



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs



Media Statement

Monday 26 July 2010

SAJC joint investigation

A thorough and detailed investigation has been undertaken by officers from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) and SA Police into allegations of misconduct involving former members of the board and the former Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC).

The joint investigation has been completed.

The Crown Solicitor's Office has considered the report of the joint investigation and provided advice to the Corporate Affairs Commissioner. Its advice is that there is insufficient evidence available to support a successful prosecution under either the Associations Incorporation Act (AIA) or the Criminal Law Consolidation Act (CLCA) against any of those investigated.

Whilst the investigation identified some irregularities regarding the administration of the SAJC by its former board, it has been determined that no criminal charges should be laid.

In February 2009, Lipman Karas solicitors finalised a report for Thoroughbred Racing South Australia (TRSA). This report identified a number of serious allegations about the corporate governance of the SAJC. The following month this report was forwarded by TRSA to SA Police and in turn to OCBA for assessment. The joint investigation was commenced by OCBA, which administers the Associations Incorporation Act, and SA Police, which investigates offences under the Criminal Law Consolidation Act.

The investigation team examined all allegations plus additional issues which emerged throughout the investigation. Over 40 witnesses were interviewed and 341 SAJC members spoken to. Whilst some administrative irregularities were identified there was insufficient evidence upon which charges under the CLCA or AIA could be sustained.

A new board was elected to the SAJC in March 2009. The allegations investigated did not relate to any current members of the SAJC board.

Based on the findings of the joint task force investigation, the Corporate Affairs Commissioner is considering recommendations that can be provided to the new SAJC Board aimed at preventing similar administrative irregularities from occurring in the future.

Given that separate proceedings and inquiries are still not finalised, it is not intended that any further comment in relation to the outcomes of the joint OCBA, SA Police investigation will be provided.