

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Dennis Michael Carl

Date received: 17/01/2014

Partially Confidential

Due to current events, I would like to update my submission of 4 November 2013 in respect to the board selection process.

There is currently a GRNSW board selection process underway, and Professor Percy Allan has been appointed as one of three selectors.

This is another example that has been and is endemic in the government involvement in our industry. The industry will not make progress until this endemic is defeated.

The aspects on this occasion are:-

1. Professor Allan is a former chair of GRNSW.
2. He has recently been appointed to the directorship of the Wentworth Park Trust (our city race track which receives the majority of industry funding), who would be working closely with GRNSW.
3. My understanding is that one of the candidates short listed, is a fellow director on the current directorship of the Wentworth Park Trust
4. As a former chair of GRNSW, the Professor has worked on the board with one of the people who I understand has also been short listed

I am concerned with the following :

1. Certain candidates have different levels of exposure to the Professor, giving them a potential advantage or disadvantage for that matter.
2. The inter relationships at business level could make it more difficult for the Professor to be objective than a truly independent selector.
3. It increases the prospect that decisions will be made under conflict of interest. For example, certain persons may have shared views on policies relating to Wentworth Park and therefore their appointment would assist Wentworth Park trust agendas, on which the Professor chairs, rather than maintain an arms length position.
4. The personal relationships give rise to conflicts of interest.

It is my understanding the Professor Allan stood aside on the interview on one of the candidates due to potential conflict of interest. Although he has clearly been well intended and done the right thing, this is exactly my point. He is too close to matters to be a valid selector.

The very point is there would be a long list of potential persons whom could have been chosen to be the Board selector and yet Professor Allen continues to be selected in a key industry position, where the industry is not performing. Surely it is time for a change.

In respect to the board generally and having noted various argument raised in submissions and other current affairs, I recommend that the future board be structured upon on mix of professional and industry experience. A suggested Board composition is:-

- Three independents, with commercial experience and professional qualifications, chosen by a selection panel of the Minister
- The persons on the selection panel must not have held prominent industry positions within the previous 5 years or been a previous selector
- Two industry participants, voted by registered participants, under a process managed by the NSW Electoral Commission
- One person elected by the race clubs
- One person representative of a prominent stakeholder, the other members would choose its source, for example, the TAB or a major sponsor.
- The board itself elects its chairperson from among the three independent professionals.

Dennis Michael Carl

Industry participant and Chairman Greyhound Action Group NSW Incorporated.