

**Submission  
No 77**

## **INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Greyhound Racing New South Wales

**Date Received:** 28 February 2022

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State Development Committee  
Parliament of New South Wales  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) - Submission on the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022**

We refer to the release of the Public Consultation Draft of the *Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 (Draft Bill)*.

GRNSW welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the NSW Legislative Council's inquiry into animal welfare policy and the introduction of the Draft Bill. The Draft Bill will repeal the *Animal Research Act 1995 (NSW)*, the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 (NSW)* and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW)*.

The objects of the Draft Bill are to promote the welfare of animals and to prevent cruelty to animals and the Draft Bill establishes a number of measures and protections and prohibits certain conduct to ensure those objects are achieved.

GRNSW supports the NSW Government's agenda to modernise and streamline legislation under the *NSW Animal Welfare Action Plan* with the Draft Bill. Furthermore, GRNSW welcomes State government initiatives to improve animal welfare and GRNSW's overarching goal has been for the best practices and standards in animal care and welfare for greyhounds.

GRNSW's submission on the Draft Bill is as set out below.

Section 22 of the Draft Bill

Section 22 of the Draft Bill provides that a person must not carry out any of the prohibited procedures which include surgical artificial insemination on a dog. The Draft Bill further provides that for a maximum 'category 2 penalty' for a breach of that section.

GRNSW submits that the prohibition in the draft Bill is not necessary and should be removed, or alternative an exemption be allowed in the Draft Bill for the greyhound racing industry, for the following reasons:

1. the current procedures used in the industry conform to the highest standards of animal welfare, are animal welfare centric and the safety of greyhounds is of utmost importance;
2. the prohibition would have a significant impact on the industry as it would directly impede the ability of industry to fulfil its statutory objectives and functions and at the same time meet the needs of stakeholders;
3. the prohibition is unfairly directed at the greyhound racing industry in circumstances where current standards, as set out in the *NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice* introduced in January 2021, require industry participants abide by strict animal welfare requirements and which

prioritise animal welfare. In fact, certain other provisions of the draft Bill mirror the requirements set out under the *NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice* introduced in January 2021.

### **Consultation with industry stakeholders**

GRNSW has recently consulted with stakeholders at a Breeders Forum held in early February this year. The Agriculture Minister, the Hon Dugald Saunders MP who has responsibility for the draft Bill was present at the Breeders Forum as well as greyhound industry racing participants.

The position of those in attendance at the Breeders Forum was that Section 22 of the draft Bill, for the reasons set out in this submission, would have a significant impact on the greyhound racing industry and its participants as it relates to breeding and the operation of the industry generally.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide our submission.

Yours sincerely,

**Tony Mestrov**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Greyhound Racing NSW