

## Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit

and

Gaeton Delon

**Date of Decision** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

**Decision Makers** T T Styles (Chair), A D Hyde

**Rule** AR 232 (d) (ii)

**Charge** **Failure to observe processes and directions of PRAs or Stewards**

A person must not:

(d) while any investigator appointed by a PRA under AR 15(c) is exercising their powers, performing their functions or carrying out their duties:

(ii) obstruct, hinder or delay the investigator in exercising their powers, performing their functions or carrying out their duties

**Plea** Guilty

**Penalty** Fine of \$250

**Summary of Facts**

1. Mr. Delon was at all relevant times a Tasracing Licensed Thoroughbred Trainer and as such a person bound by the Australian Rules of Racing.
2. On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2026 Tasracing Integrity Unit Animal Welfare Officers were directed to attend a property at 48 Miltons Road Wesley Vale to conduct an investigation.
3. The Wesley Vale property is owned by Licensed Thoroughbred Trainer Mr. John Keys who was overseas at the time. Access to the property was required by the Animal Welfare Officers to enable them to perform their duties.
4. Mr. Delon operates from and has the property as his licensed stable address and as such was contacted seeking permission to access the property.
5. Mr. Delon declined officers access to the property and advised that he was unaware of any relevant rule breaches and he requested to be provided with the relevant rules in writing before considering the request.
6. A written direction requiring immediate access to the Wesley Vale property was sent to Mr. Delon via text message from Manager of Animal Welfare and Investigations, Ms. Kylie Batten.

7. Mr. Delon subsequently agreed to facilitate access to the property by meeting the Animal Welfare Officers onsite.
8. At an inquiry held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026, Mr. Delon pleaded guilty to a charge issued pursuant to AR 232 (d)(ii). The particulars of the charge were that Mr. Delon did obstruct, hinder and delay Animal Welfare Officers from the Tasracing Integrity Unit exercising their powers and carrying out their duties at the property 48 Miltons Road Wesley Vale which was his licensed stable address.
9. Stewards fined Mr. Delon \$250 for the breach of AR 232 (d)(ii).

#### **Penalty Discussion**

In determining penalty the Decision Makers carefully considered all available evidence including but not limited to:

- Mr. Delon's plea of guilty.
- His clean record of any similar breaches.
- His cooperation at the inquiry.
- That any penalty should be a deterrent both general and specific.

Mr. Delon was advised of his right to appeal the Stewards decisions to the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board.