



Key Facts

Wastage

The Report says “...Perhaps up to 70% or even more of them were deliberately killed simply because they never were, or no longer were, capable of being racing greyhounds.” (Item 1.3)

FACT: The figures demonstrate:

- 55.4% remain with owners, trainers or rehomed
- 25% have died from natural causes, including injury or illness
- 12.7% are humanely euthanised due to injury, illness or unsuitable for rehoming.
- 6.9%* unnecessary humane euthanasia

***94% compliance to project, excluding large owners #1281 greyhounds**

(Source; Data obtained from Figure 13, Paragraph 189 of GRNSW’s “Final response to the Special Commission of Inquiry. Issues Paper on overbreeding and wastage” Compliance 106 project.)

FACT: Commissioner McHugh’s calculations on wastage are a guess. Regulatory tracking of a greyhound’s lifecycle was not undertaken before October 2015.

FACT: Only since October 2015 has the industry quantified and tracked all greyhounds in NSW.

FACT: Commissioner McHugh confirmed in his report (Item 11.32) “... data was not sufficiently robust to allow the Commission to determine the precise number of greyhounds that are destroyed each year in this State.”

Injuries

The Report says that over 21 per cent of greyhounds who compete are injured. (Item 1.72)

FACT: Actual race track injuries have only been measured by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) since November 2015

FACT: Between January 1 and March 31, 2016, the injury rate reported by GRNSW was 11.2%. (Source: GRNSW, www.grnsw.com.au April 2016)

FACT: The industry has employed specialists in their field and developed improved education, reporting and monitoring to drive best practice for racing venue preparation.

FACT: The industry now collect data from every each trialling session conducted at NSW registered racing tracks.

Breeding

The Report is flawed and out of date, it says the greyhound racing industry cannot change. That's wrong.

FACT: The number of greyhounds born in NSW has fallen by 46 per cent in the 12 months to the end of June 2016. Nationally this fall is 41%. Breeding licencing and reforms that were implemented in July, 2015 (Source: OzChase Data, Greyhound Australasia National Data Repository)

FACT: Fewer greyhounds born mean fewer greyhounds requiring homes beyond racing.

FACT: Breeding reform implemented nationally at July 1, 2015 requires:

- All breeders to be registered.
- Breeding Females to be registered and undertaken DNA testing and vaccinations.
- Prodigy must meet set expectations in order before 4th mating is approved by regulator.
- Breeding Females of 8 years or over must be veterinary checked and approval given prior to mating.
- There is more to come via the use of data bank mining and science to improve quality outcomes.

Credibility

The Report quotes "Ernie" to support euthanasia estimates. (Item 1.5)

FACT: "Ernie" is American and gave his statement more than ten years ago in a Canadian report by the University of Toronto. (Source: Michael Atkinson and Kevin Young, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* 2005, p350)

FACT: The same report makes the following point: "Greyhound racing could, when operated safely and with due care for the dogs, be a quintessentially civilised and doubly mimetic sport" This statement did not make the Report! (Source: Michael Atkinson and Kevin Young, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* 2005, p91)

Live Baiting

The Report relies on testimony that "about 10 to 20 per cent of trainers" engaged in live baiting. (Item 1.53)

FACT: In NSW only two people have been jailed for live baiting, one is awaiting trial, two are being actively investigated by GRNSW and eight cases could not proceed due to illegally attained footage.

FACT: Only 14 industry participants were included in the 69 witnesses who testified to the commission. The figure of 10-20 per cent of participants engaged in live baiting was offered by witness' who sought to justify their own unacceptable actions. Just 14 participants out of 4400 registered training (Trainer/Owner-Trainer/Attendant) participants appeared before the Commission.

FACT: In 2015/16, 268 investigations were undertaken by GRNSW of varying nature. With two pertaining to live baiting claims. No formal charges have yet been laid.

Additionally:

- The greyhound industry supports increased powers to the regulator to ensure integrity of the sport.
- The greyhound industry implemented the NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Hotline in March 2015. Persons with Welfare or Integrity concerns can call [1800 680 174](tel:1800680174) or visit www.greyhoundwelfare.com.au
- GRNSW integrity Measures:
<https://www.thedogs.com.au/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsId=6428>

Economic

The Report dismisses the industry's economic and social contribution to NSW. (Item 1.119)

FACT: Greyhound racing contributes over \$335 million gross to NSW and more than \$30 million in state taxes. (Source: IER Size and Scope Report, 2014).

FACT: Greyhound racing in NSW sustains approximately 1700 full time equivalent jobs, with more than 1000 being in regional areas (Source: IER Size and Scope Report, 2014).

FACT: Greyhound racing in NSW attracts almost 15,000 participants, with more than 10,000 living outside the Sydney basin (Source: IER Size and Scope Report, 2014).

FACT: NSW greyhound racing track facilities are used by local citizens, clubs, charities and community organisations on a daily basis

FACT: Greyhound racing remains popular with younger generation

"Betting on horse-racing has declined in popularity over the past decade: In 2005, 24% of people bet on at least one horse race; in 2015, around 18% of us did.

"Greyhound racing, meanwhile, seems to be on-trend—and last year's live baiting scandal, revealed on Four Corners in February last year, had only a marginal effect on betting incidence. Not only has its popularity been consistent over the past decade, but Aussies aged 18-34 now make up only nearly half of greyhound bettors, compared with only a quarter of horse-racing bettors.

(Source: Roy Morgan Article Number 6636, 20/1/2016)

International

Department of Justice advertising indicates Greyhound Racing is only legal in 8 countries

FACT:

The McHugh Report itself (1.110) outlines that 8 countries have commercial racing, being: Australia, New Zealand, Macau (though export isn't permitted by GA), Mexico, USA, Republic of Ireland, Vietnam and UK (England, Scotland & Wales)

FACT:

The McHugh Report (1.111) additionally outlines that racing is conducted; though not on a commercial basis in Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Argentina and Chile.

Social Licence

The Report suggests greyhound racing has lost its social licence. “In the last 40 years, many countries in the Western world have increasingly recognised that social institutions – whether industries, corporations, businesses or organised sports – must answer to the wider community for their behavior and that they have a “social licence” to operate only as long as they perform in accordance with public expectations.” (Item 1.99)

FACT: “No one has ever seen, touched, smelt, heard, tasted or sensed a social licence. No one has ever owned a social licence. A social licence has never been bought or sold, inherited, transferred, copied, faked or handed in ...(yet) the Premier has announced his intention to ban an entire industry based on it ‘losing its social licence.’” Brenton Scott, Executive Officer, NSW GBOTA

Vets

The Report accepted expert evidence from a selection of veterinary surgeons: *“The commission also heard expert evidence from three veterinary surgeons ...” (Item: 14.84)*

FACT: Experienced NSW Racing Veterinarians were quite incredibly overlooked to testify to the Commission.

Other Comments

FACT: The Terms of Reference were narrow and focussed on closing the industry

FACT: The industry has been denied “natural justice”

FACT: Every other Australian state is reforming and improving greyhound racing. Why can't the NSW industry be given a fair go to reform and improve?

REFORM THE GREYHOUND INDUSTRY HAS ADOPTED

- 1) New Compliance Unit created to boost industry supervision and improve integrity outcomes.
- 2) Development of a risk based industry supervision strategy to ensure compliance resources where the risk of wrong doing is greatest.
- 3) Review of GRNSW drug testing operational practices.
- 4) Breeding restrictions introduced which has resulted in a 46% reduction of breeding in the first year.
- 5) Breeder's licenses introduced.
- 6) Engagement of a Chief Veterinary Officer.
- 7) Increased investment in Veterinary services including additional veterinary staff.
- 8) Introduction of evidence based policy development.
- 9) Establishment of a dedicated Investigations and Intelligent Unit to collect and analyze information and conduct investigations into wrongdoing.
- 10) Establishment of a Greyhound Welfare hotline.
- 11) Triple investment in greyhounds as pets program.
- 12) Introduce a re-homing rebate to assist independent re-homing organizations.
- 13) Development of comprehensive tiered based licensing system requiring core education competencies.
- 14) Developed a high level Strategic Plan to lead industry and set direction for industry reform.
- 15) Established joint working group with industry stakeholders to further develop Strategic Plan and implementation map, which prepared a final available on GRNSW's website <https://www.thedogs.com.au/NewsArticle.aspx?NewsId=7351>.
- 16) Developed and implemented 'www.embracingchange.com.au' campaign as part of strategic communications to reposition industry and promote reform.
- 17) Establishment of a dedicated Education and Development Unit to support Industry participants with education, guidance and awareness material.
- 18) GRNSW commissioned Working Dog Alliance to undertake paper on best practice rearing, socialization, education and training for greyhounds.
- 19) A Safe Track study agreement to cost over \$300,000 has been entered into with the University of Technology Sydney.
- 20) A chasing stimuli study has been entered into with Sydney University. Heavy collaboration is being achieved with introduction of hoop arm system and decoys.

- **The NSW greyhound racing industry has changed, is changing and the change is sustainable.**
- **Banning our industry and sport would be a disaster for regional and outer-metropolitan communities, including Western Sydney.**
- **The NSW greyhound industry has a plan for a sustainable industry which works for people, our regional towns and cities. It ensures animal welfare is at the focus of every decision we make.**