

Submission
No 63

**INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 8 January 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Parliament of NSW,

I just signed Animal Liberation's petition which will be lodged as part of Animal Liberation's submission to the Select Committee's Inquiry into the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC).

I am requesting that during the Inquiry's deliberations and the Committee's final report findings and recommendations, Committee Members take into account my sentiments as an interested member of the public, about the welfare of greyhounds and the integrity of the greyhound racing industry, as confirmed by my petition signature.

I support the NSW State Government's intentions to reform the greyhound racing industry in NSW through the establishment of the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 and GWIC as the independent regulator of greyhound racing in NSW. The separation of the commercial and regulatory functions was an important step in support of these reforms, including minimising any conflict of interest. It is important that this clear separation continues.

Greyhounds continue to be forced to race at high speed and in temperatures of up to 38 degrees celcius and killed (wastage) following injury, illness or failed adoption assessment with minimal oversight by the industry.

Government has a clear role and responsibility in legislative reform, policy direction, and the upholding of laws either directly or through regulators such as GWIC and its principal objectives, "to promote and protect the welfare of greyhound" by regulating the activities which fall under GRNSW. This is particularly relevant to animal welfare and protection laws. The government does not partly fund RSPCA NSW as a regulator and equally fund a puppy factory and it should not fund GRNSW (the focus of regulation), or the gambling industry either.

GRNSW's stated role and purpose of commercial viability and industry participant support is in direct conflict to greyhound welfare. GWIC has a key responsibility for protecting and improving the welfare of greyhounds, however, the subservient relationship with GRNSW and Government including the inherent issues and uncertainty with the current funding model and lack of secure resources, results in ongoing problematic issues which limit GWIC's capacity and ability to fulfil its statutory role including, the welfare of greyhounds and the integrity of the greyhound racing industry in NSW.

GRNSW has continued to ignore the evidenced findings and recommendations from the study conducted by the University of Technology Sydney which concluded the unacceptable level of greyhound racing injuries and deaths can be reduced by track design and congestion with straight tracks and 6 dog races. During 2020 and up to the end of September, 173 greyhounds have died in track-related incidents and 8,159 have suffered injuries, and GRNSW has still not established any whole of life tracking program for NSW greyhounds.

GWIC must be given the power to make tracks safer including: Setting minimum standards for the design and construction for race tracks and greyhound training facilities; Licencing race tracks and training facilities; Withdrawal of licences for race tracks and training facilities which do not meet the standards; Setting maximum race field sizes; and annual reporting by GWIC of any public money expended by GRNSW to make new or existing tracks safer.

Given the statutory "welfare" and "integrity" role and purpose of GWIC, and strong public perceptions about the industry and GRNSW, including the use of public money and funding from the

gambling industry, I would also encourage the Select Committee to closely examine public feedback received in response to the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice and the Statutory Review of the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 including, the July 2017 Government issued five-year Operating Licence granted to GRNSW.

The government cannot uphold GWIC and its statutory role while simultaneously investing public money into GRNSW and indirectly, the gambling industry, through ventures like the Million Dollar Chase or patching up dangerous race tracks. Such actions on the part of Government are viewed as a perceived and real conflict of interest and all such funding to GRNSW as the commercial entity, and the gambling industry, must cease.

I would further encourage the Select Committee to review the proceedings including hearings, findings, penalties and any report emanating from the GRNSW commissioned independent Inquiry chaired by barrister Adrian Anderson into matters relating to the alleged unauthorised export of greyhounds.

Yours faithfully,