



## AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

### AR.137AB – Possession of stockwhip

**Summary:**

Racing Australia recommends the addition of a new offence under the Rules which prohibits the possession of a stockwhip in relation to racing, training and pre-training.

Under AR.175(w), it is an offence for any person to use a stockwhip on a horse in any circumstances relating to racing, training, or pre-training. Racing Australia is of the view that a possession offence would significantly strengthen the current rule and further improve welfare practices. Stewards would be assisted by not having to prove actual use on a horse, which can be difficult.

Importantly, the proposed rule includes an exemption from the possession offence where the person satisfies Stewards that such possession at the person's premises is unrelated to training or pre-training a horse. For example, where horses are pre-trained on a property that also includes cattle.

**1. Add AR.137AB as follows:**

"**AR.137AB.** A person may be penalised if the person has in his or her possession a stockwhip:

- (a) at a racecourse;
- (b) at a thoroughbred racing stable; or
- (c) at premises otherwise used for training or pre-training a horse, unless the person satisfies the Stewards that the stockwhip is in his or her possession at those premises for reasons unrelated to the training or pre-training of a horse."

**Date of Effect: 1 August 2018**