

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Israel Folau declines right to appeal, considers options**

**MELBOURNE, Monday, May 20:** Former Wallaby and New South Wales rugby union representative Israel Folau today confirmed he will not appeal Rugby Australia's decision to terminate his employment contract.

"The last few weeks and, in particular, the last 72 hours have given me considerable opportunity to reflect and think about my future," he said.

"I will not be exercising my right to appeal Rugby Australia's decision to terminate my employment contract."

Israel cited a lack of confidence in Rugby Australia's management of the judicial panel process.

"My decision not to commence Rugby Australia's appeal process is in no way an acceptance of the judicial panel's findings," he said.

"I simply do not have confidence in Rugby Australia's ability to treat me fairly or lawfully throughout this process."

While he is not appealing the ruling through Rugby Australia's judicial process, Israel confirmed he is considering his options in the face of growing discontent with the way Rugby Australia has handled his code of conduct hearing.

"The messages of support from fans, players, former rugby administrators and the public have been humbling," he said.

"I believe I still have a lot of rugby left in me and the potential impact of Rugby Australia's decision on my reputation and my career is substantial."

"Ultimately, I need to do what is best for my family, my teammates and the fans, so I am considering all potential avenues open to me," Israel concluded.

**ENDS**