

**Submission
No 24**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Organisation: World Animal Protection Australia

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Inquiry into the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission
Select Committee
Legislative Council

Via online lodgement



To whom it may concern,

World Animal Protection welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC). We will respond to several of the key points raised by the Select Committee Inquiry terms of reference. However, from the outset, World Animal Protection would like to make clear that the greyhound racing industry should be formally phased out. The use of animals in a betting and racing context raises inherent animal welfare issues that cannot be adequately resolved. We have seen profits put before the welfare of greyhounds on countless occasions. We note that even following the 2015 expose on Four Corners, greyhounds continued to die at a rate of up to three a day.¹ This industry is inherently cruel, and the only way to ensure greyhounds do not continue to suffer is to reintroduce the ban on greyhound racing, and to formally phase out this cruel industry.

While World Animal Protection supports an end to this cruel industry, in the interim we do recognise the important work of the GWIC. With regards to points (a) and (b) in the terms of reference, we believe the current principles and mechanisms of the GWIC are important for enforcing basic welfare standards in the greyhound racing industry. It is critical that while greyhound racing continues, we do have an oversight body to protect animal welfare. However, we note that there are several areas where the GWIC could improve its effectiveness with regards to the protection of greyhound welfare.

With regards to point (c) in the terms of reference on the penalties imposed, we would suggest that these could be strengthened to offer a greater deterrent to trainers and owners who do not prioritise animal welfare. In particular, we would like to see maximum penalties imposed on those who administer prohibited substances to greyhounds. Other key improvements we would like to see

¹ Nigel Gladstone, 'Greyhound Racing still a Cruel Sport', *Sydney Morning Herald Online* (April 14 2018) <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/greyhound-racing-still-a-cruel-sport-20180413-p4z9j4.html>

include, the introduction of whole-of-life tracking for greyhounds in the racing industry. This would help to reduce the risk of 'wastage' and would also ensure greater accountability. Relatedly, we would like to see an amendment to the euthanasia policy to ensure that healthy greyhounds can no longer be euthanised. The people responsible must ensure the greyhound is re-homed safely, if it is no longer to be used for racing. Finally, with regards to point (e) in the terms of reference, World Animal Protection strongly recommends a change to the funding model so that the NSW Government provides the funding to the GWIC, rather than the funds being provided by the industry. There is a conflict of interest if the oversight body is reliant on funds from the industry itself. Having the Government fund the GWIC would help to ensure the oversight bodies independence.

We thank you once again for the opportunity to be involved in this process. We are available for comment if any further information is required to clarify the positions in our submission. We would also like to be kept informed of any future consultation opportunities regarding the greyhound industry and the GWIC. Finally, we consent to this submission being published on the NSW Inquiry page.

Yours sincerely,

Simone Clarke
Executive Director
World Animal Protection Australia