

Submission
No 512

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

1. (a) The economic viability of the greyhound racing industry in New South Wales.

As a registered trainer within the NSW greyhound industry I call on the committee to investigate the long term viability of the sport in this state.

Of particular interest is the Inter-Code Agreement locking the 3 racing codes and the TAB into a fixed percentage arrangement for 99 years. I wish to see the committee recommend the minister for racing overturn this agreement as anti-competitive and bring the 3 codes to the table to negotiate a new performance based agreement.

Item 1a of the Terms of Reference of this inquiry is paramount to the success or failure of any of the other TOR listed.

In my opinion, without radical changes to funding and government support none of the other TOR are achievable.

(d) The effectiveness and accountability of the board and management of Greyhound Racing NSW.

I would like to see the committee recommend that GRNSW fall under the control of the State Government of NSW and be subject to the same rules and regulations as any other Government department including ICAC investigation if required.

(g) The effectiveness of the current arrangements for, and role of, the Integrity Auditor of Greyhound Racing NSW

I would like to see the committee recommend an independent Integrity Auditor be appointed with wide reaching power to address ALL complaints and be answerable directly to the Minister for Racing.

(m) The accuracy and integrity of data collection in the industry, including the number of pups born, the number of dogs euthanased and injury rates

I welcome the committee to investigate and recommend lifetime tracking of greyhounds. Like 99% of participants, I have nothing to hide. At least by doing this the figures will be accurate and will stop the spread of mis-informed propaganda by the Anti-Racing crusade.

Comment

Committee members, I have been involved with greyhounds almost all my 37 years. In my opinion, the sport has never been cleaner in terms of drug use. The allegations raised by ABC 7.30 Report are baseless claims from disgruntled individuals. Both of whom have been suspended for illegal drug use in their greyhounds.

Allegations of corruption and outlaw motorcycle gangs involvement in the sport are also unsubstantiated. Given the huge crack down on criminal elements within outlaw motorcycle gangs why have the NSW Police not been able to identify and charge any of these people if it were true?

Allegations of cruelty towards greyhounds are unfounded. Whilst I acknowledge there may be still some bad apples involved in the sport the majority of participants are genuine hard working people who treat their animals with the utmost love and devotion.

To not do this would be foolish as the racing is so competitive these days that a greyhound not prepared to its absolute best will not win. I have NEVER witnessed a greyhound being shot, hung or clubbed to death as the Anti-Racing brigade allege.

In closing, the current funding arrangements under the current Inter Code Agreement are uncompetitive. Greyhound Racing contributes greatly to the economy of NSW but is not looked on favourably like in Victoria where the sport is flourishing.

Select Committee please recommend this agreement is void and a new agreement drawn and let greyhound racing flourish in NSW as well. I am certain that the flow of additional funds from a new agreement will be able to be utilised to placate many of the welfare concerns of the Anti-Racing brigade.