

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Ricky Bush

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To the select committee on Greyhound Racing

The economic and integrity of Greyhound Racing in New South Wales

I, Ricky Bush, welcome the opportunity to voice my say on the above mentioned and to see that people who have been involved in this industry for years, or even new, like myself get a fair share for what is rightfully theirs and to see the sport of Greyhound Racing in NSW go forward and not fall even further behind the other two racing codes.

I have only been involved in the sport for the past two years as an owner, and for someone in their 20s, am needed to keep the sport afloat for the future. I have been involved in ownership of thoroughbred horses and am amazed at the difference of integrity of the two sports, not to mention the levels of prizemoney that is on offer. I point out that in horse racing, the cut of prizemoney for a trainer is generally between 10-15%, but in greyhound racing, it is around 50%, or from personal experience it's around 66%, when racing in the bush, that could only mean \$100 in an owners pocket. I am aware that many are hobbyists but still no one should have to suffer in this sport.

Inflation continues to make everyone struggle to make ends meet in anything, but that is why wages go up in workplaces to compensate for this. However, when our prizemoney has remained stagnant for not just a year, but several years it is difficult for people to remain in the sport when costs of other things, including the basics, such as food go up.

The sport has never had so much exposure than in today's world where it can be watched at any club, pub through SKY or the TABs, or even at home, and now on people's phones, yet our industry is failing to recognise this, and are not getting on the front foot to make it more than just a sport that one can bet on. There is a world of opportunity out there to get people involved in the sport, you get the opportunity to meet so many people from so many backgrounds, all for good fun, but also need a level of money to be competitive at. If the difference can be one person, then that can flow on to others who may want to be involved in the sport.

There are a range of tracks around the state for people to get involved in, and are needed for the economic viability of that town, particularly small towns that greyhound racing is their only code, yet there is a disturbing trend that tracks are being closed, or could be closed down over time and before you know it, the code will only consist of city racing, which is too far to travel for the country folk. In horse racing, the country towns thrive on the back of a big race in their town, even if it is once a year, this nation's history is littered with such stories. We need this for greyhound racing.

If newcomers like me are concerned about the future of the sport, just from the amount of people I come across, what future does it hold for the rest of us?

I hope this has been enlightening for you and I wish you all well.

Ricky Bush