

**Submission
No 379**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Gary Smith

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Submission for Parliamentary Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in NSW

Name: Gary Smith

Mobile:

Position within industry: Temora Greyhound Racing Club Director – Registered Owner / Trainer and Breeder- Volunteer.

Any Other Matter (TOR)

Issue 1

Firstly I would like to bring to the attention of the select committee the issue of Funding, I believe the whole industry struggles from being underfunded and the presence of the 99 year Intercode agreement has seen the industry outgrow the percentage that we were given 15 years ago and with 84 years to run the difficulty that the industry faces is being able to fund not only current racing but development ideas as well as continued advancements with welfare and integrity.

I was always under the impression that the intercode agreement was meant not to disadvantage any of the three codes, the greyhound industry is definitely disadvantaged by this agreement.

I represent a large group of owners/trainers and breeders within the Riverina area and our main concerns revolve around Regional Country Development.

Funding for Regional Country Development needs to happen for the grass roots people within the industry as many industry participants NSW wide are being left behind as the industry works to maintain its City and Provincial images.

The Regional areas of NSW provide the bulk of breeding and early education for our industry and yet they receive the smallest portion of racing funds.

A good example of this is the recent Temora Greyhound Clubs Volunteer efforts to change their track from Grass to Sand, this type of works would easily cost the industry \$600,000 to do at most tracks in Australia and yet the Temora Club and its volunteers have been able to achieve these works using Volunteer labour, Local Community support, Local Council Support and Industry support.

I was a strong force behind these works being put together with community partners and the greyhound industry.

The cost was \$58,000 and 2500 hours of unpaid volunteer labour.

We have no ill feelings towards GRNSW as they were unable to provide any funding for these works (Budget Restraints) but instead we as a group took it upon ourselves to achieve progress for the industry and our area and we did that through rolling up our sleeves and making it happen instead of waiting for it to happen.

We have also achieved a sound working relationship with GRNSW and our club works hard at bringing to the public's attention matters like animal welfare and we also participate in taking greyhounds to schools to again promote GRNSW successful Greyhounds as Pets program.

Our clubs website www.greyhoundstemora.com has plenty of information regarding promoting the industry and our area on it hence why we have had over 10,000 hits in 5 months.

Our story would be only one of many as every NSW Non Tab Country club battles for survival each day and would not exist if it was not for its Volunteers.

Funding and a Regional Development plan are a definite need and the right people to contribute ideas to the plan as well.

Secondly:

I believe another issue is the Tax disparity issue is worth bringing up as NSW participants pay a gaming tax of between 18 to 19% and yet our Victorian counterparts pay between 8 to 9 %.

If this tax disparity was changed millions of dollars (Funding) would be able to be put back into racing.

Thirdly:

I believe the corporate bookmaker's tax rate should be lifted from the current 1.5% that it currently is to a new level which again will provide much needed funds to the industry.

Every racing code in Australia has a governing body, NSW has Greyhound Racing NSW and I believe them to be doing a suitable job with the funding they are provided.

Racing, Welfare, Integrity, Track Development and many other areas within this industry relies on one thing FUNDING without it, our industry leaders are left to make hard decisions that will not please everyone.

I have personally been brought up in this wonderful family sport and it should also be highlighted that compared to 30 years ago the progression of our industry by our head Authorities has seen major advancements in racing, breeding, Animal welfare and policing

of the industry as raised earlier these areas all require funding and as the sport grows so does the bill.

Fourthly

Integrity and Welfare issue, as a participant over a long period of time within the Greyhound industry, I have witnessed sound improvement in both areas and firmly believe like WHS these are living issues that will constantly need monitoring and work, yet again to keep pace with implementing changes and the growth of the industry funding is the major problem for GRNSW and its participants.

Correct funding for the Greyhound Industry is the key.

Regards

Gary Smith

Registered person within the Greyhound Industry for over 30 years.