

**Submission
No 337**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Organisation: Liverpool Branch, GBOTA

Date received: 1/11/2013

RECEIVED

1 NOV 2013

Richard Bligh

Dear Stewart Smith,

The Liverpool Branch of the Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association, have a submission for the Upper House Inquiry on Greyhound Racing in New South Wales which is enclosed. If you have any questions etc. could you please contact me

The members names who were at the meeting are also attached.

Kind Regards,

Richard Bligh.



The NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners & Trainers Association

Branch Liverpool
President R Bligh
Secretary R.White
20/10/2013

To: Legislative Council Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW.

Submission Heading, Liverpool Branch GBOTA Submission.

Terms of Reference, The Economic viability of Greyhound Racing in NSW.

Before the TAB was privatised in the late 90s, the Liverpool branch had Mr Cyril Rowe who was then the chairman of the GBOTA come to one of our branch meetings to discuss what was happening.

He told us that the government wanted to privatise the TAB because they needed the money for the costs of all the building works etc. associated with the Olympic Games and privatisation was the governments preferred option.

He said the advantages to the Greyhound Industry were that, the share from the more races that were run would come back to the greyhound industry and therefore prize money would increase and so because of this we could control our own destiny without having to bother about any one else. This was an important statement as members new that the greyhound industry had excess dogs that couldn't get a run and the TAB at the time was asking for more race meetings especially in the twilight time slot.

At the meeting some members thought that the TAB staying with the Government was a safer option to the industry and said so.

Another member asked that as all participants weren't members of the GBOTA and NCA, and so didn't know what was going on, then how was the government going to get in contact with them and explain the situation to them?? Cyril Rowe then told us that all the information would be published so we could all see it before anything happened.

Members were surprised at the time that it was announced that the Tab was being privatised so fast and no one had seen any documentation. They were also shocked to see that people who worked at the TAB [even for a short time] were being given "shares" in the Privatised TAB when participants who supplied the racing product got none.

Members also found out later that the Racing industry had a choice of money or a share of not only the TAB but also Sky Channel but kept this secret. They were also told that a Linked Poker Machine game called "Maxamillions" was being introduced and would make the industry millions of Dollars but believe this wasn't set up properly and low and behold was sold off secretly.

We also believe that the government did a deal re the sale of the Sky Channel to the TAB and believe this should be looked into by this Parliamentary Inquiry as members believe the racing industry lost out.

Members asked to see a copy of the Intercode agreement when privatisation occurred as they believed they had a right to see a contract that was signed off by faceless men which binded them for 99 YEARS and was told that it was secret, but it was to be reviewed in 15 Years and were once again shocked to find out these faceless men had made it a 15 year review only about NEW money coming into the industry and so the industry was locked into an agreement where we get 13.2% of turnover money while turning over 20% .

We believe that when the TAB was being taken over by the Victorian TAB the Greyhound Industry had the ability to amend the intercode agreement but after telling participants this was going to happen suddenly changed there mind and believe GRNSW buckled to Government and other industry pressure and once again let the greyhound industry down.

WE worry that the racing industry is controlled by people in government and the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing who are being pressured by the Horse Racing industry as we saw lately that the Minister was in the Hunter Valley telling everyone that Coal Mining had to stop so the Horse Racing Industry could survive and didn't mention the Greyhound industry at all.

We also note that the last Minister for Racing Mr Kevin Greene who had the chance to amend the intercode agreement which the Cameron Report suggested and didn't, is now involved in the horse racing side of the industry and believe that he should be questioned by the inquiry.

We also believe that the present Minister for Racing told participants in the Hunter Valley that if he became the Minister for racing he would address this issue and believe that the inquiry should question him as well.

Unless the greyhound industry receives its FAIR SHARE of money, the members of the Liverpool Branch believe that the Greyhound Industry in NSW will slowly die and a perfect example is that the "TOPGUN" a race at The Meadows race track in Victoria which is an invitation only race for the best greyhounds in Australia has not got one NSW trained greyhound in it which shows how the situation now is.

We believe that the Government of NSW should address the funding so that the Greyhound Industry can grow.

Regards, Members of the Liverpool GBOTA.