

GREYHOUND RACING (REPEAL OF BAN) BILL 2016

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Foley, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (10:51): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Greyhound Racing (Repeal of Ban) Bill 2016 simply seeks to give effect to the stated backdown announced by the Premier in recent weeks. It will repeal the Government's ban on greyhound racing. As it currently stands, the law of New South Wales will ban greyhound racing as at 1 July next year. The legislation to ban greyhound racing was passed in August. It was declared urgent and the House sat until four o'clock in the morning. Imposing a ban on greyhound racing was so urgent that members of this House were kept here until four o'clock in the morning. Now the Premier says that there is no urgency about repealing the ban; it can wait until sometime next year. Why?

This Government is trying to con us. The Premier cannot say that he wants to overturn his wrongheaded ban on greyhound racing and then say that we will not do it now and instead will wait until some undetermined time in the future. There is a con on here. The Parliament, having carried legislation for a greyhound racing ban as a matter of great urgency, ought to repeal that legislation before Parliament rises for the Christmas break. The work of this Parliament for 2016 is not done until we repeal the greyhound racing ban. That is what this bill will do. It is very simple and it is less than half a page in length. Members will be pleased to know that I have no intention of repeating my speech that took two hours and 10 minutes. Instead, I refer all members to it and I recommend that all members with insomnia read it. During the debate on the Greyhound Racing Prohibition Bill 2016, I canvassed in great detail the reasons that the greyhound racing ban is a very bad idea. I refer all members to the points I made during that speech.

The Premier has admitted that he got it wrong. He now needs to take action in Parliament to complement his words. He needs to put his money where his mouth is and repeal this ban. The Premier should can this harsh and cruel ban this year before Parliament rises. The work of this Parliament for 2016 is not done. I do not want the people of Orange to be conned this weekend that the Government will repeal the greyhound racing ban only for Mr Baird to come back to Parliament next week and say, "Maybe it's still an option, you know." The Premier must repeal the ban this year and give a commitment. It was urgent to ban greyhound racing. Why is it not urgent to repeal that awful piece of law and take it off the statute books? That is what this bill will do. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.