



Paul Toole

Minister for Lands and Forestry, and Minister for Racing

MEDIA RELEASE

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GREYHOUND REFORM PANEL REPORT RELEASED

An independent Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission is among the key recommendations of the NSW Greyhound Industry Reform Panel that will ensure the future of the sport, Minister for Racing Paul Toole said today.

“I am releasing the report ahead of the Government’s response so everyone has the opportunity to read it and have their say,” Mr Toole said.

“The community has made it clear the greyhound industry should have another chance.

“As Minister for Racing, I am absolutely committed to the future of the greyhound industry and this report will inform the Government on how that will happen.

“There should be no doubt whatsoever: the Greyhound Racing Prohibition Act will be repealed well before its scheduled start date.”

The reform panel headed by former Premier Morris Iemma has made 122 recommendations, based on input from a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- Restrictions on keeping small animals on properties with greyhounds;
- An independent regulator with broad investigative powers;
- An enforceable code of practice for greyhound welfare;
- Whole-of-life registration and tracking of greyhounds;
- An accreditation scheme for industry participants;
- Increased penalties for animal welfare offences;
- Strict controls on euthanasia, and;
- Improved safety at tracks.

Mr Toole said the panel’s report has provided a solid basis to ensure animal welfare standards for greyhound racing meet community expectations.

“I thank Mr Iemma and the panel for their work. It’s particularly pleasing that the Greyhound Racing Industry Alliance and the RSPCA have been able to work together to find a way forward,” Mr Toole said.

Following extensive consultation that has occurred, the Government wants to proceed with forming its official response to the panel’s report without delay.

The panel recommended a statutory review of the new legislation take place after three years.

The report can be found at <http://www.racing.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/greyhound-racing-nsw.aspx>