



HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF CHARGES ISSUED AGAINST REGISTERED OWNER/BREEDER MS
MARINA DULHUNTY

Racing NSW Head Offices
Via teleconference

11 December 2025

Stewards: **D R Hadley (Chair)**
K E Blanch

In July 2025, Racing NSW Officials commenced an investigation into the welfare and care afforded to thoroughbred horses in the care of registered owner/breeder Ms Marina Dulhunty. On 25 July 2025, Officials attended the property of Ms Dulhunty for the purpose of assessing the health and welfare of thoroughbred horses. Upon arrival at the location, Officials inspected thoroughbred horse *Maximus Fortius* who had observably very poor body condition.

As a result of the inspection, Racing NSW Officials issued directions to Ms Dulhunty in respect to the ongoing care and welfare of *Maximus Fortius*.

Racing NSW Veterinarian Dr Rose Bensley and private Veterinarians conducted follow up inspections and completed relevant reports.

On 29 October 2025, Racing NSW Stewards opened an inquiry at Scone Racecourse into the care afforded to *Maximus Fortius*. A brief of evidence compiled by Racing NSW Investigator Ms Nikki Burke was tendered, oral evidence was taken from Ms Marina Dulhunty and Veterinarians including Racing NSW Official Veterinarian Dr Rose Bensley. Additional evidence was taken with respect to the euthanasia of thoroughbred horse *Destiny's Rose*. The inquiry was adjourned to allow Ms Dulhunty to provide relevant veterinary reports relating to the euthanasia of *Destiny's Rose*.

On 5 November 2025, Ms Dulhunty provided Stewards with veterinary reports relating to the euthanasia and subsequent post mortem of *Destiny's Rose*.

On 26 November 2025, Racing NSW continued the inquiry. The additional veterinary report was tendered, oral evidence was taken from Ms Dulhunty and Veterinarians including Racing NSW Veterinarian Dr Rose Bensley. It was identified that *Destiny's Rose* was in very poor body condition prior to its euthanasia.

After considering the evidence, Stewards issued two (2) charges under AR231(b)(iv) and AR231(b)(i)(B) against Ms Dulhunty. Ms Dulhunty entered pleas of not guilty to charge 1 and guilty to charge 2. The inquiry was adjourned to allow sufficient opportunity for Ms Dulhunty to

make submissions.

On Tuesday 9 December 2025, Ms Dulhunty provided submissions which were considered.

Charges issued against Ms Marina Dulhunty

Charge 1: AR231(b)(iv)

The details of the charge being that, as at 25 July 2025, she was the person in charge of thoroughbred horse *Maximus Fortius*. Racing NSW Officials and a Veterinarian assessed the health and welfare of *Maximus Fortius* at this time and found it to have body condition score of 0.5/5. She did fail to provide and ensure that *Maximus Fortius* was ingesting proper and sufficient nutrition. The lack of proper and sufficient nutrition was either entirely or in part a contributing factor to the poor body condition.

Plea: Not Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Charge 2: AR231(b)(i)(B)

The details of the charge being that, as at 24 June 2025, she was the person in charge of thoroughbred horse *Destiny's Rose*. A Veterinarian assessed the health and welfare of *Destiny's Rose* at this time and found it to have an estimated body condition score of 1-2/9 (*on the Henneke (1983) Body condition scoring system*). She did fail to exercise reasonable care, control and supervision of *Destiny's Rose* to prevent the horse's body condition based on veterinary advice declining to an unacceptable level.

Plea: Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Penalty

The following penalty considerations were taken into account –

- Pleas entered
- Objective seriousness of the conduct
- Precedent penalties
- Ms Dulhunty's personal and professional circumstances
- Principle of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct
- The importance of equine welfare for the thoroughbred racing industry prior to, during racing and on retirement
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image, interests and welfare of the thoroughbred racing industry.

Charge 1: AR231(b)(iv) – 6 months disqualification

Charge 2: AR231(b)(i)(B) – 12 months disqualification reduced to 9 months

Having regard to the principles of totality, her pleas and other relevant considerations, Stewards ruled that the total penalty imposed upon Ms Dulhunty is she be disqualified for a period of 15 months to commence on 11 December 2025 and to expire on 11 March 2027.

Ms Dulhunty was advised of her appeal rights.

THIS MATTER IS SUBJECT TO AN APPEAL

Relevant Rules:

AR231(b)(iv)

(b) if the person is in charge of a horse – fail at any time:

(iv) to provide and ensure that the horse is ingesting proper and sufficient nutrition

AR231(b)(i)(B)

(b) if the person is in charge of a horse – fail at any time:

(i) to exercise reasonable care, control or supervision of the horse so as to prevent:

B. the horse's body condition from declining to, in the opinion of the Stewards based on veterinary advice, an unacceptable level;

D R Hadley
General Manager – Investigations
Racing NSW