



A WAY FORWARD FOR GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW



As Minister for Racing, one of my most important tasks is overseeing a new regulatory regime for greyhound racing in NSW.

A lot of work has gone into developing a package of reforms that will ensure the greyhound industry is sustainable for the future while also meeting community expectations of welfare and integrity.

In February, we released the report of the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel.

We are now issuing our official response to the

Panel's report as we take legislation to Parliament.

This legislation will reshape the way the sport is regulated in NSW.

We will adopt all but one of the reform panel's 122 recommendations including the creation of an independent Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission with wide-ranging investigative powers to target wrongdoing.

I thank the reform panel and its Chair, the Hon Morris lemma, for developing a comprehensive report based

on feedback from a wide range of stakeholders.

We also value the constructive way the greyhound racing industry and all stakeholders have worked together to find a way forward.

I am totally committed to greyhound racing's future and look forward to implementing these vital reforms that will help restore public trust in the industry.

Paul Toole
Minister for Racing

Key reforms are:



A new Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission

The independent commission will have primary responsibility for upholding animal welfare standards and overseeing the integrity of greyhound racing through monitoring and enforcement.

It will investigate and prosecute greyhound-related animal welfare offences, using wide-ranging powers of surveillance, and search and seizure.

The new body will be led by a Chief Commissioner supported by two Commissioners. Its work will be informed by expert advice from an animal welfare committee including the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer, an independent animal behaviourist, the RSPCA, Greyhound Racing NSW and a representative of the greyhound racing industry.

Importantly, the commission will act independently of both government and the commercial arm of the greyhound racing industry.



Enhanced licensing

Work will begin on developing a new licensing scheme to support improved animal welfare.

It will apply to all industry participants including breeders, owners, rearers, educators, trainers, greyhound assistants and trial track operators.

Industry participants will need to undertake training or demonstrate competencies to gain and keep their licences, and the commercial entity will play a key role in educating the industry on the new regulatory regime.

Work will also begin on developing a new role of greyhound health assistant for those who are not veterinarians but provide limited healthcare such as acupuncture, massage and first aid.

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Key reforms are:



A reconstituted Greyhound Racing NSW

Greyhound Racing NSW will be reconstituted as an independent body corporate with commercial objectives similar to a state-owned corporation, as well as responsibilities for the promotion of greyhound racing and the welfare of greyhounds with a new CEO and Board.

By separating the commercial and regulatory functions of the industry between the commercial body and the integrity commission, the new governance model avoids conflicts of interest.

With all regulatory and compliance matters handled by the new integrity commission, Greyhound Racing NSW will have autonomy to manage its commercial operations efficiently.



Enforceable animal welfare code of practice

The new integrity commission will develop and enforce an animal welfare code of practice based on nutrition, environment, health, behaviour, and mental or affective state.

The code will set out socialisation requirements for each stage of a greyhound's life cycle. This will help boost the proportion of dogs suitable for rehoming to avoid unnecessary euthanasia.

Penalties for breaching the code of practice will include work orders, fines, licence restrictions, suspensions and bans from the industry.



Whole of lifecycle tracking of greyhounds

A new greyhound racing register will be set up and managed by the integrity commission to track the identity and whereabouts of all greyhounds throughout their lifecycle.

The register will be accessible by the NSW Police Force, RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW and local councils. It will include dogs that retire and are kept by an industry participant as a breeding dog or pet.

Welfare outcomes will be tracked back to licensees, who may face additional licence conditions or have their licence suspended or revoked where breaches occur.



Stronger penalties for animal cruelty offences

The Crimes Act will be amended to make it easier to prosecute live baiting offences.

Lifetime disqualification from participating in the greyhound racing industry will apply for proven live baiting or other serious animal cruelty offences.



Transitional funding support

The Government will support a financially sustainable industry that is able to meet 100 per cent of its regulatory costs within five years.

In the interim, the Government and the new commercial entity will jointly fund the cost of the integrity commission.

Conditional capital grants will be available to upgrade track facilities to make them safer for greyhounds.

For more information on the greyhound industry reforms, visit racing.justice.nsw.gov.au