

Submission
No 584

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 5/11/2013

Partially Confidential

As a greyhound trainer of many years I would like to make a brief submission re the state of the industry. I am now 72 years old and have seen many decisions by people in positions of power and not with the interests of the industry as a whole..

1. Many of these industry people only have the interest of the TAB and sky racing and not the participants who supply the product. During the Equine Flu which led to the thoroughbreds and trots not racing, the greyhound participants filled the gap by providing more racing to keep the whole industry alive.

However not one extra cent of turnover was given back to the industry which paid out extra prize money. The trots and horses still collected their guarantee % but paid out no prize money. Hardly fair when the greyhounds were already receiving below turnover %. No wonder we are seeing a drain on our industry funds.

2. Owners and trainers would like to see an investigation into how races are graded to look after young racers and therefore prolong their careers. It would be good to see the introduction of juvenile racing to allow young dogs to compete on a similar basis of ability and experience. The other racing industries have two year old racing. As it is now a young dog with one or two wins can be asked to compete against much older dogs with twelve or more wins.

Examples October 31st, 2013 Dapto Race 10 Jeremy Jet 19m wins including at least three A divisions Wentworth Park in against dogs 1 win just out of maiden class.

11 April 2012 Magnificent Anna 3 wins including 1 C division against Watta Whisper 40 wins. It is no wonder some of these dogs cant continue racing because they cant compete and lose points and then don't get a draw. There are many other examples.

3. The discontinuation of qualifying trails for maiden and 5th grade dogs has meant it is difficult to prepare greyhounds for racing in a full field. The introduction of PT trials mean if you pass then you are ready to race. These often have 1 or 2 starters and the opportunity to gain field experience is lost often leading to erratic racing in a full field. Qualification trials allowed dogs to gain that experience in a non betting race.

4. I would like consideration given to reserve greyhounds. Under current rules a reserve for a Thursday night is in a catch 22 position. If they are nominated for a race in the next few days and then gains a start on the Thursday then it must start sometimes to the detriment of the dogs health or face a ten day ban. If I don't nominate for another meeting and it fails to get a start on the Thursday then you can lose at least two weeks of competing time because other race nominations have closed.

5. The consideration needs to be given to the health of this industry as it has become the poor mans sport. Prize money has not kept pace with costs and therefore is becoming difficult to keep racing dogs. It however keeps many older people involved and active , provides a social outlet and network of friends made over many years in the industry. This surely helps the health of our state and reduces the health problems which an aging population faces. The fitness aspect alone is invaluable for the health benefit. Keeping the industry viable as well as improving the return to the greyhound industry so that it is possible to train a greyhound or two is vital. We only ask for our fair share of turnover not some outdated agreement for 99 years signed by people not with our industry's interest but with vested interests of the other organisations to gain the sale of the TAB