

**Submission
No 7**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Organisation: Young Greyhound Club

Date received: 18/09/2013

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Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2013 9:58 AM
To: greyhoundracing
Subject: INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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1. That the Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in New South Wales inquire into and report on greyhound racing in New South Wales, and in particular:

- (a) The economic viability of the greyhound racing industry in New South Wales

My husband and I started in greyhounds in 1969, we rear and race our own . We have seen many changes through out the years, tracks lost, meetings at viable non tab tracks lost, owners and trainers leaving the industry.

GRNSW seem to think that country tracks, are something they have to put up with, country tracks are the nursery's, and some where for the slower dogs to race.

As the treasurer of the Young Club, since October 2007, I feel that every year brings a new challenge from GRNSW. For instance, the new grading system, is having an effect on our operations, our races are not drawn till after 2pm Thursdays. We race on Saturday's, this hurts our income, as we are unable to publish fields in the local paper, patrons are unaware that we are racing. We have the Tote on course, so it is really frustrating. These new changes effect around 6 non tab clubs, Is this another way GRNSW are trying to destabilize some country clubs? GRNSW seem to be looking after their staff, by spreading out closing times, but not looking after, the grass root clubs that they oversee.

Since the commercial boards, there have been, including the recent attack on country racing, four show causes. Young has been asked to show cause three times and is fearful the next one is around the corner, because every time a board changes, they come up with the old and beaten favorite, of leaving the City alone and attacking the bush. In the past the show causes have actually strengthened the short term viability of clubs as there is always a rush of community (public support). This is alright as far as it goes but it rips the gut out of forward capital funding and promotional opportunities as these require long term viability like the 20 year exclusion period granted to the TAB. Where would the TAB be today if its capital works were managed by the control board.

The Cherry festival in Young and other attractions are on 3 year cycles. To have an exhibition you have to be on a five year cycle. No one will touch anything to do with the authority (GRNSW) in the country it is too risky. The real estate which was going bonkers when Young was the leading breeding centre has diminished although the Wheeler kennels the most

successful in Australia are close to Young but they are on their own 4 square mile allotment. Young is equidistant from Sydney and Melbourne and is strategically placed.

The authority has been hell bent in the past removing tracks from the area. An attempt was made under the Premiers Venue consolidation plan, in about 1994, to fix Wentworth Park and take 4% of its distribution to reform the country tracks . This recommendation was made by the GRA, to the minister who buckled and gave in to the Metropolitan Tracks. This was the end of the traditional support of our club by the NCA who now saw us as a threat.

Soon after the float the GRA tried to sack the small country clubs without any carrot. They fell on their Face and tried again and then gave up which led to a stabilizing period with some creative benefits until the GRNSW came into force and tried to repeat the dose. This was even more unsuccessful but they managed to give Albury the flick on the way through. Albury was one of the leading assessed tracks in NSW but the non lending of emergency funds saw it as an easy statistic.

There is a need to have someone on the GRNSW board or staff who is an expert at Regional Development. This would have stopped the rot at the Gardens although some credit must be given for them (GRNSW) finally having the temerity to attack something other than a Rural track so some marks there.

The city central boards will always move to solve financial problems by cutting something out in the bush. This is why the Nationals out of power moved for a Regional Community Protection Plan and why country labor had a first item on the caucus agenda for the country.

Under previous Acts the Country Tracks were protected like everyone else on the 99 year distribution intra code agreement (amending act 1998) but this was written out of their act (Greyhound Racing Act 2002) leaving them to the law of the jungle .(worse 2009 act). No need to stave the Country of capital fund money to bring it down you can go through the front door and knock over the distribution. While the GRNSW must act in the public interest they see this interest as a narrow deal with the TAB. The fact that 83.5% of wealth is created to allow the average racing return of 16.5% to the trainer/owners passes them by.

Solution.

Employ right people on statistics and regional development

Have an exclusion period for racing club licenses allowing capital development and promotion GRNSW to become an agent to raise NFP funding similar to Minister's assisting various areas.

A system where Government debentures are granted to Rural and Regional Tracks .

Grouping of all regional and country tracks in to a single regional sector.

A relief from Government wagering tax for monies spent on charity and animal welfare events like concessions made to large overseas punters and relief of duty (Government gaming turnover relief taxation on poker machines)

The Casino fund to donate a percentage of its take to animal welfare.

Regards,

Pamela Grant.