

**Submission
No 968**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr R Glover

Date received: 6/11/2013

Please find attached my submission of which I submitted also to the GRNSW back in April 2013 ,with no answer,or debate,which to me shows their lack of participant consultation..

Regards
R..Glover

Darren Simpson

10th April 2013

Chief Operating Officer

Greyhound Racing NSW

As a family connected to greyhound racing in NSW dating back to the 40's & 50's and after over 40 years as a registered trainer and my wife as owner and breeder, I must let yourself and board, to who-ever is responsible, I now find the Greyhound Industry in NSW to be in the worst possible state of both condition and management in all possible areas.

Since GRNSW came in to force
some 10 years ago, the mistakes and wrong decisions have come in every manner you could find;

1: The closure of tracks, then the court costs of some borne upon our industry . Albury closing on the refusal to allow some \$20,000 loan to pay a tax debt, without a sincere inspection of their contents (trackwise) or consideration of the cities of Albury and Wodonga to be a master plan for the future of greyhounds in that area! Some population figures I recall of 100,000 plus

2: Then having board members allow the 'big con' from the NCA to withdraw from Wyong Straight and Singleton so as to put more dates into what has become a black hole in the Gardens Complex ie. Public facilities; track design; Club failure!

3: We have no leadership whatsoever from your department! Stewards coming and going, staff changing regularly. Blue Paws introduced (supposedly a breeders bonus to start with) only to change to what it is now, an abomination of huge embarrassment to our state!

4: 'Grading' that is also going to change at every yearly outcome but never happens, one that other states shy away from.

5: All along this road of some ten years or whatever GRNSW has powered we have witnessed large amounts of dollars spent in certain directions on track improvements without a great deal of trade consultation & industry input. I.e. the hiring of a building consultant who employs an overseas junior to travel the state doing track inspections, only not much coming out of it at all except for the wasted dollars.

6: Now on 15th March receiving news that the non-tab clubs are to have a substantial decrease in race dates because of a predicted stagnant income from betting sources. Then what happens? Before these submissions are even closed we have news that your department has released a larger TAB track racing calendar, obviously funded by part of our non-tab reduction! What happened to the stagnant dollars case!

7: On top of this we read that a GBOTA director agrees to the closing of racing at Appin, our only straight racing facility left in NSW. This facility should be taken over and moved to Sunday racing to give the best dogs a chance to showcase themselves. GRV have cottoned on at Healesville and what a success! There is too much to this issue for me to explain here.

8: This week alone we have seen nomination closing times extended at Richmond, Goulburn, Bathurst etc. yet how many were over at both Friday & Saturday meetings at The Gardens? Two pages of noms. over each meeting. Increasing TAB meetings at Grafton won't eliminate this at all, Grafton has problems themselves at times because of its remoteness and no non-tab tracks in its zone. Watch their nominations and you would realise what they experience!

In your TAB calendar changes your words of "a positive step" to move Bulli from Monday to Wednesday, didn't we tell you all it was a 'negative' move before to move them to Monday, as well as Richmond Fri to Sat.. The two best greyhound tracks in the state were the only moves to cop bad nights, as well.. does not make any sense to anybody..

Participants i.e.(owners, trainers,breeders, public or whatever) "attend" to enjoy racing, and it becomes habit forming like smoking , gambling etc, you start changing things & people have to break the habit, It's natural that humans do not do that easily! Soon you lose numbers ,they find alternatives & fall into another habit which suits their new routine, and that is what will happen with cutting non Tab (country racing)..We all struggle to find enough volunteers now, start racing with less meetings (longer gaps) these people will filter off elsewhere as well..

What happened to the "discussion paper" Period; Your letter 15th march ends that the full meeting by meeting calendar would then be completed in early May. I don't think you intend much discussion," or Eve McGregor s discussion with participants as promised. Having said all this ,the greatest concern to all I can assure you is the obvious ' uncertainty' shown in all your moves,, Strategic Plan,/Better Future,/Towards 2020/..We, my wife and I moved from Sydney 15yrs ago to breed a few litters & volunteer at our local club, but all that has been thrown at us is truly great frustration& uncertainty. Which leads me to think & feel GRNSW should be completely turned over by our Minister. Any other management would be and should have been done before we got to this point. As you can see, I am not only concerned about our industry's future, but really discouraged by the line of thought coming out of your office!

Yours

R Glover

Vice President Taree Greyhound Racing Assoc.