

**Submission  
No 411**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Shoalhaven Greyhound Racing Club Ltd

**Date received:** 6/11/2013

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Parliamentary Submission

To: Legislative Council Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW

October 30<sup>th</sup> 2013

Reply to terms of reference

a) Support submission of joint Industry Group

b) Support submission of joint Industry Group

c) Support submission of Joint Industry Group

d) GRNSW have looked to deliver a Greyhound Industry that will move to the future, since the move to GRNSW control they have implemented many changes including but not limited to Operating Standards that have assisted all Clubs move into the NOW of legal and OH & S (WHS) with regard to track and facilities for participants. The Club structure has been assisted by the requirement of updated Constitutions, Corporate Governance and push to apply Business and Marketing Plans.

They have made some hard decisions due to funding issues after having had to work through the SKY Channel/TVN media vision war and later the Equine Influenza outbreak. The level of autonomy has given them the ability to make the changes they feel were required to get proper regulation and governance into the Club structure as well as the participant base.

The ongoing decisions that greatly affect country racing is of concern. Country racing is vital to not only local communities but Animal Welfare as many greyhounds who struggle to compete in the harder provincial class have often moved to the country racing circuit that allows them to race on and with adequate funding special older dog racing could become popular like "golden oldies, veterans, grey paws events" etc.

e) The selection process is adequate...

f) The Board of GRNSW in general had not previously been effective when it was loaded with stakeholders of the industry as they had POSSIBLE "conflicts of Interest" and with hidden agendas decisions favouring stakeholders sitting on the board eventuated. The current "Independent" Board can lack the full industry knowledge of intricate issues. The Board of GRNSW should contain BOTH industry stakeholder members and also Independent members with corporate and/or professional expertise. Possibly 3 of each plus GRICG (Greyhound Racing Industry Consultation Group) as 7 Members should ensure a Chairman casting vote holds appropriate power.

g) The Integrity Auditor is an absolute necessity and with a specific role should be effective. The fact that the position should be appointed by the government rather than GRNSW, would make it a more transparent process.

h) The capability of GRNSW has been hamstrung by major occurrences during their term including the SKY Channel/TVN vision war and prior to a full recovery from that the Equine Influenza outbreak had a great affect on all the racing codes but very much the funding of the Greyhound Industry indirectly via a major decrease in overall TAB Investments/commissions. The greyhound industry also increased racing during that time to supply much needed product for the TAB and SKY Channel but at a cost to its own industry. This has made it difficult to fully assess the performance of GRNSW.

They have also had to take on the integrity role with participant and animal registrations plus the Stewarding and Veterinary divisions after the dismantling of the GHRRA. The fact that they have continued to improve many aspects of the industry under funding duress would have to indicate a satisfactory performance. They have worked hard on getting Club structures in place so they can operate both safely for participants and with proper animal welfare. The fact that GRNSW has moved the NSW Industry into a quality media/internet age plus the acquisition/development of the new OzChase system for computerised form for racebooks, grading and punting.

From a Club point of view GRNSW has a consultation process that lacks substance as Clubs and participants get consulted but minimal action or acknowledgement comes from the process.

i) Since GRNSW has taken on the Integrity/Stewarding roles they have had a proactive approach to drug detection. It is fact that they have substantially increased the swabbing budget. It is pleasing that there is only a small percentage of "positive" results with the majority of those either in meat contamination or in the endeavour to keep female greyhounds "off" season. The incidence of "go fast" drugs (caffeine, amphetamines etc) is now a very small minority. The incidence of what we would "hard core illegal" drugs Cocaine, EPO etc are even at a much lower percentage than therapeutic positives. The swabbing is at a level that needs to be maintained or increased if the funding short falls are addressed. The swabbing level is strong for winning greyhounds and increased swabbing of some of the beaten greyhounds would be beneficial as well. The "In house" stewarding room with video coverage of all TAB tracks is a state of the art way to approach the Stewarding role. The control and testing processes have been under constant change to improve plus they work with the appropriate regulations of the testing Laboratories.

j) Sale and breeding of greyhounds has improved under GRNSW with strict requirement of "kennel notifications" for any greyhound sold for racing both within and interstate. This process assists in keeping the location of racing animals within the licensed areas of both owner/trainer and kennel housing. The breeding process has undergone changes in recent

times with Greyhounds Australasia introducing increased charges for registering “stud dogs” in an endeavour to reduce the incidents of “back yard breeding” that had previously placed a lesser breed on the market that with lower price tag and at times lower performance level produce an inferior racer. Now with compulsory DNA testing and registering including microchips, the breed is protected from scrupulous operators of more than 40 years ago..

k) GRNSW have worked hard for the welfare of greyhounds and have introduced strict and regular kennel inspections has been a great policy that keeps the racing animal in quality housing. Any prospective owner/trainer/breeder must have a kennel inspections prior having greyhounds at a property, these inspections require certain standards be met with regard to drainage, ventilation, mobility and general safety. These standards have improved markedly over the past 20 years but more importantly have been policed over the past few years since GRNSW has taken over the regulatory role.

l) With the appropriate increase in funding the introduction of incentives for reducing euthanasia would be a step forward. There are prosecutions and laws for animal mistreatments in place now but if financial increases to police the “alleged” animal cruelty would be welcomed. The alleged “beating” of greyhounds to death has no substance and any person who believes they have “truthful” occurrences of this and does not report them are no better than so called beater.

m) GRNSW have improved data collection in the industry and currently are working hard at collation of data with regard to pups born, the number of dogs injured and euthanized. It is an ongoing vision of GRNSW to keep improving this aspect of the industry.

Yours faithfully,

Shoalhaven Greyhound Racing Club Ltd.

Secretary/Manager Glenn Midson.