

Written response provided by Ms Judith Lind to comments made in submission no. 41, published by resolution of the committee 5 May 2021.

20 April 2021

Hon Robert Borsak MLC
Committee Chair

cc. Hon Abigail Boyd MLC, Deputy Chair
cc. Alan Brown, Chief Commissioner, NSW Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission

Via email to
Rhia Victorino, Principal Council Officer
Upper House Committees, Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW

Dear Chair and Deputy Chair

NOTIFICATION OF FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN GREYHOUND RACING NSW (GRNSW) SUBMISSION (No. 41) TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION (GWIC)

I refer to recent liaison and correspondence between this committee and myself. I now wish to draw to the committee's attention a further matter involving misleading statements made by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tony Mestrov, GRNSW in his submission of 4 December 2020 (submission No. 41), with adverse imputations to myself.

On page 13 of that submission it is claimed that the CEO of GWIC earns \$350,850 and the CEO's PA earns \$100,000. It is important to note the actual wording in paragraph 33 which states "*The model is based on **actual salaries** (my emphasis added) and costs paid by GWIC.....*", as reproduced below.

33. Set out below is a costing of a better GWIC business model. The model is based on actual salaries and costs paid by GWIC pursuant to the relevant NSW *Crown Employees Award* and SOORT Determinations. The table excludes Commissioner remuneration.

GWIC ORG STRUCTURE	
ROLE	TOTAL
CEO	350,850
CEO PA	100,000

The use of the words 'actual' will, in my view, leave any reader of this submission with the unequivocal impression that I got paid \$350K and that I had a Personal Assistant (PA) who got paid \$100K. Both are incorrect and misleadingly so. If Mr Mestrov had such a keen interest in what I was being paid as the (former) CEO of GWIC he simply could have asked and I would have happily disclosed that information. For the public record I do so now.

In the 18/19 financial year my gross salary (as shown on my payment summary) was \$275K. In the 19/20 financial year my gross salary was \$293K - some \$57,850 less than what is reported in GRNSW's submission to this Inquiry.

Further, that submission claims that I had a PA who earned \$100K. That statement is also false. Whilst performing the duties of GWIC's CEO I worked with a grade 3/4 executive assistant who also performed other administrative duties in the GWIC Bathurst Office. With that person's permission I can disclose that her annual salary was \$76K in the 19/20 financial year - some \$24000 less than what is reported in GRNSW's submission.

The combined effect of this misleading reporting by GRNSW is to inflate the total cost of the CEO and EA position by \$81850 – figures that are then used by GRNSW to extrapolate across multiple years, the modelling of costs to support their contention that GWIC costs the industry too much.

I also note that other figures used in the table in paragraph 33 are grossly inflated and the analysis of "GWIC V GRV reported integrity costs" on page 16 of GRNSW's submission excludes the attribution of GRV's corporate overheads to its integrity costs, thereby invalidating this comparison.

I hereby request that the committee notes my concerns and that any deliberations by it in relation to GRNSW's submission and/or any findings or recommendations based on this submission, overtly reflect and recognise the misleading figures highlighted above. I also provide the committee with permission to publish the correct figures relating to my salary.

Given that the financial sustainability of the industry is such an important issue, it is imperative that the committee (and all interested stakeholders, including participants) have the correct information before it to make judgements on the financial aspects of GWIC, GRNSW and the operation of the industry as a whole.

I note for example an increase in GRNSW's key management personnel remuneration, as reported in its Annual Reports, by 43.8% over the past 4 years¹, from \$1.6 million in 2017 to \$2.3 million in 2020, with the most significant increase occurring in 2018 - the very year integrity and welfare functions were transferred from GRNSW to GWIC. I am sure greyhound racing participants would expect a commensurate decrease in executive and corporate costs, given that GRNSW no longer had carriage of these functions from 2018 onwards.

Yours sincerely

Judith Lind
Former Chief Executive Officer
GWIC

¹ GRNSW Annual Reports 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.