



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GREYHOUND WELFARE AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

Upper House committee recommends greater accountability for greyhound racing regulator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 December 2022

The NSW Upper House Select Committee on the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) has released its report recommending that the independent regulator be subject to increased accountability.

Accordingly, the committee recommended that:

- the NSW Government consider appointing an independent statutory commissioner to oversee and review GWIC's activities and expenditure every three years
- the NSW Government appoint a ministerial advisory panel to meet every three months to inform decisions about the industry and feed into the independent commissioner's review
- both Greyhound Racing NSW and GWIC be required to appear before an Upper House committee at least annually.

Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, stated: 'Our recommendations will create a strong framework of accountability and transparency for GWIC. The committee heard concerning evidence about GWIC's operations since its establishment in 2018. Racing industry participants shared with us their experiences of GWIC taking a heavy-handed approach to its regulatory role. It is clear that more accountability is needed, particularly given that GWIC is a public service agency.'

The committee also found that GWIC's role is the regulation and enforcement of animal welfare and that it needs to empower racing participants and ensure continued growth of the greyhound racing industry. It also recommended that GWIC work collaboratively with the industry when exercising its core function, as an independent regulator, to promote and protect the welfare of greyhounds.

'Greyhound racing is a regional, working class, family sport that is at risk of decline, particularly if GWIC continues to take a heavy-handed approach with the industry. GWIC must work collaboratively with racing participants to ensure the industry's growth and viability,' continued Mr Borsak.

The report makes other recommendations relating to GWIC's external relationships, internal culture, policy framework and disciplinary processes.

Report details

The report is available on the committee's website:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=269#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>

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For further information please contact Committee Chair the Hon Robert Borsak MLC on 9230 2573.