

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

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**Date received:** 23/10/2013

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## THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING

To The Committee

I have been involved in greyhounds, one way or another, for over 40 years. During that time I have been a successful breeder, owner and trainer. However, over the last 10 years or so, I've had to cut back on breeding and the number of greyhounds in training. This has been a necessity due to GRNSW's successful efforts at closing regional greyhound tracks forcibly cutting regional meetings and distribution back to a barely viable minimum. All of these actions made by GRNSW are making regional track survival and greyhound racing very difficult for regional O/T to maintain. And forget about GRNSW's great idea of making things easier for owners and trainers by making more regional TABC tracks. Does GRNSW have any idea of the cost to most of these owner/trainers to get to one of these so called wonder TABC tracks? Besides the cost, most greyhound people work for a living and are unable to attend these tracks in the middle of the week!! Another problem caused by this "grand idea" is that owners/trainers are flat out getting a draw with their greyhounds, and most regional O/T cannot afford to feed their charges if some prize money is not coming in. Not all of us are able to afford to raise, break in and train racing greyhounds on the large scale that the big complexes can.

It's easy to see that GRNSW are ploughing on with its not so hidden agenda of closing down most of the regional tracks. For more than 20 years, since it was first called "Rationalisation", this has always been on the agenda. The Young Club has had 3 "show cause" notices in the last 12 years. The one which we were recently anticipating was diverted by submissions from the racing fraternity and the interest of the State Racing Minister. Let's hope that the Greyhound Action Group is successful in rectifying most of the damage caused over the years by what is now called; GRNSW.

All of the cut backs and rationalisation made could have been avoided if GRNSW was getting a fair share of the TAB inter code agreement. The inequality of percentages distributed to horse racing and harness racing is plainly most of the cause of the mess that GRNSW with its lack of support for the greyhound fraternity, has made of the greyhound industry.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Ricketts