

	Questions taken on notice during public hearing 16 September 2022	GRNSW's response dated 4 October 2022
1	<p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Thank you very much for your attendance today, Mr Macaulay and Dr Fuller. I want to start by looking at a report from May this year that was exposing the fact that most former industry greyhounds arriving at community-run greyhound rescue groups were in poor condition on arrival. Some 89 per cent of those dogs were reported to be in poor condition. This was corroborated by evidence to a hearing of this Committee earlier this year, provided by three New South Wales-based rescue groups. I will table a document containing photographic evidence that was provided to my office directly by two New South Wales-based rescue groups, Greyhound Rescue Inc. and Rescue Greyhounds NSW Central Coast, which document injury and neglect visible on arrival at their rescues. I will get that passed up to you. As you can see, these photos show gaping wounds, untreated broken bones, decaying teeth, flea infestation and starved and emaciated bodies—again, 89 per cent of the dogs being presented to these rescue organisations. You said in your opening statement that you are now operating in a vastly changed environment, that this was a wholesome sport, that there had been transformational change, and yet what we see before us looks very similar to what we saw before this industry was reformed. What do you say to these photos?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: I can't comment on these particular photos. This is the first time I have seen them. I don't know what their source is, but I'm happy to take it on notice and get back to you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GRNSW is unable to verify the source of the photos and/or the veracity of the claims made. No claim is made that this greyhound is from an Industry participant. ● GRNSW encourages any rehoming organisation to report to GWIC any instances of maltreatment or mistreatment of a greyhound. ● Rehoming organisations can report such instances via the following link: https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/welfare/report-a-concern
2	<p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: With the Homing Assistance Scheme, what needs to be done by GAP or Greyhound Racing NSW for a dog to be counted as part of that number?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: The Homing Assistance Scheme pathway is to enable participants to meet their requirements under the Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission rehoming policy, which states that all greyhounds must be desexed and in good health to be rehomed. It provides rebates for desexing, dental, vaccination, worming and a blood test, if they are over a certain age. It's making sure that all of the greyhounds that are coming from</p>	<p><u>FY 2020/21</u></p> <p>Direct Rehoming includes GAP Adoption Centres & GAP Regional Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 521 dogs were directly rehomed through GAP adoption centres (Londonderry/Wyee).

	<p>industry and confirming that they will be in good health when they move forward into their next stage of life.</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Does GAP ever see those dogs?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: They're not actually part of the Greyhounds As Pets program. They are actually the Greyhound Racing NSW rehoming scheme's.</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: So the 1,139? That's not rehomed?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: When we're reporting numbers and when Greyhound Racing NSW is reporting its rehoming target or assistance rehoming target to GWIC, that is including GAP adoption centres, GAP regional programs and the GRNSW welfare schemes.</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That might explain why there is this discrepancy, then. You're stating that you're rehoming or assisting about 1,880 greyhounds in 2020-21. GWIC's annual report said 1,420 retirements in the same year, including 229 rehomed privately to a non-participant, 447 accepted by a rescue organisation and only 339 accepted by GAP.</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Yes. There's another—</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Yes?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Sorry. Within that dataset as well there are two separate datasets. Actually GWIC is a participant-reported number and it's borne from compliance of the retirement notification form. From an assisted rehoming point of view, that's actually an output number. We're not reporting the intake into GAP and we obviously have greyhounds in care for a period of time before they're adopted; we're reporting the adoptions as they occur, which is output. There are actually two separate datasets, and they're also derived from two separate, I suppose, inputs. Our inputs are that the microchips of the greyhound are recorded and that microchip number is unique to every greyhound. Then that is also a set of audited microchips at the end of every year to confirm that they have received assistance into retirement through Greyhound Racing NSW.</p> <p>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Okay. But in terms of direct rehoming, then, in 2020-21, what was the number for GAP?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: I would have to take that one on notice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● With a further 220 through the GAP NSW Regional Programs. ● TOTAL direct rehoming through GAP NSW is 741 greyhounds. ● TOTAL assisted rehoming 1880
3	<p>The CHAIR: Turning now to greyhound racing tracks themselves, and funding upgrades and safety, I noticed in your preamble you talked about tracks being better designed, et cetera, as one of the reasons why you believe there are fewer injuries or less catastrophic</p>	<p>Attached as ANNEXURE A: "Minimum Standards Audits 2021"</p>

	<p>injuries. What's the story in relation to funding the ongoing development and renewal of tracks and resources open to the industry?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: Yes, Mr Borsak, there are effectively four sources of funding for track redevelopments and improvements. They are, firstly, the greyhound capital grants fund, which was established by the previous Government and provides a pool of \$30 million to expend on safety improvements and welfare improvements on tracks. Last year, in consultation with Government, we also established the greyhound future fund, the GFF, which provides another \$5 million over the next five years—so another \$25 million on top of that. The third pool of money is general funding that is supplied out of operating surplus, if you like, from Greyhound Racing into a whole slew of track improvements. And the fourth tranche of money is monies raised by clubs themselves or distributed to clubs through club funding arrangements between those clubs and Greyhound Racing NSW. Those monies arise largely as the result of dividends that are payable pursuant to the broadcast rights sale for Greyhound Racing vision.</p> <p>The CHAIR: I don't think I've ever seen a document that does this, but do you actually have a document that outlines or specifies basically an audit of the condition of all of the tracks—the 32-odd facilities in the State that are being used?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: We do, and I'm very happy to supply that to you.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Can you table that?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: I cannot here, but I certainly will take it on notice, yes.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Yes, sorry, in due course. Does that actually attach a dollar number to each one of these potential improvements or are they just identifying improvements?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: It identifies improvements, Mr Borsak, but at the same time we have, not on that document but within our own budgets, our own forward projections of capital works, the budget expenditures for those programs.</p>	
4	<p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: When you say "everyone", who is that?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: The Homing Assistance Scheme can be claimed by the participants themselves. It replaced the owner incentive scheme, so it assists them if they're retiring the animal as a pet to themselves. It can also be claimed by a member of the general public should they come into possession of a greyhound that hasn't yet been desexed, and it can also be claimed by the other rehoming organisations as well. We are trying to encourage participants to be the main accessors to the scheme because, under the</p>	<p>The Homing Assistance Scheme (HAS) has been in operation for the last 3 financial years. Claims are assessed and paid as per the policy terms and conditions and greyhounds claiming the rebate in NSW must be eligible under the policy.</p> <p>Number of applications received, granted, over cap and largest payout in each FY:</p>

	<p>rehoming policy, prior to them rehoming a greyhound it is supposed to be desexed already. If we are encouraging adherence to GWIC policy, we would like it to be a participant-based scheme and for them to be accessing it prior to the greyhound moving through from the industry.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I understand. When you say that everyone is able to make submissions, are you able to provide on notice how many additional amounts you've been granting over the cap?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Yes, certainly. I will take it on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Please. I don't expect you to have that here today.</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Yes, we can let you know the above cap costs. No problem.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Excellent. If you can give the figures to me for the last three financial years, if that works.</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Yes, that would be possible.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How many applications you received, how many were actually granted and what's the largest amount. That would be helpful as well.</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Yes.</p>	<p><u>FY 2019/20</u> Applications Received: 901 Paid: 840 Number of over cap payments: 7 Largest over cap payment: \$1568.10</p> <p><u>FY 2020/21</u> Applications Received: 1292 Paid: 1139 Number of over cap payments: 5 Largest over cap payment: \$1323.55</p> <p><u>FY 2021/22</u> Applications Received: 1600 Paid: 1599 Number of over cap payments: 2 Largest over cap payment: \$1700</p> <p><u>To Note:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applications received equate to HAS claim forms received. ● Over cap payments in the last three FY were due to claims where the greyhounds required significant dental treatment including extractions.
5	<p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: When you say you get feedback from vets, I appreciate that that's one part of it. Obviously, then, participants are one part that could be claiming it, the rehoming organisations, and what was the third one you said could be claiming it?</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: If a member of the general public has actually adopted an un-desexed greyhound not through the other routes then they are able to claim through it as well.</p>	<p>Homing Assistance Scheme (HAS) claimants who received payments:</p> <p><u>FY 2019/20</u> Participant: 802 Re homing organisation: 36 Non-industry member of public: 2</p>

	<p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: It might be helpful—again, over those three financial years—to provide us with a list of the numbers in those three categories of who's actually claiming it.</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Yes.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I'm also interested in the number of greyhounds who are rehomed directly through the GAP program but then also through rehoming programs. My understanding is that the GAP figures do pick up—given the way that GAP can partner with rehoming organisations and provide this funding— some of those figures.</p> <p>ALICIA FULLER: Yes. The homing assistance scheme, the last section of GRNSW contribution to rehoming, does pick up where those dogs have claimed that scheme. The Greyhounds As Pets Adoption Centres and the Greyhounds As Pets regional programs, they are the Greyhounds As Pets programs themselves.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Sorry, my apologies. Okay. All right. I understand the clarification.</p>	<p><u>FY 2020/21</u> Participant: 1104 Re homing organisation: 25 Non-industry member of public: 10</p> <p><u>FY 2021/22</u> Participant: 1574 Re homing organisation: 20 Non-industry member of public: 5</p>
6	<p>The Hon. MARK PEARSON: Mr Macaulay, you may be aware that some participants have been prosecuted for permitting the firing of their greyhounds. Are you aware of that case at all?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: You'd have to tell me which case it is, Mr Pearson.</p> <p>The Hon. MARK PEARSON: It's very specific in that it relates to the firing of greyhounds and knowingly permitting that to be done. Are you aware of that case?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: I'm happy to take questions on individual cases on notice.</p> <p>The Hon. MARK PEARSON: If you could take that on notice, please. Could you also tell me in your inquiry into it, or whether you know, did the person who performed the firing operation or the firing procedure— are they being dealt with by GWIC or yourselves in any investigative, with a view to prosecuting?</p> <p>ROBERT MACAULAY: I can't answer questions about individual matters, but I'm happy to take—</p> <p>The Hon. MARK PEARSON: I think you can. You have a policy position on firing—</p> <p>The Hon. WES FANG: Point of order, Chair—</p> <p>The Hon. MARK PEARSON: —and I think you can. Take it on notice, please.</p>	<p>Pin-firing is an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTAA) in New South Wales.</p> <p>GRNSW and other industry stakeholders including GBOTA, GIPAC, Greyhound Clubs NSW and the Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee, condemns this illegal practice</p> <p>GRNSW encourages anyone with knowledge of this practice to report the matter to GWIC. https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/welfare/report-a-concern</p>

Ends.