

**Submission  
No 75**

**INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND  
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

**Name:** Mr John Tracey

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I support the broad thrust of the GBOTA submission to this inquiry relating to cultural change aimed at improving animal welfare across the whole greyhound industry. I also consider that training in dispute resolution methods and techniques is necessary at all levels.

The current Greyhound Racing Act (NSW) 2017 allows both its regulatory (GWIC) and commercial (GRNSW) boards to govern animal welfare, including any enhancements to welfare. The legislation also recognises industry associations and how these might assist in advancing animal welfare. This is an improvement on the past, when the administration of animal welfare was mainly gifted to the regulatory side of governance. The former, now discredited regulatory board, which governed 80% of greyhound industry functions, has now been replaced with the better-funded GWIC, which is to focus on animal welfare. I applaud this change

GRNSW is promoting greyhound racing along football administration lines, which is a good start. Football is akin to greyhound racing to the extent that it provides family-based entertainment. Greyhound racing, for example, includes the involvement of family bred, owned and trained greyhounds. But the annual reports of these sports clubs reveal cultural differences. Women are not featured much in the GRNSW annual report but embraced in the football annual reports. The above matter is widely commented by the wider community who see women's advancements in all forms of sports and all walks of life desirable. The above perception or reality of anti-woman involvement in greyhound racing needs to be addressed in a gender-positive manner.

I am concerned that radical animal liberation groups, whether by accident or design, are trying to airbrush previous good greyhound welfare developments in NSW out of history. The radical Oxford University think tank, that created the Animal Liberation Front in the United Kingdom in 1979, took extreme political action but was nevertheless unsuccessful at having live hare racing banned in the United Kingdom until 2005. By way of contrast, over the years, the NSW parliament has enacted a great deal of legislation aimed at preventing cruelty to domestic animals. For example, live baiting of greyhounds with animals has been a criminal offence in NSW since the state's inception. The Cruelty to Animals Act 1850 (NSW) provided, among other things:

“that every person who shall keep or use or act in the management of any place for the purpose of fighting or baiting any bull bear badger dog cock or other kind of animal whether of domestic or wild nature or shall permit or suffer any place to be so used shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every day he shall so keep or use or act in the management of any such place or permit or suffer any place to be used as aforesaid”

Coursing with live hares was excluded from this but was later, in 1953, made illegal and a criminal offence under the Prevention of Cruelty Act (NSW) and the Gaming and Betting Amending Act

(NSW). The industry in NSW had embraced the new technology allowing for racing to chase a mechanical lure and had thereby advanced the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Yours faithfully

John Tracey