

**Supplementary
Submission
No 5b**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr John Tracey

Date received: 24/10/2013

To: greyhoundracing <greyhoundracing@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Attachment to Submission 5.

Dear Greyhound Inquiry,

Could the E-mail below be included as an attachment to my submission to the inquiry no.5. I realise that I have already published the item. I have removed the names and e-mail addresses of the persons who have received this dispatch,

Yours Truly
John Tracey.

Date: Thu, 24 Oct 2013 03:40:03 +1100

To:
Hi All,

Time is getting short for submissions so I will come to the point on information I am supplying. I hope I am not just being indulgent.

I am mildly irritated by the submissions from welfare interested persons quoting statistics when the ACAC which covers all canines cannot come up with culling figures themselves, this shows the complexity of the matter.

The other mild concern I have is the way that greyhounds are classified in the various acts and in addition the actual classification of Pets.

The major dispute in the greyhounds I was involved in the 1990's was the exemptions under the sales tax act on food for agricultural animals. Under this act Greyhounds were classified as Pets and liable for sales tax while horses were regarded as livestock and other canines classified as working dogs were also exempt from sales tax on pet food. Even though we petitioned the Federal Government (4200 signatures) the treasurer of the time in a personal letter made it clear we were pets under the act.

Further when the GFC tax came in the horses got concessions as they were regarded as enterprises for exemption of taxes and the greyhounds were not.

Now from the point of view of some legislation we are regarded as working dogs.

In the excellent Review of Existing Animal Welfare arrangements for the companion working group (Department of Agricultural Fisheries and Forestry July 2006) see attachments above. In chart 2.2 dog type pet the overarching factor is given as companion animal and in all other classifications the overarching includes working dogs. I dispute the overarching for pets not including working dogs. I have met many dogs, all are companions and all to my knowledge regard themselves as working dogs. I think it might be that we don't understand this ourselves fully. What I am saying is there is a case to me for there to be no classification as pets. Whether what I am saying applies to other animal species or not I cannot say but it is certainly an interesting to consider as all dogs are companions and work, some in mysterious ways.

The next point I would like to make is that I support Sue Abasalom's submissions on selection processes strongly. If the delegate who decides who gets the job is in the room when the interviews take place then he/she potentially falls for the same guile of the personality assessment of the candidate and ignores the performance to criteria aspect which is critical.

If further proof is needed then you only need to look at the appointment of the [redacted] who was a personable character and obviously performing as he saw it in good faith but as revealed in audits and finally the auditor general that he did not have a clue what he was doing from a regulatory point of view and his supporting staff could not assist him either. So it goes to show that the selection/system and or the criteria was in Disney Land itself and frankly that is not anywhere good enough for an industry that has to pay itself to clean up the mess. In fairness to GRNSW the lead in time they were given to clean up the mess was extremely unfair and they will struggle for the next 5 years to get on top of the regulatory problems unless the Government decides to clean up its own mess and hand the transfer properly to GRNSW. I think anyone with regulatory administration would agree my comments are fair comment.

Finally, I spoke to Dennis and he said it was a good idea for me to enter the debates at this late point as the political aspects of the drive for the review had been satisfied. I am a firm believer that the only way things can progress is for people currently involved in greyhound racing to take ownership of the reform. I trust Dennis judgement is right, he certainly has been on a winning streak, this guy has a record like Black Caviar in the winning stakes.

Regards
John Tracey.