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Northern Raceday Services Society Ltd Statement on Raceday Abandonment at Pukekohe Park

Northern Raceday Services Society Ltd (NRS) wishes to address the recent raceday abandonment that occurred at Pukekohe Park on Wednesday July 17.

Established in 1977 as an essentially voluntary organisation supported by regional clubs, NRS is dedicated to providing northern race clubs with barrier attendants and, where necessary, starting gates for raceday, trials, and jumpouts. Our fleet, including the towing truck, purpose-built trailer, and minibus, undergoes regular servicing. Additionally, our custom-built Steriline starting gates are maintained by qualified engineers and receive annual servicing from a Steriline representative to ensure their reliability.

The disruption on Wednesday was due to an unforeseen issue with a fuel pressure valve on our towing truck en route to Pukekohe Park. Despite our rigorous maintenance schedule, this fault could not have been anticipated. In our 47 years of operation, covering hundreds of race meetings and trials, this is the first time a breakdown has prevented us from fulfilling our duties.

Under the current structure, where NRS is tasked with providing barrier staff and, where required, barriers for northern region race meetings, NRS has no option but to accept full responsibility for the abandonment. We are acutely aware of the impact this has had on all stakeholders and an investigation is underway to clearly identify the cause and to implement measures to prevent such incidents in the future. Our goal is to ensure that this does not happen again and to maintain the high standards of service expected from us.

We apologise for the disruption caused and are taking all necessary steps to avoid recurrence. NRS remains dedicated to supporting the racing community and ensuring the smooth operation of race meetings for the benefit of all involved.