

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 29/10/2013

Partially Confidential

Attention NSW Parliamentary Inquiry Board.

I am a person involved in the greyhound industry, and have taken an interest in the current inquiry. Not only would I like to comment on the main agenda of the inquiry, regarding economic sustainability, I would like to state my mind regarding many submissions which have been made, and how I disagree with many, and why.

The main issue at hand of economic sustainability is one that quite obviously needs to be addressed. The industry, as you would know, is locked to the 13% TAB distribution, although contributes around 20%. If this agreement can truly not be adjusted, then I believe the industry should receive tax benefits in lieu to compensate, which would also not affect the other two racing codes in terms of them receiving less income from the 99 year agreement.

Unless adjusted, I believe the industry is unsustainable. The costs of maintaining racing greyhounds is rising, as is everyday living. The affects of these rising costs will be felt by main trainers and hobbyists involved with the sport. This should not be a problem, however, as one would expect prize money would be increasing on par with the rising costs. However, due to the inter-code agreement, this is not possible, and instead, the real value of the prize money is decreasing as time goes on. When compared to a place like Melbourne, where prize money for an equivalent city- meeting race is much higher, it can be clearly seen change is needed.

The greyhound industry creates an enormous amount of jobs. It connects communities. It provides a form of entertainment for many, in both country and city locations. On top of all this, it provides a massive tax revenue for the government. I feel it is time that the government gave something back to the industry which provides so much to the community, and does so sooner rather than later. Unless action is taken, the industry will inevitably die off, and not only the above mentioned benefits, but also many more will be lost.

Secondly, I would like to comment on many of these submissions being made about animal cruelty in the industry. This alone is an issue which I believe may be depicted by some members of the public in an incorrect way.

- The idea that has been raised about greyhounds being underfed and starved. I don't even know where to begin with this one. Just think about it, these greyhounds are being raced competitively; do you really think a greyhound would perform in it's race if it was being underfed and starved? No. It would not. In reality, it is quite the contrary. Greyhounds in the racing industry are generally very well looked after. The ideal racing diet for a greyhounds is top quality meat and other food products. Also, a greyhound in training will live to do as they would in the wild; run. Greyhounds in training will be galloped and kept fit through their natural instinct to run.
- In regards to the undersized kennel issue that seems to be popping up in places; there are rules in place that specify the minimum kennel requirements, which can be inspected by the industry at any time to ensure the rules are followed.
- Another issue that is out there is the idea of doping and drugs in the industry. Although there may be this issue present in the industry, there are many things being done to combat the problem. GRNSW has increased the number of swaps to 7.5 per meeting. That means there's generally a 75% chance of the dog being swabbed for illicit

performance enhancing drugs. Now, there is about 30 meeting per week with an average of about 10 races per meeting. Thats around 225 swabs per week. Over a year, thats about 12000 swabs. From this, you can see how the number of drug positive results are minuscule compared to those who do the right thing and come back with negative results to the testing.

- Another common trend in some of the submissions being made is the image of a greyhound trainer having dogs to make money. The sport is a hobby for many people, like myself, involved. Many trainers would not be making money from the sport, rather, many would be involved due to their passion for the sport; not solely due to interest in financial gain.
- Lastly, everyone is entitled to their opinions. At the same time, they are opinions; not everyone has to agree with them. In my opinion, people should not speak on behalf of the majority in their submission. While some people think the industry is cruel, many people, like myself, a person actually involved the industry, do not agree with many of the accusations being falsely made without any evidence to support them. Just something I think should be kept in mind.

I believe that the economic sustainability of the industry DOES need to be examined immediately and action needs to be taken here; I feel this should rightly be the main interest of the inquiry, and have confidence in the equitable result being applied by the Government after the inquiry for the economics, and overall wellbeing of the sport.

Regards,
Confidential.