

**Supplementary
Submission
No 383b**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Organisation: NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association

Date received: 21/02/2014

**Comment on Greyhound Action Group (GAG)
Response to questions on
Notice by the Honourable Trevor Kahn**

**The Director
Legislative Council
Select Committee on Greyhound Racing
in New South Wales
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000**

re: Greyhound Racing in NSW (Inquiry)

**From: NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and
Trainers Association,
PO Box 485, Glebe NSW 2037**



February 2014

Dear Sirs,

Please find to follow a brief response to a submission from the Greyhound Action Group (GAG) to a question on notice from the Honourable Trevor Kahn regarding metropolitan race dates at Wentworth Park. The question was posed at the November 15, 2013 Parliamentary Inquiry hearing at Penrith Panthers.

The response of GAG, amongst various suggestions, asserts:

- (1) Insufficient accountability on the part of GRNSW over the NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (NSW GBOTA) (with regard to metropolitan operations)
- (2) A lack of exploration of alternatives; and
- (3) That the cost of Wentworth Park is a concern.

The NSW GBOTA responds by stating that performance accountability at Wentworth Park is in place from a number of perspectives. The NSW GBOTA must comply with various Operating Standards, including performance outcomes, at Wentworth Park in line with procedures in place for all clubs registered by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW).

In addition, the NSW GBOTA currently conducts metropolitan racing to specific requirements outlined in what is referred to as the Metropolitan Racing Policy.

This policy was established in 2008 and was subject to review in 2013. The terms of the review were as follows:

- Administration Efficiency
- Marketing and Customer Experience
- Trading Performance
- Racing Management
- Asset Management

The NSW GBOTA was required to commit to the review by written submission and by presentation before the GRNSW Board. Following this review, the Metropolitan Racing Policy was approved for a further five years and GRNSW has commenced a process to further articulate performance expectations on the NSW GBOTA.

With regard to exploration of alternatives it is not correct to infer that this has not taken place.

Indeed a number of alternative options have been seriously considered during the past decade, including current greyhound racing facilities, Fairfield Showground and greenfield sites in the Western Parklands belt.

Ultimately, all alternatives to Wentworth Park would come at serious cost and would require compensation to depart Wentworth Park by the State Government, City of Sydney Council or

by a combination of both. At various times during the past 15 years, both the Government and the City of Sydney Council have expressed interest in greyhound racing departing Wentworth Park. Neither party, however, has been serious in dealing with the cost associated with a relocation of metropolitan racing to a venue of an appropriate standard. The level of past investment in assets at Wentworth Park cannot be the only justification for remaining at Wentworth Park. However, GRNSW, the NSW GBOTA and the industry at large is only acting responsibly in expecting reasonable compensation if it was to relocate from Wentworth Park.

As to the current situation, the O'Farrell Government has clearly stated its preference for metropolitan greyhound racing to remain at Wentworth Park. It has further supported a review of tenure arrangements at the venue with a view to approving a lease (as opposed to the current licence) which presented the NSW greyhound industry with an appropriate level of operational autonomy and security of tenure.

It is anticipated that this process will be completed by June 2014. It is further anticipated that the new tenure arrangements will provide the NSW greyhound racing industry with new revenue opportunities and further up-side in terms of operational efficiencies.

On balance, the NSW GBOTA has been, and is, comfortable to exhaust consideration of the O'Farrell Government's improved tenure option prior to any other option which may be suitable and available to metropolitan greyhound racing being possibly considered.

With regard to the financial concerns expressed by GAG, the NSW GBOTA would state the following:

- That any financial assessment of Wentworth Park trading should bring to account returns currently generated by the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust (WPT) and the use of those returns.
- That the NSW GBOTA acquisition of the National Coursing Association (NCA) metropolitan dates in 2008 did achieve operating efficiencies.
- That the NSW GBOTA does have the reasonable right to expect the acquisition cost of the NCA dates to be "paid back" over the 10 year period of the Metropolitan Racing Policy which runs until June 2018.
- That the tenure re-consideration underway at the current time will deliver further operational and financial efficiencies and further ensure that all revenue generated commercially at Wentworth Park is brought to financial account by either GRNSW or NSW GBOTA as opposed to the WPT.

Yours sincerely

Brenton Scott
Executive Officer