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DECISION ON COMPLAINT AGAINST FORMER PARRAMATTA LEAGUES CLUB DIRECTORS

The NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority has issued its final decision on a complaint against four former directors of Parramatta Leagues Club over their role in the Parramatta NRL club's salary cap breaches in 2015 and 2016.

The four ex-directors - Steven Sharp, Toufic Issa, Geoff Gerard and Peter Serrao – have given written undertakings to the Authority to have no management roles in the NSW registered clubs industry for the next three years.

Authority chair Philip Crawford said Parramatta Leagues Club has also been ordered to pay almost \$100,000 in legal and investigative costs.

“The Authority earlier found the four ex-directors were not ‘fit and proper’ persons to be members of a governing body of a registered club in NSW,” Mr Crawford said.

“The Authority’s decision arises from a complaint by Liquor & Gaming NSW relating to the ex-directors’ failure to disclose to the NRL suspected breaches of the salary cap by the Parramatta NRL club in 2015 and 2016.”

The NRL club is the corporate entity through which the Parramatta Eels competes in the NRL and is wholly owned by Parramatta Leagues Club. The two clubs shared a common board of directors and the four directors in question were also Registered Game Officials with the NRL, holding a personal legal duty to disclose suspected breaches of the salary cap.

Under new gaming reforms passed by Parliament in March, penalties against club directors and managers who do the wrong thing have been strengthened. The new penalties include lifetime bans from the industry and fines up to \$11,000.

These new penalties will be available to the Authority when it considers future complaints against club directors and managers.

ILGA’s full report on its decision is available here:

<https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Documents/ilga/decisions-of-interest/Parramatta%20Leagues%20Complaint%20Final%20Decision%20-%206%20June%202018.pdf>

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