



Media Release
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Industry commits to best practice animal welfare standards as Reform Panel recommendations accepted by NSW Government

The NSW Greyhound Racing Industry Alliance welcomed the Government's confirmation that it will today repeal the legislation to ban greyhound racing in NSW.

The industry has willingly committed to best practice animal welfare standards, total lifecycle management for all greyhounds and stronger regulation and is confident of a positive future.

"We are genuinely committed to stronger regulation and world leading animal welfare standards for the good of our industry into the future," said Mr Brenton Scott, Chief Executive, NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers' Association (GBOTA). "Thousands of greyhound owners, breeders and trainers across NSW – plus employees of the industry – are now relieved and hopeful about their future and the future of the industry."

As well as an uncompromising approach to best practice animal welfare standards, the Reform Panel's recommendations include the separation of the regulatory and commercial functions overseeing this industry, and the formation of an integrity commission.

The new regime will involve significant establishment and ongoing costs and the NSW Government has committed to \$41 million of financial support over the next five years. This will comprise \$11 million for the integrity commission and \$30 million for greyhound welfare, safety and racing initiatives.

"We acknowledge the financial support and the opportunity to partner with the Government in the costs associated with the implementation of the Reform Panel recommendations. However, it does fall short of our needs to achieve best practice reform, and doesn't deal with the lack of equity in the current recurrent funding model.

"The NSW greyhound industry currently subsidises the thoroughbred and harness racing codes by in excess of \$23 million per year. Clearly this is not sustainable for the long term and, as such, the true costs of reform and a fair funding model are matters that we will continue to address with the NSW Government within the parliamentary process.

"We have proposed several options to Government to address this, all of which provide the industry with the funding required to retain its regional footprint and economic contribution while implementing the reform initiatives. Our endeavours in this regard will be maintained with appropriate vigour."

Ends

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