the Post Design and Construction Investigation of The Q (**Attachment 1**)
- **sign** the letters to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) and Racing Queensland (RQ) advising them of the intention to undertake the Post Design and Construction Investigation of The Q and providing the Terms of Reference (**Attachments 2-3**)

Director-General Comments:

Reviewed by Corporate Services where required: N/A

section 73 of the RTI Act - deletion of irrelevant information

KEY ISSUES:

6. Since track trials commenced in April 2025 at The Q, there have been reports of 11 fatalities and multiple injuries to greyhounds. This series of incidents have eroded public and stakeholder confidence in the greyhound industry.
7. The Minister has instructed the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games (DSROPG) to lead an independent Post Design and Construction Investigation (Construction Investigation) of The Q.

Author: Anna Rettke Position: Principal Policy Officer Phone: Deletion of personal info Date: 08/07/2025	Endorsed: Tiani Van Haren Position: Executive Director Phone: Deletion of personal info Date: 08/07/2025	Endorsed: Kelli Lamperd A/DDG: Sport and Recreation Phone: Deletion of person Date: 09/07/2025	Endorsed by Corporate Services Date: N/A
--	--	--	--

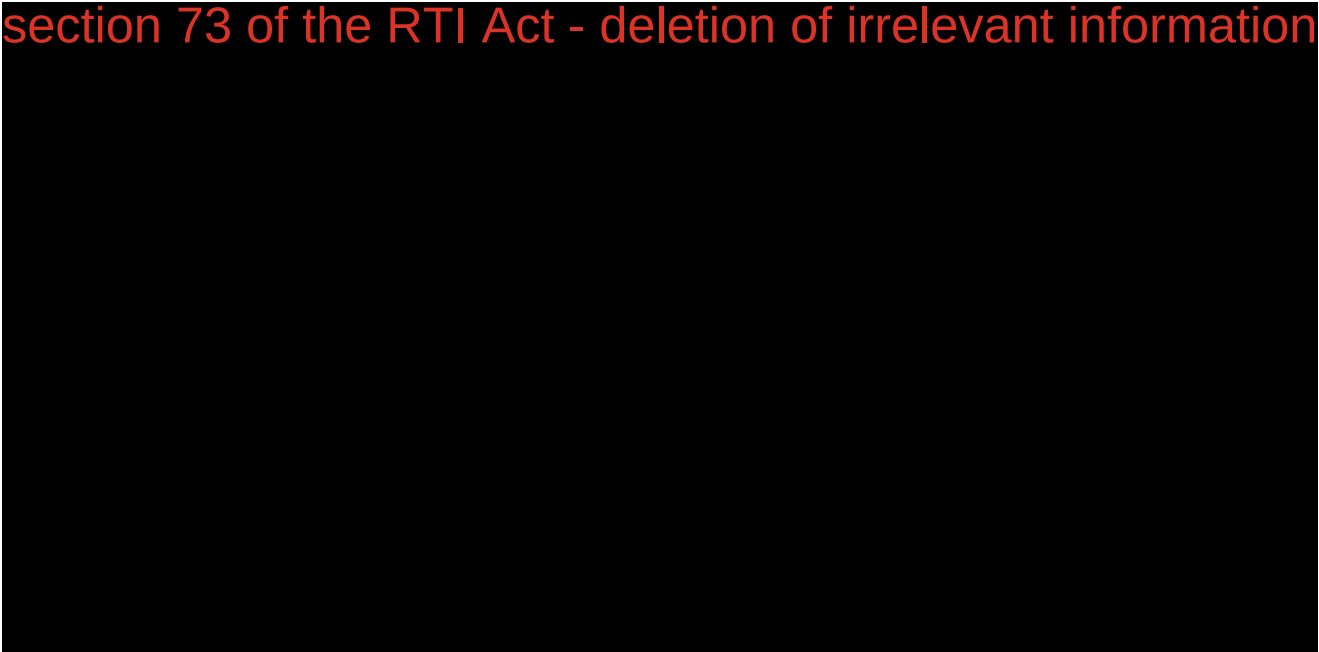
8. Letters to both the QRIC and RQ advising them of the intention to undertake the Construction Investigation and attaching the Terms of Reference (ToR) (**Attachment 1**) have been prepared (**Attachments 2-3**).

Terms of reference

9. Under the draft ToR, the proposed Construction Investigation will examine both the “design to construction” phase and the operations and maintenance of The Q.
10. Specifically, as it relates to the three tracks at The Q, the investigation will:
- investigate contracted design for all three tracks
 - determine if the tracks were constructed as per the design – if there were deviations from the design during the course of construction, what were the deviations or variations and the approval process
 - any identified defects prior to and post Practical Completion (as well as timeline and scope of rectification works)
 - interrogate the approval process on the final construction and subsequent commissioning of the buildings and tracks (including the conduct of inspections post construction and prior to opening of the facility)
 - determine the suitability of the commissioning process and compliance with the design.
11. In relation to the trial and testing program of The Q, it is proposed the investigation will consider:
- investigate what risk mitigation strategies, including the number of trials conducted, were adopted, and acted upon prior to the commencement of racing
 - examine track preparation, maintenance and testing methods employed during the trial period and any subsequent alterations to these methods.
12. In relation to the operations and maintenance of The Q, it is proposed that the Construction Investigation:
- confirm if the current tracks continue to be consistent with their design and construction, including but not limited to, camber, settling of the surface and profile
 - determine if the ongoing operations and maintenance are consistent with maintaining the tracks to a world leading standard which ensures the highest levels of animal welfare, this includes, but is not limited to, investigating and making comment on the standard operating protocols and procedures in relation to curation
 - engage with key stakeholders, trainers and other parties who have raised concerns so they may be heard and inform the investigation of the operations and maintenance.

section 73 of the RTI Act - deletion of irrelevant information

section 73 of the RTI Act - deletion of irrelevant information



ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – Draft Terms of Reference for the Post Design and Construction Investigation
- Attachment 2 – Letter to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner
- Attachment 3 – Letter to the Racing Queensland Acting Chief Executive Officer

Post Design and Construction Investigation

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of this investigation is to conduct a comprehensive and independent examination of the final design and construction of *The Q*.

Specifically, as it relates to the three tracks at *The Q*, the investigation will consider:

- the suitability of the design and desired outcomes to best practice in greyhound track construction within Australasia
- the accuracy of the final construction against the tendered detailed design
- defects that may have been identified prior to and after Practical completion
- safety concerns raised to date and practices adopted to improve wellbeing of the animals
- suitability of and capability of venue to undertake ongoing operations and maintenance
- key stakeholder feedback, including commentary from Racing Queensland and Queensland Racing Integrity Commission

Background

The Q opened as the new home of Queensland greyhound racing on 4 April 2025 and had its first official major race meet on 7 June 2025.

Brisbane and Ipswich Greyhound Racing Clubs have co-located to *The Q* at Purga in Ipswich.

In designing *The Q*, Racing Queensland (RQ) established a panel of leading industry experts, including Professor David Eager, one of the world's most authoritative voices on greyhound track design, with the intention to provide the optimal track for racing safety and injury reduction.

The Q is the only greyhound centre in the world with different tracks to suit the size, age, running gait and athletic abilities of different greyhounds.

Design features of *The Q* include:

- a large one-turn track, a two-turn track and a straight track
- track radius and surface banking designed to reduce excessive limb forces acting on greyhounds while racing
- modern cambers and a world-class racing surface
- designed with the intention to provide best-practice starting boxes incorporating data-driven initiatives including, grille heights and starting location alignment; and air-conditioned, sound-attenuated kennels with best-practice pre and post racing support facilities.

Since its opening, *The Q* has faced increasing scrutiny due to growing concerns over animal welfare, placing increased pressure on the greyhound racing industry and on government oversight.

Since track trials commenced in April at *The Q*, there has been reports of 11 fatalities and multiple injuries to greyhounds at the venue.

Scope

The investigator will undertake a detailed desktop and physical investigation of the three tracks at *The Q*, namely:

1. Q1 Lakeside;
2. Q2 Parklands; and
3. Q Straight.

The desktop and also onsite physical inspection should look to address the following aspects:

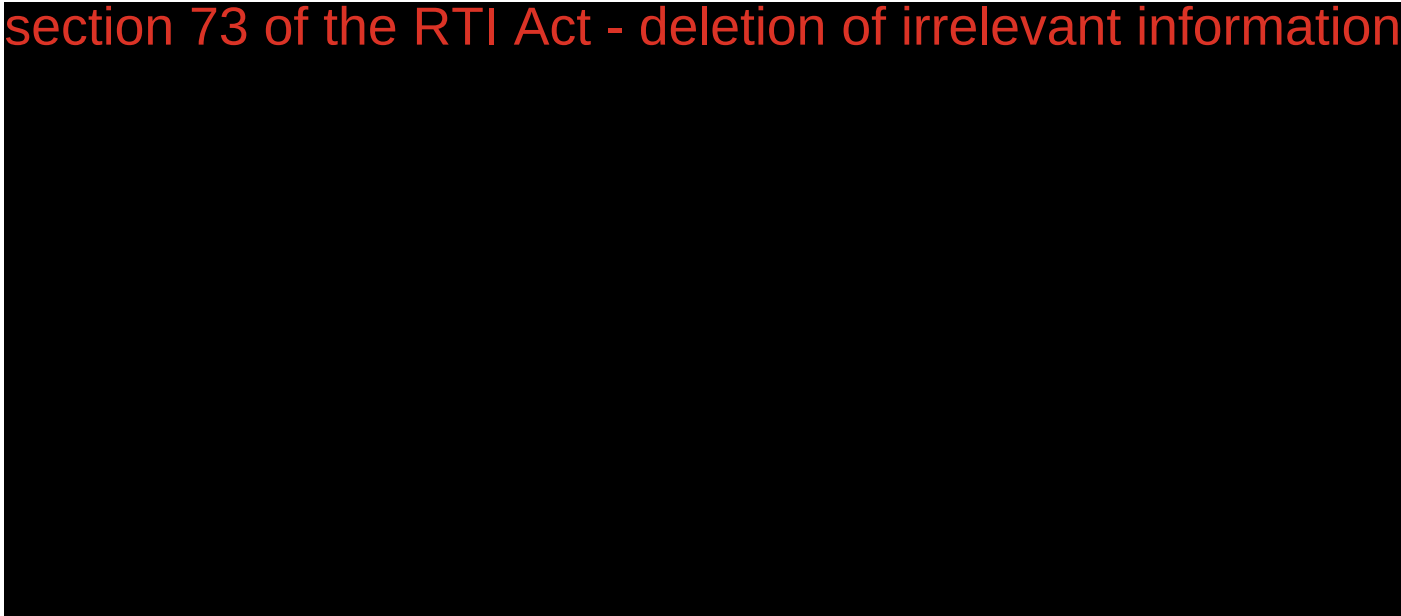
1. Constructed to Design
 - a. investigate contracted design for all three tracks
 - b. determine if the tracks were constructed as per the design – if there were deviations from the design during the course of construction, what were the deviations or variations and the approval process
 - c. any identified defects prior to and post Practical Completion (as well as timeline and scope of rectification works)
 - d. interrogate the approval process on the final construction and subsequent commissioning of the buildings and tracks (including the conduct of inspections post construction and prior to opening of the facility)
 - e. determine the suitability of the commissioning process and compliance with the design.
2. Trials and Testing
 - a. investigate what risk mitigation strategies, including the number of trials conducted, were adopted, and acted upon prior to the commencement of racing
 - b. examine track preparation, maintenance and testing methods employed during the trial period and any subsequent alterations to these methods.
3. Operations and Maintenance
 - a. confirm if the current tracks continue to be consistent with their design and construction, including but not limited to, camber, settling of the surface and profile
 - b. determine if the ongoing operations and maintenance are consistent with maintaining the tracks to a world leading standard which ensures the highest levels of animal welfare, this includes, but is not limited to, investigating and making comment on the standard operating protocols and procedures in relation to curation
 - c. engage with key stakeholders, trainers and other parties who have raised concerns so they may be heard and inform the investigation of the operations and maintenance.

The investigator will provide a project plan to address the scope and should be expected to attend weekly project coordination meetings led by the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Deliverables

- A draft report one week prior to submission of the final report - the investigator should expect to present the finding of the report as agreed.
- Both the draft and final reports must address the abovementioned aspects from Constructed to Design; Trials and Testing; as well as Operations and Maintenance perspectives and include recommendations.
- An executive summary document will accompany the final report with identified solutions and any further items identified for further exploration.

section 73 of the RTI Act - deletion of irrelevant information



Please quote: CTS 14873/25

Deletion of personal information
Deletion of personal information

[Redacted]



9 July 2025

Department of
Sport, Racing and
Olympic and
Paralympic Games

Ms Catherine Clark
Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner
Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Deletion of personal information

Dear Ms Clark

I refer to the recent issues at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club's The Q, and the subsequent suspension of racing on the Q2 Parklands track at the venue.

The Queensland Government, through the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games (DSROPG), is establishing an investigation to ensure significant public funds invested in the facility achieves the intended outcome of a new, world-class multi-use greyhound racing facility, designed and constructed using evidence-based, best-practice safety principles and with animal welfare at the forefront of the design.

Since track trials commenced in April 2025 at The Q, DSROPG understands there have been reports of 11 fatalities and multiple injuries to greyhounds. This series of incidents have eroded public and stakeholder confidence in the greyhound industry.

DSROPG is proposing to engage an entity to undertake a detailed desktop and physical review from design through to maintenance of the three tracks at The Q, namely:

1. Q1 Lakeside;
2. Q2 Parklands; and
3. Q Straight.

I have enclosed a copy of the Terms of Reference for your information.

I ask the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission assist with the conduct of the investigation, including providing any pertinent information required or requested by the entity and attending any project meetings as required.

Yours sincerely

Deletion of personal information
[Redacted signature]

Andrew Hopper
Director-General

Encl.

Please quote:
Deletion of personal information

CTS 14873/25



9 July 2025

Department of
Sport, Racing and
Olympic and
Paralympic Games

Mr Lachlan Murray
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Racing Queensland

Deletion of personal information

Dear Mr Murray

I refer to the recent issues at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club's The Q, and the subsequent suspension of racing on the Q2 Parklands track at the venue.

The Queensland Government, through the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games (DSROPG), is establishing an investigation to ensure significant public funds invested in the facility achieves the intended outcome of a new, world-class multi-use greyhound racing facility, designed and constructed using evidence-based, best-practice safety principles and with animal welfare at the forefront of the design.

Since track trials commenced in April 2025 at The Q, DSROPG understands there have been reports of 11 fatalities and multiple injuries to greyhounds. This series of incidents has eroded public and stakeholder confidence in the greyhound industry.

DSROPG is proposing to engage an entity to undertake a detailed desktop and physical review from design through to maintenance of the three tracks at The Q, namely:

1. Q1 Lakeside;
2. Q2 Parklands; and
3. Q Straight.

I have enclosed a copy of the Terms of Reference for your information.

I ask Racing Queensland, as the statutory control body, empowered under section 82(2)(a) of the *Racing Act 2002* to license clubs and venues, and as the owner of The Q, to assist with the conduct of the investigation, including providing any pertinent information required or requested by the entity and attending any project meetings as required.

Yours sincerely

Deletion of personal information

Andrew Hopper
Director-General

Encl.