

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

Date of issue 14 August 2017

## ***Stewards Inquiry Mark Ganderton – Wanaea***

Panel – D Farquharson, S Quill, & A Crowther

On 10 August 2017 Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into a report from the analyst that Arsenic in excess of the prescribed allowable threshold had been detected in a urine sample taken from WANAEA following its placed performance in race 4 at Devonport on 7 July 2015.

Stewards considered evidence tendered by the trainer of WANAEA Mr Mark Ganderton, who explained his husbandry regime leading up to the race in question. Mr Ganderton was at a loss to explain the presence of Arsenic in the sample provided by WANAEA other than the probable contamination by way of the mare chewing paddock fencing. He further outlined that he had taken measures to prevent this reoccurrence. Photos of medications located at the stables of Mr Ganderton were considered which did not include any Arsenic based products. Evidence was also taken from Veterinarian Dr Peter Horridge who confirmed Arsenic above the prescribed threshold of 0.30 milligrams per litre in urine constituted a prohibited substance in accordance with AR178C(1)(b).

Mr Mark Ganderton subsequently pleaded guilty to two charges pursuant to Australian Racing Rules:

**Charge 1-** (AR) 178 *Subject to AR 178G, “when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised”.*

The particulars of the charge were that Mr Mark Ganderton did present WANAEA for racing at Devonport on 7 July 2015 when a post race urine sample taken from that mare was found to contain the prohibited substance Arsenic.

Evidence considered also included a reference to a study by Melbourne University faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences examining the ingestion of wood shavings containing Arsenic. The evidence could not exclude to the requisite standard that the level of arsenic detected was not the result of WANAEA consuming arsenic containing wood from the paddock fencing. Stewards were therefore not satisfied on the evidence before the panel that such result was not the outcome of the horse consuming the fencing over the period of time it was in that paddock.

Stewards determined to not impose a penalty against Mr Mark Ganderton for the breach of AR 178 in these circumstances.

Acting under the provisions of AR177, WANAEA was disqualified from its placed performance at Devonport on 7 July 2015 and Stewards directed that the placing's be amended accordingly.

**Charge 2** – (AR)80E(1) “*Any person commits an offence if he has in his possession or on his premises any substance or preparation that has not been registered or labelled, or prescribed, dispensed or obtained, in compliance with the relevant State and Commonwealth legislation*”.

The particulars of the charge were that Mr Mark Ganderton did have in his possession the substance P Block, an injectable product, which was not labelled, prescribed or registered for use. After considering the nature of the substance and penalty precedents, a fine of \$500 was imposed.

- ends -

David Farquharson  
**SENIOR STEWARD**