

## Stewards Hearing Report

**Date:** Friday 5 May 2023  
**Venue of Hearing:** Greyhound Racing Victoria - Head Office  
**Name:** Mr Michael Tharle  
**Rule:** GAR 165 (a)

**Offence:** During a kennel visit conducted by Greyhound Racing Victoria Stewards at Mr. Tharle's registered kennels, Mr. Tharle made comments towards Stewards and conducted himself in a manner that was detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing.

**Officiating Stewards:** Mr Alex Kitching & Mr Max Hayden-Evans

### REPORT

On Friday 5 May 2023, GRV Stewards finalised an inquiry into the conduct of Participant Mr Michael Tharle during a kennel visit conducted by Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) Stewards for the purpose of obtaining out of competition and race day samples at the property.

Evidence was taken from GRV Senior Steward Ms Catherine Scarlett, Cadet Steward Mr Bradley Martin, Participant Mr Michael Tharle and Participant Ms Melinda Tharle.

After considering the evidence, Mr. Michael Tharle was issued with a charge under GAR 165(a):

***Charge – GAR 165 - An offence is committed if a person (including an official):  
(a) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing;***

The particulars of the charge were that on Monday 20 March 2023, during a kennel visit at the registered kennels of Mr Michael Tharle, he made comments (engaged in conduct) to Stewards that were detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing. Mr Tharle said words to the effect of "If I get one more sample, GRV will be back out here anyway, because I'll shoot every dog on the property".

Mr Tharle pleaded not guilty to the charge and declined to make any further submissions to the Stewards. As such, the Stewards considered the matter on the evidence as it stood, and found Mr Tharle guilty of the charge. The Stewards issued a fine of \$1,000 as penalty, in determining that penalty, Stewards took into consideration:

- Mr Tharle's personal antecedence and record with GRV.
- General and specific deterrence.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence
- The nature and context of the offence; and the circumstances in which they occurred.

Mr Tharle was advised of his appeal rights.



**Paul Searle**  
Chief Steward - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA