

**Submission
No 347**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Organisation: NSW Metropolitan and Provincial Greyhound Clubs Association

Date received: 6/11/2013

Parliamentary Submission

To: Legislative Council Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW

November 5th 2013

Reply to terms of reference

a) Support submission of joint Industry Group

b) Support submission of joint Industry Group

c) Support submission of Joint Industry Group

d) Since the move to GRNSW control they have implemented many changes including but not limited to Operating Standards that have assisted all Clubs move into the NOW of legal and OH & S (WHS) with regard to track and facilities for participants. The Club structure has been assisted by the requirement of updated Constitutions, Corporate Governance and push to apply Business and Marketing Plans. GRNSW need to value the experience of Clubs and their administrators, as consultation often takes place with little acceptance of Club views. The consultation process between GRNSW and greyhound racing clubs needs to be improved.

e) The selections process is adequate.

f) The Board of GRNSW may need a re-structure. The current "Independent" Board can lack the full industry knowledge of intricate issues then rely totally on the Administrative staff but if as mentioned the consultation process is inadequate, the view, opinions and experience of the Clubs is not put forward. The Board of GRNSW should contain BOTH industry stakeholder members and also Independent members with corporate and/or professional expertise. Possibly 3 of each plus GRICG (Greyhound Racing Industry Consultation Group) as 7 Members should ensure a Chairman casting vote holds appropriate power.

g) If this referring to the manner in which the Integrity Auditor is appointed and should this be industry appointed or chosen by the state government. We feel it should be government appointed and is a vital role.

h) The capability of GRNSW has been hindered by the SKY Channel/TVN vision war and also the Equine Influenza outbreak had a great affect on all the racing codes but very much the funding of the Greyhound Industry indirectly via a major decrease in overall TAB Investments/commissions. The greyhound industry also increased racing during that time to supply much needed product for the TAB and SKY Channel but at a cost to its own industry. They have also had to take on the integrity role with participant and animal registrations plus the Stewarding and developed a new Veterinary division after the dismantling of the GHRRA. The fact that they have continued to improve many aspects of the industry under funding duress would have to indicate a satisfactory performance.

i) The association feels that the current number of swabs taken is a correct level but perhaps the targeting methodology needs to be look at. Should a partially random

process be brought back into the equation when choosing which greyhounds are going to be swabbed? Would say 10% random swabs be an appropriate number?

j) Greyhounds Australasia has developed policies and charges that will reduce “backyard” or inferior breeding. Economic viability and funding for the industry is essential to the animal welfare from whelping to post retirements days of greyhounds. Higher percentage of funding should be for the animal welfare and more importantly post racing time. The Clubs need to be able to give greyhounds the opportunity to race an array of distances to ensure an extended racing life this could mean shorter distances. The advent of specific race types “golden oldie” masters” “veterans” “grey paws” etc will help the greyhounds extend their racing careers. Country racing is vital to animal welfare and should receive adequate funding to enhance the racing programs to suit the older or lessor quality of dog. From a clubs perspective we need to look at more capital funding to improve track safety, padding, housing of greyhounds Etc. GRNSW have worked hard for the welfare of greyhounds and have introduced strict and regular kennel inspections has been a great policy that keeps the racing animal in quality housing. Any prospective owner/trainer/breeder must have a kennel inspections prior having greyhounds at a property, these inspections require certain standards be met with regard to drainage, ventilation, mobility and general safety. These standards have improved markedly over the past 20 years but more importantly have been policed over the past few years since GRNSW has taken over the regulatory role.

m) GRNSW have improved data collection in the industry and currently are working hard at collation of data with regard to pups born, the number of dogs injured and euthanized. It is an ongoing vision of GRNSW to keep improving this aspect of the industry.

Yours faithfully,

NSW Metropolitan and Provincial Greyhound Clubs Association.

Executive Officer