

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Arts
Minister for Racing



Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7665
Email: [REDACTED]

Ms Kristie Johnston MP
Committee Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition

Email: greyhoundtransition@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition in response to its invitation to comment on the topics of:

- The financial, economic and animal welfare impacts of the proposed phase out of greyhound racing in Tasmania; and
- The future of the Tasmanian racing Deed.

Financial, economic and animal welfare impacts

In considering the potential financial, economic and animal welfare impacts associated with a phase out of greyhound racing in Tasmania, it is appropriate to examine the findings of relevant inquiries, reviews and transition processes undertaken in other jurisdictions, in Australia and overseas. These processes provide insight into the issues examined, the evidence considered, and, where available, the policy responses adopted in those jurisdictions.

New South Wales – Special Commission of Inquiry into Greyhound Racing (2016)

The 2016 Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in New South Wales was established following evidence of widespread animal welfare breaches, including live baiting practices reported by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's *Four Corners* program.

The Inquiry examined the industry's structure, governance and operational practices, including breeding, training, injury management and regulatory oversight. It identified systemic animal welfare and compliance concerns.

Australian Capital Territory – Transition Options Analysis (2017)

A Budget Review paper published in February 2017 stated that:

“The Government will cease grant funding for the greyhound industry in the ACT effective from the expiry of the current Memorandum of Understanding on 30 June 2017. The Grant funding of \$1.033 million in 2017-18 will be redirected to a transition program to assist workers to re-skill, as well as rehome and care for the greyhounds.”

Subsequently, the Australian Capital Territory Government commissioned a Transition Options Analysis to support the phased closure of the greyhound racing industry.

The analysis focused on identifying appropriate transition timeframes, support for participants exiting the industry, and measures to ensure the care and rehoming of greyhounds. It also considered animal welfare issues in the Australian Capital Territory context, including the interconnected nature of interstate participation and associated regulatory risks, and involved consultation with government, industry and animal welfare stakeholders.

The analysis informed the Australian Capital Territory Government’s decision to proceed with the closure of the industry, with greyhound racing ceasing in 2018.

The ACT made transition support available to people wishing to discontinue their involvement with greyhound racing. With the transition packages to be “negotiated to address the individual needs of each applicant, considering their specific circumstances”.

South Australia – Independent Inquiry into Governance (2023)

The 2023 Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry in South Australia examined governance arrangements, regulatory effectiveness, animal welfare practices and industry culture.

The Inquiry was commissioned following public reporting of animal mistreatment and broader concerns regarding compliance and oversight. It identified significant and systemic issues across:

- animal welfare, including overbreeding, euthanasia, injuries and rehoming outcomes;
- governance and organisational capability;
- transparency, data tracking and reporting; and
- industry culture and accountability.

A total of 87 recommendations were made, focusing on strengthening animal welfare standards, improving tracking of greyhounds across their lifecycle, enhancing drug testing and integrity measures, and reforming governance arrangements.

The South Australian Government accepted the recommendations in principle and established an independent Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector to oversee implementation. The industry was given a defined period (two years, to July 2026) to demonstrate substantive reform, with ongoing operation contingent on achieving acceptable standards.

As at 7 April 2026, of the 87 total recommendations the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector verified 60 actions as being completed, with one other partially implemented

Queensland – Racing Review Recommendations Report (2025)

The 2025 Queensland Racing Review examined the racing sector across all codes, including greyhound racing, with a focus on governance, sustainability, integrity and animal welfare.

In relation to greyhound racing, the Review identified ongoing welfare challenges, including issues with transparency, regulatory consistency, track safety and rehoming outcomes, and emphasised the need to modernise practices to align with contemporary expectations.

The Review recommended strengthening governance and oversight, improving welfare reporting and data transparency, and enhancing measures to support animal welfare outcomes, including post-racing care.

New South Wales – Inquiry into Greyhound Racing (2025)

The 2025 Inquiry into Greyhound Racing NSW examined governance, financial management, animal welfare outcomes, track safety and industry culture.

The Inquiry identified:

- significant governance and operational failures within Greyhound Racing NSW;
- deficiencies in procurement, recruitment and financial management practices;
- shortcomings in reporting and oversight of animal welfare outcomes; and
- the need for improved standards in areas such as rehoming, transparency and track safety.

The Inquiry made 65 recommendations directed at strengthening governance, improving welfare outcomes, enhancing transparency, and ensuring enforceable standards across the industry.

New Zealand – Successive Reviews and Industry Closure (2013-2026)

The greyhound racing industry in New Zealand has been subject to several independent reviews (2013, 2017 and 2021), examining welfare practices, governance and industry performance.

The 2021 Review examined:

- animal welfare practices, including injury and euthanasia rates;
- data recording and lifecycle tracking of greyhounds;
- governance arrangements; and
- progress against earlier reviews conducted in 2013 and 2017.

The Review identified deficiencies in data accuracy, transparency, regulatory oversight and lifecycle management of greyhounds, and made 37 recommendations. The industry was subsequently placed “on notice”, with continued operation contingent on measurable improvements.

The New Zealand Government announced the closure of commercial greyhound racing, with racing to cease by 1 August 2026, citing ongoing animal welfare concerns and insufficient progress on reforms.

The main elements of transition assistance in New Zealand are support for greyhound care and rehoming, workforce retraining and redeployment, and wellbeing services.

I am advised that there is no assistance for areas such as:

- the loss of racing businesses;
- reimbursement for breeding stock or greyhound values;
- race club assets or infrastructure; and
- lost future income or profits.

Western Australia – Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in Western Australia

In 2025, the Western Australian Parliament commenced an inquiry into the greyhound racing industry, examining animal welfare, industry practices, governance, transparency and rehoming arrangements.

The inquiry has received a significant number of submissions from stakeholders and remains ongoing, with findings yet to be reported.

International Context

More broadly, there is evidence of a continuing contraction of greyhound racing internationally:

- Legislative bans enacted in Scotland and Wales.
- Some countries that have not banned greyhound racing (e.g. Vietnam) currently have no active tracks.
- In the United States, there is a bi-partisan Bill to prohibit commercial greyhound racing and other practices. The practice is currently illegal in 44 States, with two active dog racing tracks in West Virginia.

Collectively, these reviews demonstrate a consistent focus on animal welfare, governance and social licence across jurisdictions, and provide a relevant comparative basis for considering the potential impacts of a phased transition in Tasmania.

The future of the Tasmanian racing Deed

I am advised that the review of the Tasracing funding deed is well progressed.

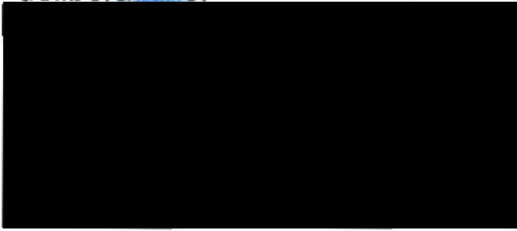
I understand that in March 2025, the then Shareholding Ministers wrote to Tasracing advising that they had approved for the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) to work with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, to identify options for reviewing the future funding model of the Tasmanian racing industry, including the existing Deed arrangements.

The initial Terms of Reference for the review were approved by the then Government in May 2025. Following the formation of the current Government later in 2025, the Terms of Reference were updated to reflect the phase-out of greyhound racing by 2029. The revised Terms of Reference were provided to Tasracing on 11 November 2025.

The review is examining funding options available to the Government for the equine racing codes beyond 2029. It will also include an assessment of the financial impact of the phase out of greyhound code on Tasracing.

I am advised that the report will be provided to the Government by no later than 31 August 2026.

I appreciate the Committee's ongoing work and trust that this response assists in its deliberations.



Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Racing

References

1. https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/Special%20Commission%20of%20inquiry%20volume%201_0.pdf
2. https://www.orsr.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/972010/Greyhound-Racing-Inquiry-Report.pdf
3. https://www.orsr.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1222013/Sixth-Quarter-GIRI-Public-Statement.pdf
4. https://www.sport.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/2119899/queensland-racing-review-recommendations-report.pdf
5. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2025-12/report-of-the-inquiry-into-greyhound-racing-nsw.pdf>
6. https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-09/Review%20into%20Greyhound%20Racing%20in%20New%20Zealand%202021_0.pdf
7. [https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/\(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID\)/6BED6F9690BB548948258D0700232A0E/\\$file/terms%20of%20reference%20report.068.xx.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/(Report+Lookup+by+Com+ID)/6BED6F9690BB548948258D0700232A0E/$file/terms%20of%20reference%20report.068.xx.pdf)
8. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5017/text>