

Submission
No 3

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 17/09/2013

Partially Confidential

RECEIVED

17 SEP 2013

GPSC's

14 September 2013

The Director
Greyhound Racing in N.S.W. Inquiry
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY 2000

For the attention of Mr. Robert Borsak Esq.

Dear Sir

As a person who has been involved in the greyhound industry for over thirty years, I would like to make a submission to the abovementioned inquiry.

A) In the past:

Many suburbs (Glebe – Parramatta – Villawood- Liverpool) had a large population of racing greyhounds but because of council restrictions (noise) and lifestyle changes, this sport is in extreme decline in the Sydney basin.

B) Costs:

It now costs approximately \$2000 to breed and raise a greyhound pup to an age which can be educated to chase a mechanical lure the cost of this, education, is approximately \$500 for a four week course.

C) Council Permission:

One cannot get a new council permit to breed or stock greyhounds in the Gosford-Wyong or Lithgow council areas. Therefore only those farms who have been used for many years, for this purpose (called grandfather clauses).

D) Prize money:

For a maiden grade race at many tracks the first prize may be as low as \$150 (Taree) or at Richmond \$800, Nowra \$200. Prize money has not kept pace with the costs of feeding (meat \$3 per kilo) Kibble \$40-\$100 15 kg bag an adult dog requires 0.400 kgs per day. My estimate, it costs me \$60 per week to keep an adult greyhound. This does not include vet fees, trialing transport etc.

Most greyhound clubs are in financial difficulty and over the last few years the Richmond and the Gardens have collapsed, which has resulted in restructuring of their debts! This even happened when the TAB provided substantial subsidiary. The prize money at the main Sydney track – Wentworth Park are very high. As an

example a 5th grade race earns \$4500, but to offset this in a 10 race program with 8 dogs per race, there can be only 8 winners, out of total greyhounds of 80!

E) Carnival Time:

In my way of thinking, while the public see the very best racing, a very high percentage of the priemoney finishes up going to greyhounds from interstate – which does not help the local greyhound people!

F) Industry restructuring:

As the administration of greyhound racing in NSW is not proactive, the people who are involved with greyhounds, they have adopted the following:

1. Most greyhounds pups are bred or reared west of the Blue Mountains. Cheaper land – cheaper meat.
2. Most high quality sires are based in either Victoria or Queensland.
3. After the pups are broken in the fastest are quickly purchased by big city trainers. The rejects are sold interstate, very cheaply say \$300 - \$500.
4. Very few owners pay training fees and the normal practice is to charge \$60 per week for 4-6 weeks and once they start to race, the trainer accepts 50% of any prize money won, as payment in full.

G) What charges will help the industry:

Firstly there should be a national tote pool. This will increase the size of dividends and make tote betting much more attractive. Similarly the TAB should have a fixed odds market which operates three days before a race similar to the gallops. Investigation should be given to the system which operates in the U.K. and U.S.A. of having on course trainer who guarantee a set number of runners per meeting. This will make the supervision of animal welfare, industry governance and retirement retraining very positive.

I hope my submission is of interest to the committee and I extend to members of the committee an invitation to inspect my breeding and training facilities at the above address.

Yours Faithfully,