

Submission
No 408

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 4/11/2013

Partially Confidential

1. How come the GREENS advertise something that is completely different to what the parliamentary inquiry is about? Is the form of cowardice from the GREENS? Trying scare tactics to the people.

And remember this is nationally a \$1 billion dollar industry that you are tempting to affect. Why can't you throw your support behind WELFARE reforms? You know that \$60 billion dollar industry in Australia.

Have the GREENS ever done anything worthwhile for this country ??????, banned and slashed back burning efforts, I am sure the BLACK SATURDAY people are so appreciative of your efforts to save the environment, not to mention all of those recently in the NSW Blue Mountains.

In response to Mr. Kayes personal web site/profile page, I take extreme offense at the comments that the sport contributes nothing to society – neither money, nor good will, nor pleasure nor joy.

The sport is almost a \$50 million dollar turnover in revenue in NSW alone, and would easily equate for that amount in food, vet bills, transportation so it is basically a \$100 million dollar industry in NSW and closer to a \$1 billion dollar industry that you are attempting to remove from society.

The taxes taken from the TAB go to state government coffers. I would much prefer to see an attack on the welfare industry and I cannot wait to see the new treasurers statements being sent to people in with their tax returns so they can see what is spent on a WELFARE dependent country.

I know this another argument for debate, but do you realize that the second biggest computer system in the world behind the PENTAGON is used to run the AUSTRALIAN welfare program.

The greyhound has to be looked at as a commercial commodity, if the commodity doesn't meet its requirements do you keep feeding money into it.

In saying that the greyhound is the most majestic of creatures but you have to be able to differentiate between the racing greyhound and the pet greyhound, which most people cannot do.

Emotions cannot be utilized to base a useless argument

This animal has been used for hunting as mentioned in the bible. Live coursing has been stopped, now the NAYSAYERS want to phase out greyhound tin hare racing. Perhaps the plight of the industry in that regard should be looked at in the terms of reference to the United States of America where naysayers and do gooders in the USA saw nearly

10,000 of these wonderful animals destroyed overnight because of the same arguments that Dr Kaye and his representatives are pushing here.

There is no mention here of the feeding of the animals (look into the number of horses slaughtered for meat).

This world is becoming too TIMID – (means lacking in boldness or self-confidence even when there is no danger present).

Greyhounds in Australia are superbly looked after compared to other destinations in the world. Whilst the industry may not be perfect and has undergone what can only be described as major investigations into its conduct

the majority of people involved in the industry are of superlative character.

Typical of a government body wanting to close something that is profitable.

My question is if you get rid of this industry which accounted for \$350 million in revenue turnover, \$50 million in direct revenue to the state and people within the state, plus at least that amount in turnover by participants for VET fees and food etc. for an industry that is worth a conservative \$500 million dollars a year – yes that's right 1/2 BILLION.

What is the government going to replace it with?

This industry has the same or similar turnover to the CAR industry and we have seen what MR KRUDD did to that with his changes to FBT tax (cost numerous jobs, and basically closed the car business down in Australia).

I wonder how many of the 10,000 directly registered industry participants would not be directly out of employment if the industry was to be shut down, how many pet supply shops, how many VETs, plus the administration staff and race track staff whom are registered participants and most are volunteers – I believe you are looking at an industry being directly affected for around a conservative and I am being very conservative here of 50,000 people in NSW alone.

It's because of VENDETTA's by ill-conceived and ill-informed people that change is affected and the minority also seems to overrule the majority – is this democracy and if it is definitely heading towards a MARXIST society.

I cannot believe what the propaganda that has been peddled on a member of the Parliamentary Inquires website/wed profile page, the information discoursed there is asking for liable and scandalous statements from the general public. Not once does it mention the actual terms of reference, including

- a) economic viability
- b) financial performance
- c) government intervention
- d) current legislation and autonomy

- e) selection process of the board
- f) financial effectiveness/accountability of management
- g) effectiveness of an internal auditor
- h) data collection of births/deaths mating's
- i) animal welfare

This industry has been slaughtered as far as economic viability is concerned and this dates back to the GREYHOUND RACING AUTHORITY under Mr Bob Cartwright who was the principal who signed off on the three codes agreement.

He oversaw a rationalisation of the industry whereby numerous race tracks were closed due to supposed economic viability and the fact that other tracks were meant to be opened in the place.

The rumour doing the rounds was the closure of the Penrith and Harold Park tracks was meant to have be replaced with a track at Liverpool, money was spent to build a grandstand at Liverpool and track maintenance and upgrades undertaken, but that track never conducted a single race meeting.

It is no secret the Sydney City Council do not want greyhound racing in the city, they have offered numerous times the offer to financially compensate greyhound racing but this offer has never undertaken by greyhound racing bodies in NSW.

Greyhound racing is conducted at numerous showgrounds around the state, with the industry only owning minimal parcels of land, I am sure if the current state government and this committee wished they could almost wipe the industry out in one fell swoop by cancelling all crown lease agreements. .

The financial viability of this industry I have mentioned a forehand.

Government intervention has previously happened in the way of both a royal commission and an ICAC inquiry in which the terms of reference were indeed acted upon only for the industry to suffer further with governance and accountability.

The internal auditor has recently resigned stating the position is untenable, his position obviously needs to be discussed and clarified at length.

Data collection of births – I have been out of the industry for a few years now, but I know that over the previous 15 years and probably 30 years there have been records kept and maintained by every governing body in the country of Australia regarding the serving of bitches, the number of pups whelped and the number of services a sire can have each month to a total of 14 per month. All of this data is integrity checked and monitored and the records of births is kept within the national stud book which is up to volume 60 something. That's over 60 years of statistics on the numbers of whelped pups to greyhounds named. I am sure the data the national stud book could provide to this committee will shed a fairly accurate light on the number of pups born that are named.

Animal welfare – I have aforementioned this, the greyhound industry is no different to any other industry and has to be looked upon in two entities the same as the thoroughbred and harness industry.

The animals in those industries are not looked upon as pets. I am sure even owners such as Gerry Harvey and John Singleton will advise that they have had horses sent to the knackery to become pet food whom weren't up to standard.

The greyhound has to be looked upon in two sectors – the racing commodity which is there wholly and solely for racing and is an expense that a business has to recoup.

Or secondly as a pet – and like all pets there are expenses but having a loving adorable pet comes with the standard responsibilities of caring for a pet.