

Online questionnaire report: Inquiry into the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission

The Select Committee on the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) launched an online questionnaire to enable public participation in an efficient and accessible way.

The questionnaire was not intended as a statistically valid, random survey. Like the submission process, respondents self-selected in choosing to participate. This means that respondents were not a representative sample of the New South Wales population, but rather interested members of the public who volunteered their time to have a say. It should be noted that some participants reside outside of New South Wales.

The questionnaire was complementary to and did not replace the usual submission process. The submission portal was also available to individuals and organisations who wished to provide a more detailed response to the inquiry's terms of reference. In this regard, some respondents may have completed the questionnaire and also made a submission.

Questions

The questionnaire comprised 11 questions. This included background information about the respondents including their contact details, and the capacity in which they responded to the questionnaire.

A mix of multiple choice and open-ended questions sought the views of respondents on:

- the regulation of the greyhound industry by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission,
- the impacts following the creation of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission,
- the appropriateness of the disciplinary action for industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission,
- the options for appeal for those who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission,
- the relationship between the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, Greyhound Racing NSW, and industry participants,
- the actions, conduct, and effectiveness of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission to improve the welfare of greyhounds.

The full list of questions is at Appendix 1.

Responses to questions

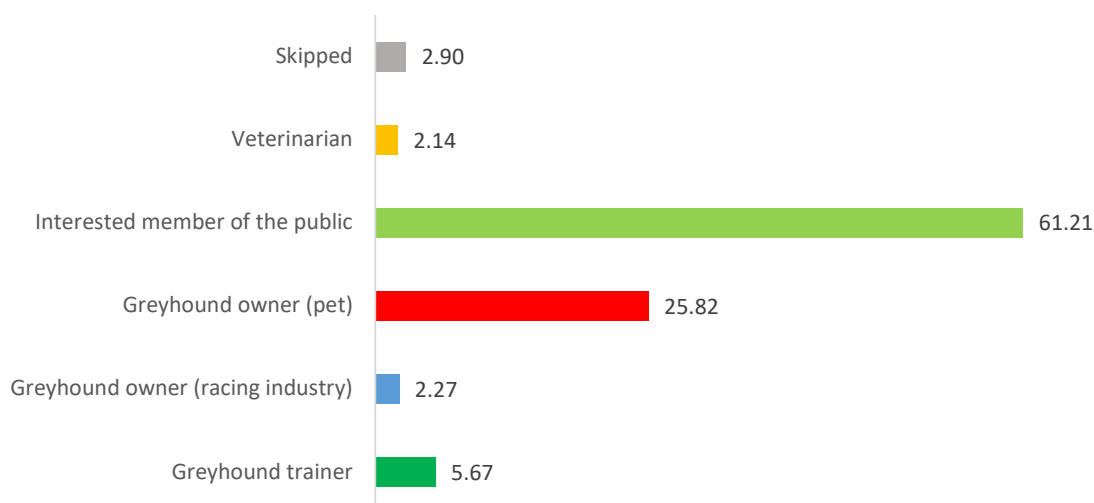
The questionnaire was open from 8 October 2020 to 29 January 2021 and received a total of 1034 responses. Of those, 215 were excluded by resolution of the committee.¹ An additional 25 responses were removed as they were incomplete. This left a remaining 794 responses.²

A sample of answers and summaries of responses are provided for each question below. The samples have been selected to represent the various viewpoints expressed in the responses.

Background

The majority of respondents were interested members of the public (61.21 per cent), followed by greyhound owner - pet (25.82 per cent), greyhound trainer (5.67 per cent), greyhound owner - racing industry (2.27 per cent), and veterinarians (2.14 per cent).

Q2 In what capacity are you responding to this questionnaire?



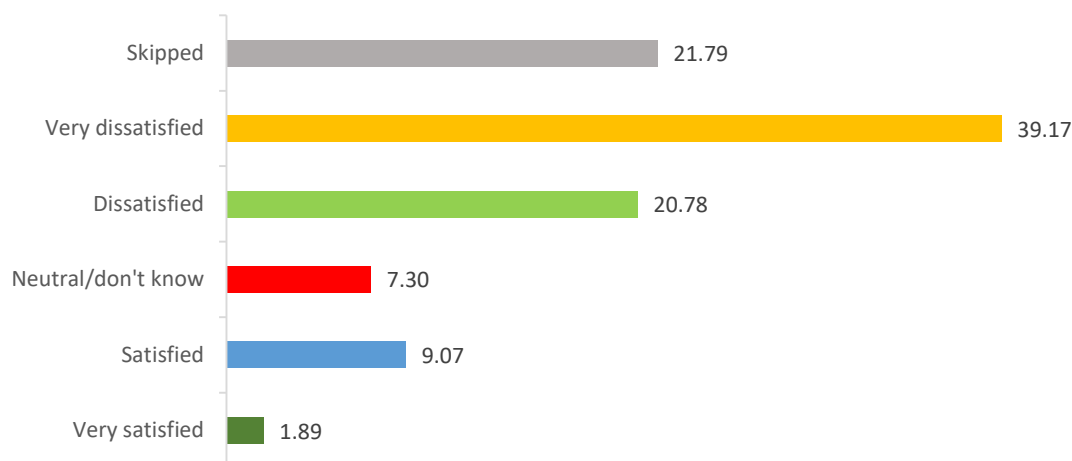
¹ Select Committee on the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, Minutes No. 2, Thursday 10 December 2020, p 2.

² A further 83 were pro forma responses, with some variations, submitted by different individuals. These have not been excluded from the total.

How satisfied are you with the regulation of the greyhound industry by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?

Most respondents were very dissatisfied (39.17 per cent) or dissatisfied (20.78 per cent) with the regulation of the greyhound industry by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

Q3 How satisfied are you with the regulation of the greyhound industry by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?



What impacts, positive or negative, have you seen following the creation of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?

A number of respondents were of the view that GWIC had made some improvements to greyhound racing regulation in New South Wales. However, they also felt that the Commission's narrow scope and insecure funding hindered its efforts.

- "The establishment of GWIC including the separation of conflicting commercial and regulatory interests has resulted in some welcome incremental improvements with the regulation of the NSW greyhound racing industry; notably with an enhanced level of transparency surrounding the reporting and oversight of animal welfare and integrity matters. Under the current structure GWIC is however restricted by inadequate powers, insecure funding and resources and a lack of ministerial support which curtails GWIC from exercising its intended role as the independent regulator, in line with the NSW State Government's commitments and undertakings, and public expectations". (Interested member of the public)
- "The creation of GWIC is a great step in the right direction. The scope of the commission would benefit from expansion to end needless suffering of docile creatures for said entertainment and gambling profit". (Interested member of the public)
- "On the positive side the GWIC has separated commercial interests from oversight of Greyhound welfare and monitoring and recording of injuries and deaths has improved. However, the GWIC has not been given adequate secure funding, independent of the gaming industry, to increase significant and pro-active measures to improve animal welfare. It also hasn't had sufficient powers to penalise breaches of animal welfare regulations. In order to promote and protect greyhound welfare the GWIC needs secure NSW Government funding and Ministerial support". (Interested member of the public)

- "The impact of the GWIC has positively contributed to the welfare of the greyhounds in the industry. By providing the funding for retired greyhounds to transition to pet life (health, desexing and dental costs), and holding trainers accountable for their greyhounds. It is a start. The GWIC can do much more on its platform. Transparency about the number of greyhounds bred, raced, retired and transitioned to pet life, and the numbers which are put down (and the reasons for doing so)". (Greyhound owner pet)
- "While there have been some improvements in transparency & welfare this does not go nearly far enough. Penalties for trainers doing the wrong thing are not stringent enough. GWIC needs to do regular, unannounced inspections of ALL registered owners & trainers' properties as well as rearing facilities & trial tracks". (Greyhound owner Pet)

Many respondents commented that GWIC is limited in its capacity to regulate the industry, and their efforts to protect the welfare of greyhounds do not go far enough.

- "GWIC is severely limited in its role as an independent regulator by a lack of necessary powers, resources and ministerial support. This means they are unable to meet their principal objective of "promoting and protecting" greyhound welfare as expected by the public and in line with current and applicable legislation". (Greyhound owners pet)
- "The creation of GWIC has led to an increase in transparency and reporting. However, GRNSW [Greyhound Racing NSW] and the NSW state government seek to undermine GWIC at every opportunity through a lack of collaboration, public statements condemning the agency and not providing the funds necessary for GWIC to do its job effectively. To me this seems an obvious ploy to allow the industry to continue its exploitation of greyhounds without being held responsible for their actions". (Interested member of the public)
- "GWIC is hog tied ... by inadequate powers, insecure funding and resources and a lack of ministerial support which curtails GWIC from exercising its intended role as the independent regulator, in line with public expectations. A new government funding model separate from the gambling industry is VITAL, and an increased level of ministerial support to clearly reinforce GWIC's independence as the regulator, would be a good starting point". (Interested member of the public)
- "GWIC is still unable to act appropriately, because of lack of support from the ministry, and insufficient power, funding and resources. Providing a commission that can be seen as a "toothless tiger" means that it will not be able to act as a truly independent overseer ... The public expects real change and improvements in welfare". (Interested member of the public)
- "I've seen no improvement in the welfare of greyhounds in the industry, no improvement in accountability for breeding, caring for or humanely treating animals, no improvement in penalties for poor treatment or mistreatment of dogs, no improvement in regulation of breeders and trainers of dogs, and no improvement in transparency regarding the lifespan of dogs born into the industry". (Interested member of the public)

In contrast, respondents from within the racing industry, particularly trainers and owners of racing dogs, were critical of GWIC, arguing that it has excessive influence which is negatively impacting the racing industry.

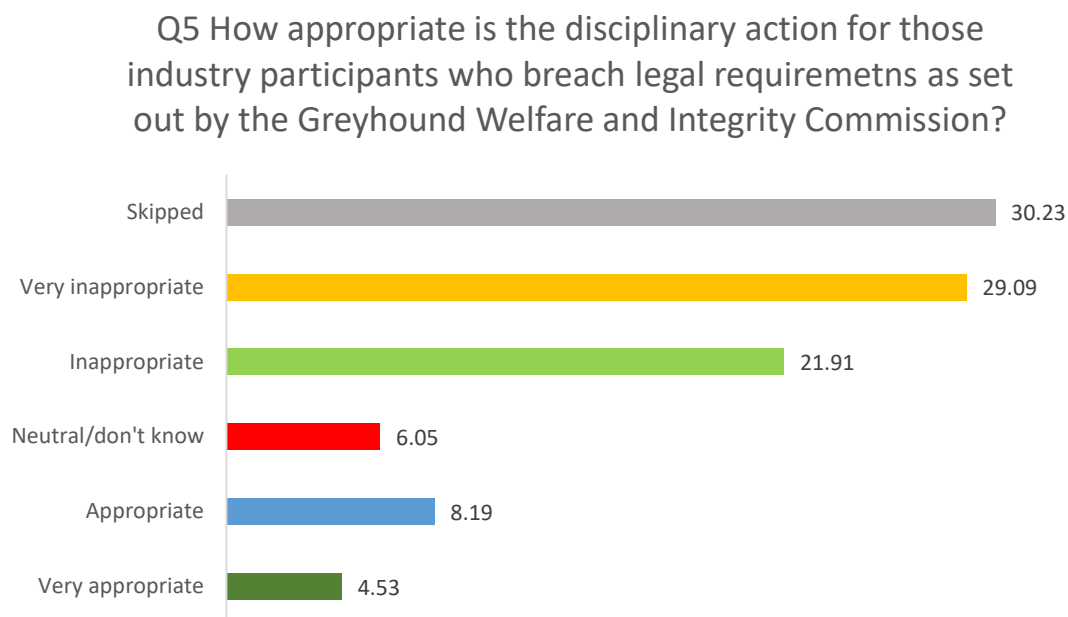
- "... As for the ... regulatory authority has gone way beyond their responsibility, the intimidation and provocation of the stewards has gone to another level, absolutely authoritarian attitude towards participants has got to the point where trainers are leaving the sport for no other reason than the stand over tactics of this body of people. These people that GWIC have employed have zero racing experience to be able to read a race, they are giving tickets to dogs not needed for their performance and this is from having

no experience to be making these decisions, [their] inconsistency is beyond approach, these stewards have come from a police back ground, they speak and treat participants with that type of mentality, stewarding is a [role] of oversight to protect and promote greyhound racing in its best light, since GWIC has taken over there is complete disrespect for participants, the bullying and stand over attitude has become unbearable for most to a point where they are too scared to speak out". (Greyhound trainer)

- "Over regulation (far too pedantic) of the rules. Rules made "on the run" to combat participants. Failing to work with participants, I for one feel that GWIC inspectors act like guns for hire not people wanting for a prosperous future. The general conversation at racetracks is that GWIC is working to slowly "kill" Greyhound racing by their heavy hand". (Greyhound trainer).
- "We have found that the attitude from the GWIC integrity officers inspectors very domineering and aggressive. They treat us like criminals, declare us as being guilty before even being properly investigated. For example, they tell us to do it our way or get out". (Greyhound trainer)
- "Speaking as an owner that races solely in NSW and in addition to feedback from my trainer everyone is dissatisfied with millions of dollars being spent needlessly instead of going into stake money ...The whole system while improving slightly is so slow and confusing and should be adapting and running the Fastrack system that Victoria has ran successfully and simply for many many years, not a paper trail that still runs in NSW". (Greyhound owner racing industry)

How appropriate is the disciplinary action for those industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?

Most respondents who answered this question believed that the disciplinary action for those who breach legal requirements as set out by GWIC is very inappropriate (29.09 per cent) or inappropriate (21.91 per cent).



Do you have any comments on the appropriateness of disciplinary action for those industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?

Most respondents considered the disciplinary action for people who breach legal requirements to be inadequate, with many calling for harsher penalties.

- "Current disciplinary action is grossly inadequate and insufficient. It does not provide appropriate penalties or consequences in line with the government's commitments and the public's expectations. The long-term suffering and welfare impacts to the greyhounds are not considered when penalties are handed out for instance in the doping of dogs". (Greyhound owner pet)
- "Current disciplinary actions for industry participants who breach GWIC legal requirements are very inadequate and insufficient and fail to provide appropriate penalties and/or consequences in line with public expectations and government commitments and undertakings regarding animal welfare and cruelty matters, and particularly where the welfare of greyhounds is compromised, risked and/or impacted". (Interested member of the public)
- "Penalties awarded for administering a prohibited substance are far too lenient given the long-term detrimental impact this can have on the welfare of individual greyhounds". (Interested member of the public)
- "Much higher penalties are required to provide a greater disincentive for non-compliance and to signal the Government's strong commitment to ensuring the highest standards of animal welfare are upheld". (Interested member of the public)
- "The disciplinary action that can be taken under the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 is inadequate. Moreover, the maximum penalties allowable under this Act are not always applied. Stronger legal action needs to be taken to deter illegal and cruel treatment of greyhounds, such as larger fines or jail sentences". (Greyhound owner pet)
- "The suspensions and fines that have been handed out, are for the most part meaningless - if we are serious about cleaning up the industry there needs to be serious consequences to breaches of legal requirements, including significantly longer suspensions, life-time bans, larger fines that are likely to actually change behaviours". (Interested member of the public)

However, respondents from within the racing industry, including trainers and owners of racing dogs, believed the penalties to be excessive and/or inconsistent.

- "All breaches of rules appear to be treated as guilty until proven innocent. I am aware of a trainer who was set up by GWIC and made to plead guilty for a suspended sentence or accept a life ban. A total review of banned substances needs to be done with penalties appropriate to the severity of the "crime". (Greyhound trainer)
- "They make the rules to suit themselves and use it as a means to push people out the industry as in most cases first time minor offences are harshly dealt with but major trainers with huge offences that should not be in the industry are given minor discipline no integrity in this at all". (Greyhound trainer)
- "I was a participant whose greyhound returned a positive swab to a banned substance. The substance... is a drug that has been prescribed to one of my retired greyhounds for administration twice daily. The level of the drug detected was miniscule and despite this being my first offence in nearly 50 years of involvement in the sport, GWIC would not listen to my pleas for a reprimand and decided that my offence warranted a 12-week suspension". (Greyhound trainer)

- "I am reasonably satisfied where the offence has been knowingly committed, however, where there are circumstances out of the trainer's control then some further policy needs to be amended to take such situations into account". (Greyhound owner racing industry)

Do you have a view on the options for appeal for those industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?

Most respondents had either no knowledge of the appeals process or no comment on the appeals process.

Of those who did have a view on the options for appeal, many argued that there should be no right of appeal.

- "They shouldn't be allowed appeal if they have breached the requirements". (Interested member of the public)
- "I don't think there should be any appeals ... where there is any conviction of cruelty or mistreatment of our greyhounds those people should be BANNED for life from ever owning training or anything to do with any animals". (Interested member of the public)
- "In my opinion I don't think there should be appeal procedures for those breaching the legal requirements. If you are caught breaching the requirements, pay the price". (Interested member of the public)
- "There should be no appeal or second chance for industry participants who participate in animal abuse, strike one and you're out". (Interested member of the public)

Other respondents saw a need for an appeals process, but under very strict conditions.

- "Everyone is entitled to appeal a decision they don't agree with, however, if found guilty then harsh penalties should be applied". (Interested member of the public)
- "If appeal were offered, license suspensions / revocations and banning of individuals should remain in place for the duration of the appeal process". (Interested member of the public)
- "Options for appeal should not be entertained unless it was a clear oversight on the part of the participant, i.e. they did not realise they were breaching requirements". (Interested member of the public)
- "The burden of proof must be completely on the accused to demonstrate that no breach has been perpetrated, knowingly or otherwise". (Interested member of the public)
- "There should be a significant onus on such a participant to overturn a finding of breach. Any appeal body must not be influenced by the interests of industry participants". (Interested member of the public)

For those within the racing industry, greyhound racing owners and trainers, the vast majority believed that there should be a standardised appeals process that is easily accessible.

- "All breaches should be investigated. Appeals based on new evidence should be standard". (Greyhound owner racing industry)
- "Everyone should have the right to appeals and this must be adhered to within the Greyhound racing Industry, as in all/any industry". (Greyhound owner pet)
- "The penalties are pre-set and rarely are appeals upheld. There is a difference in whether a person has intentionally cheated or has made an honest mistake. By all means get rid of cheats but each case should be on merit". (Greyhound owner racing industry)

- "Everyone has the right of appeal, but every participant should have legal representation at all enquiries, and appeals should be heard as soon as possible". (Greyhound trainer)
- "Appeals are a necessary part of any judicial process. The appeal needs to be independent, transparent, accountable and publicly available". (Interested member of the public)

Do you have a view on the relationship between the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, Greyhound Racing NSW, and industry participants?

There was a view among many respondents that GWIC is unable to fulfil its duties due, in large part, to Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) and industry participants' alleged disregard for its role and authority.

- "Prior to the 2015 expose of systemic cruelty, the NSW greyhound racing industry was able to act with impunity as far as the treatment of greyhounds was concerned. There was little oversight of greyhound welfare by either the industry or the state government as demonstrated by the live baiting, mass killing and export of greyhounds to countries with little or no welfare safeguards. The constant undermining of GWIC by GRNSW and industry participants suggests that much of the industry still feels that commercial considerations should take precedence over greyhound welfare". (Interested member of the public)
- "It seems the GRNSW and industry participant publicly undermine and disrupt GWIC in its endeavours to fulfil its regulatory purpose and role and level of independence. It is inappropriate for GRNSW and/or industry participants to attempt to influence GWIC regulations, policies, procedures or pro-active initiatives designed to improve greyhound welfare or the integrity of the greyhound racing industry". (Interested member of the public)

Other respondents pointed to a need for Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission to be fully independent from the racing industry and have more authority to achieve its purpose.

- "It is essential that GWIC continue to operate with independent government funding separate from GRNSW and the gambling industry, to enable GWIC to fulfil its statutory role to the standard expected by the public and in line with government commitments". (Interested member of the public)
- "GWIC requires ongoing, independent and fully transparent government funding separate from GRNSW. Only with funding independent of the industry commercial entity can GWIC undertake and fulfil its statutory role to the standard expected by the public". (Greyhound owner pet)
- "GWIC needs to be a completely self-regulated entity with NO ties to GRNSW or industry participants. Public expectation requests nothing less". (Greyhound owner pet)
- "The GWIC should be truly independent from the industry body (GRNSW) and industry participants. It should be adequately resourced so it can function as a genuine auditor and enforcement agency. This would mean many more unannounced inspections of kennels and facilities. It would also mean that in general, GWIC should be able to implement genuine welfare improvements without ultimately feeling forced to back down in the face of opposition from industry participants and bodies. Without a truly independent welfare and integrity body, the industry will never come close to securing a social licence for its contentious activities". (unknown)
- "For GWIC to fulfil its appointed role, it requires complete independence from all industry bodies and members. It appears that these bodies are able to influence and limit GWIC's

ability to monitor and regulate an industry with a track record of gross self-interest and abuse of animals". (Interested member of the public)

Respondents from within the racing industry called for more input from racing participants, as well as only one oversight body, stating that having two oversight bodies is disruptive to the industry.

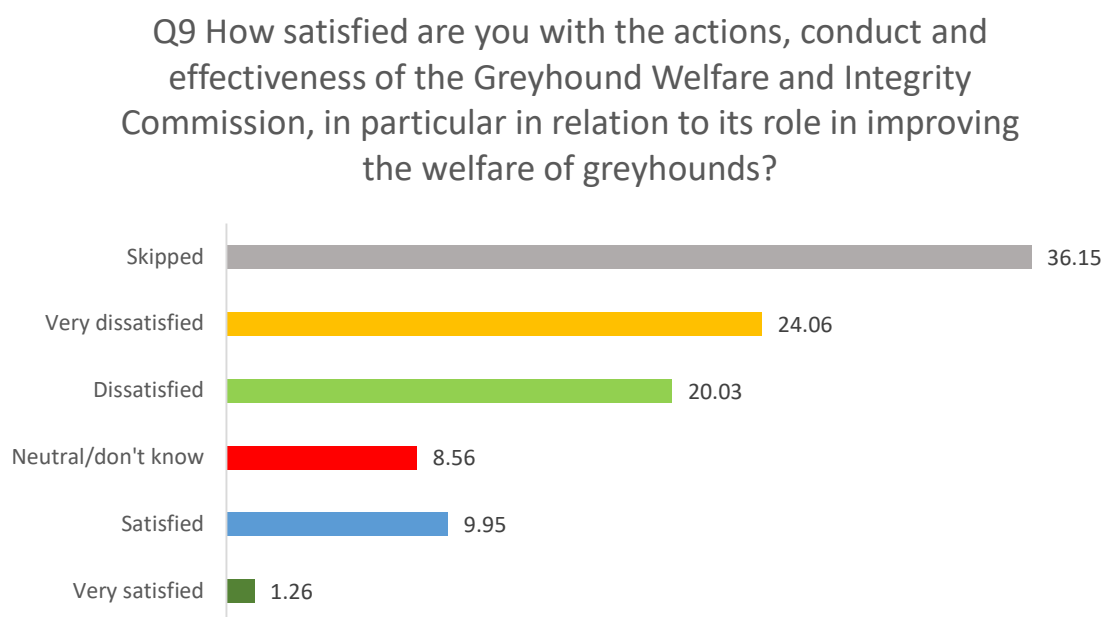
- "Very little courtesy and respect in regard to the skills and knowledge that long term experienced trainers have (by both GRNSW and GWIC) and lack of courtesy to all participants". (Greyhound trainer)
- "My opinions based on my personal experiences are that GWIC need to employ officers who actively promote the sport and do not want to kill it off. Further to this, Officers/Inspectors should have actual trainer/owner experience". (Greyhound trainer)
- "Our view is that GWIC and Greyhound Racing NSW are fighting against each other. Participants and GRNSW work well together to promote the industry but GWIC seem to only want to punish the industry and close it down". (Greyhound trainer)
- "This separation of these [bodies] will be the destruction of this sport, as one over sight of a regulation is sufficient, the implementation of the rolls and improved oversight has been completed, the two body's will always collide and will never allow the progress of this sport in NSW, the five other states are moving forward in leaps and bounds with one controlling body, GRNSW needs to be in control of this sport with the regulation under its control as it's working in the other two code why can't it work with greyhounds, once again over regulation creates strangulation with huge unnecessary costs". (Greyhound trainer)

One respondent was of the view that GWIC and GRNSW have a positive working relationship.

- "I believe it's a good working relationship". (Interested member of the public)

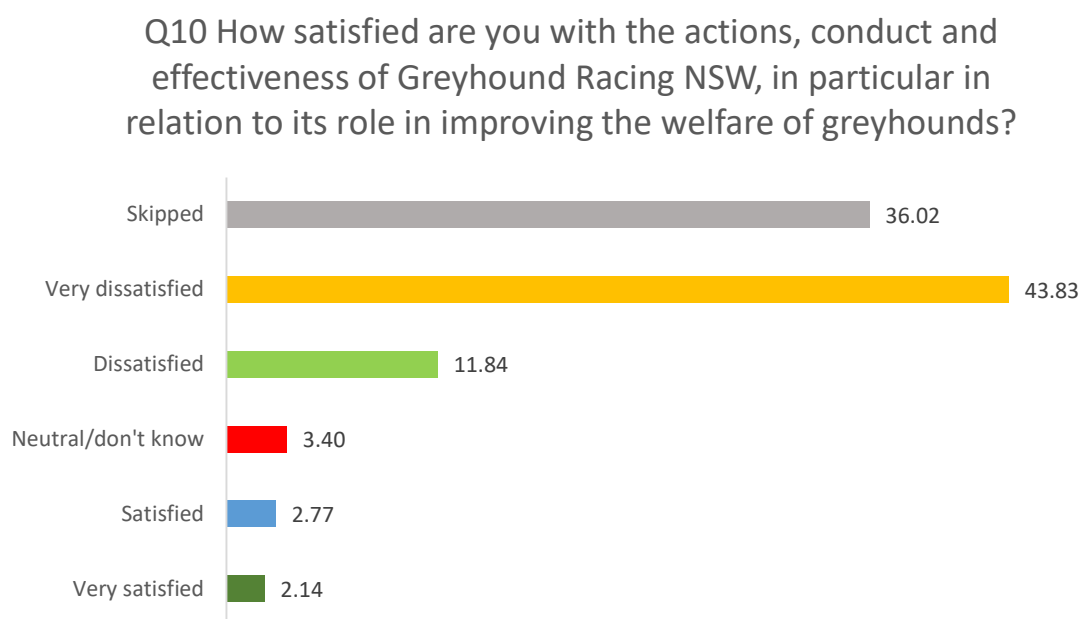
How satisfied are you with the actions, conduct and effectiveness of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, in particular in relation to its role in improving the welfare of greyhounds?

Most respondents were very dissatisfied (24.06 per cent) or dissatisfied (20.03 per cent) with the actions, conduct and effectiveness of GWIC in improving the welfare of greyhounds.



How satisfied are you with the actions, conduct and effectiveness of Greyhound Racing NSW, in particular in relation to its role in improving the welfare of greyhounds?

A majority of respondents were either very dissatisfied (43.83 per cent) or dissatisfied (11.84 per cent) with the actions, conduct and effectiveness of GRNSW in improving the welfare of greyhounds.



Do you have any comments on the actions, conduct and effectiveness of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission and Greyhound Racing NSW, in particular in relation to their role in improving the welfare of greyhounds?

From the range of responses received there was a clear division between people from within the racing industry, and those outside the industry. The overwhelming majority of respondents from within the racing community (that is, greyhound trainers and racing owners) believe that GWIC have negatively impacted the industry, with many believing that the Commission is too regulatory, unnecessarily onerous, and has not consulted with the owners and trainers properly. On the other hand, the racing community generally had favourable views of GRNSW and its efforts to improve the welfare of greyhounds, particularly with regard to Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program.

People outside of the racing industry (that is, interested members of the public and greyhound pet owners) considered there has either been not enough or no improvements to the welfare of greyhounds. Many attributed this to the inability of Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission to do their job effectively.

The majority of respondents considered that there have been minimal improvements for the welfare of greyhounds, reiterating views expressed in earlier questions around constraints, lack of secure funding and lack of independence of GWIC:

- "The GWIC is [too] constrained in its powers to effectively improve the welfare of Greyhounds within the racing industry, the GRNSW has far too much influence over the GWIC and prioritises profit over animal welfare". (Interested member of the public)

- "The establishment of GWIC has resulted in some small improvements. The lack of secure, permanent and independent government funding and legislative limitations restricts GWIC in its powers to undertake and fulfil its role to the standard expected by the NSW public and in line with government commitments and undertakings regarding greyhound welfare and integrity. GWIC is not able to monitor all greyhounds over a whole-of-life approach, and a lack of resources including an insufficient number of inspectors, exacerbates this predicament". (Interested member of the public)
- "I support the GWIC and its staff and wish to make it clear that any dissatisfaction I have expressed with the Commission is not as a result of the Commission itself, but rather the ability of the Commission to operate independently and effectively. Greyhound Racing NSW clearly has too much power over the GWIC and demonstrably prioritises profit over greyhound welfare. To be truly effective the GWIC must become an independent regulatory body". (Interested member of the public)
- "GWIC is hamstrung by limited inspections, and a lack of resources for monitoring. GRNSW will always give priority to the business of racing and profit-making, at the cost of the greyhounds. If they were serious about animal welfare, they would adopt the recommendations of their own funded research and replace curved tracks with straight tracks, and stop euthanising dogs with broken legs". (Interested member of the public).
- "GWIC has done its best under very difficult conditions to achieve its aim of promoting and protecting the welfare of greyhounds. Given GRNSW's focus on commercial success and maintaining industry participation they cannot take an independent or unbiased approach to greyhound welfare". (Interested member of the public).
- "The GWIC is too constrained to enable effective change for the welfare of the greyhounds while this situation exists the suffering and ill treatment of greyhound dogs will go unnoticed. They need more inspectors - currently 11 inspectors for 2,441 greyhounds is not viable. The greyhounds' welfare depends on life tracking - private rescues and sanctuaries, reducing breeding and safer tracks. Increase penalties for ill treatment. The Act and code should reflect the entire life cycle and ways of improving the welfare of these greyhounds". (Interested member of the public)
- "To effectively control sporting industries there needs to be a separate organisation controlling all sports involving animals. Western Australia developed RWWA which has been effectively controlling Thoroughbred, Harness and Greyhound Racing for more than 20 years ... The governance of sport in NSW is proving very difficult to improve while intransigent organisations remain locked in ancient thinking". (Veterinarian)

Some respondents stated that there have been no improvements for the welfare of greyhounds:

- "This Commission has yet to demonstrate any efficacy in improving the life of greyhounds in an industry designed to extract profit from the exertions of a sentient animal". (Greyhound owner pet)
- "There has been zero improvement in the welfare of greyhounds, as can be seen from the numbers of deaths and accidents. The fact that the greyhounds are euthanised just for breaking a leg instead of going through an amputation and then rehoming the animal speaks volumes about the industry... On top of all of this, using animals for entertainment in the 21st century seems to be really unnecessary. And with the primary goal being money, the welfare of the animal is always going to be compromised". (Interested member of the public)

A number of respondents called for the industry to be banned altogether, believing that there cannot be improvements to greyhound welfare while they are still racing:

- "The "efforts" by these bodies are little more than a farce to get uneducated public members and uninterested parliamentary members to turn a blind eye to a terrible disgusting industry which is being banned worldwide under the guise that they have high welfare which is false". (Interested member of the public)
- "If you genuinely wish to 'improve the welfare of greyhounds', there's a simple answer, STOP greyhound racing. As a result there will be fewer greyhounds bred in Australia and those that are pensioned off may be lucky enough to go to kind owners who will give them the love and attention they need". (Interested member of the public)

One respondent believed that there has been significant improvement in the industry since the establishment of Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission:

- "Welfare has improved substantially over the past two years. Re-homing is on the increase, GRNSW now provide funding for the veterinary care for dogs injured on tracks which cannot race again and a new retirement facility is planned. There is greater oversight on full life cycle tracking of dogs which GWIC has done an excellent job with". (Interested member of the public)

A number of the respondents from within the racing industry, including trainers and greyhound racing owners, were critical of the changes imposed by Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission, including a lack of consultation with the racing community:

- "GWIC Vets have very little experience with greyhounds and their on course diagnosis is often wrong, which leads to stewards issuing unnecessary endorsements. More greyhound specific training is required for vets. Inexperienced stewards can't read a race and don't seem to know if a greyhound is injured or if it isn't chasing keenly". (Greyhound trainer)
- "My experience with both the organisations is at club level where you have GRNSW maintenance being undermined by GWIC Stewards who have not the slightest idea on what a safe surface is, especially grass. GWIC Stewards especially in country areas have no training on what is safe and what is not, they completely destroyed any idea of some tracks racing. Their costing both industry time and money because of their lack of knowledge". (Interested member of the public)
- "Listen to the people that have been training for 20, 30, or even more years, do bring in ridiculous rules ... People need to be talked to, not dictated to". (Greyhound owner racing industry)
- "I believe there is a lack of interaction with the participants who have many years of practical expertise in regard to the welfare and care of greyhounds. I do believe there are a few bad apples in the sport as many sports and we need to deal with these in proper consultation going forward". (Greyhound trainer)
- "As an owner trainer for many years I have always tried to rehome a dog not up to racing standard. But I feel the hoops people have to jump through now with a dog that is not able to be rehomed is ridiculous, owners know the temperament of their animal. Their opinion should be taken into account first and foremost. No one likes to see an animal put down but, some dogs are just not suited to either racing or being a pet. Being put down is a far better option to being mistreated". (Greyhound trainer)

Some respondents from within the racing industry, including trainers and greyhound racing owners, were supportive of changes that Greyhound Racing NSW has made in recent years:

- "GHRacing NSW has done some good work investing in property and the future. GWIC just appear to have people with a total lack of knowledge of breeding, rearing and feeding greyhounds. Why are there NOT people with knowledge of dogs working within GWIC". (Greyhound trainer)

- "GRNSW has done a good job with adoption, but it needs money for more facilities, and to keep dogs for longer periods after their careers end. This review really needs to look at GWIC from this perspective, does the cost of the bureaucracy, actually cost dogs their chance of a better future? What is the point of a welfare commission if its cost stops the sport from investing in the welfare of the dogs?" (Interested member of the public)
- "GRNSW initiative of Greyhounds as pets GAP is working extremely well for the industry. GWIC have no options to do this". (Greyhound trainer)

Conclusion

The online questionnaire has been a valuable tool to efficiently gather the views of interested stakeholders on the issues raised in the terms of reference. The information gathered through the questionnaire will inform committee members and will be reflected in the inquiry report. The committee may also use the responses to support its findings and conclusions.

Appendix 1: List of questions

1. Please enter your contact details
Name:
Email address:
Postcode:
2. In what capacity are you responding to this questionnaire?
 - a. Greyhound trainer
 - b. Greyhound owner (racing industry)
 - c. Greyhound owner (pet)
 - d. Interested member of the public
 - e. Veterinarian
3. How satisfied are you with the regulation of the greyhound industry by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?
 - a. Very satisfied
 - b. Satisfied
 - c. Neutral/don't know
 - d. Dissatisfied
 - e. Very dissatisfied
4. What impacts, positive or negative, have you seen following the creation of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?
5. How appropriate is the disciplinary action for those industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?
 - a. Very appropriate
 - b. Appropriate
 - c. Neutral/don't know
 - d. Inappropriate
 - e. Very inappropriate
6. Do you have any comments on the appropriateness of disciplinary action for those industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?
7. Do you have a view on the options for appeal for those industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission?
8. Do you have a view on the relationship between the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, Greyhound Racing NSW, and industry participants?
9. How satisfied are you with the actions, conduct and effectiveness of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, in particular in relation to its role in improving the welfare of greyhounds?
 - a. Very satisfied
 - b. Satisfied
 - c. Neutral/don't know
 - d. Dissatisfied
 - e. Very dissatisfied

10. How satisfied are you with the actions, conduct and effectiveness of Greyhound Racing NSW, in particular in relation to its role in improving the welfare of greyhounds?
- a. Very satisfied
 - b. Satisfied
 - c. Neutral/don't know
 - d. Dissatisfied
 - e. Very dissatisfied
11. Do you have any comments on the actions, conduct and effectiveness of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission and Greyhound Racing NSW, in particular in relation to their role in improving the welfare of greyhounds?