

**SUBMISSION – Inquiry into the RACING INTEGRITY BILL 2015**

**Friends of the Hound Inc.  
Greyhound Adoption Group**

27<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Racing Integrity Bill 2015.

From the outset we would like to be clear about our disillusionment regarding the government focus on improving or reforming the Greyhound racing industry in Queensland. There remains a huge question around the continued viability and appropriateness of Greyhound racing with inadequate consideration for the mass representation of non-industry Australians who are opposed to Greyhound racing.

Whilst the Bill seeks to establish a new Racing Integrity Act to safeguard the welfare of animals – and it is understood that legislative amendments are deemed to be required to achieve this and other objectives, there is no amount of legislation or words that will protect Greyhounds whilst the racing of these dogs for commercial gain and wagering greed continues.

The Bill seeks to amend 9 acts including the Racing Act 2002 and Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 – these significant and comprehensive acts proved completely insufficient in protecting animal welfare, preventing corruption, maintaining industry integrity or providing appropriate oversight, regulation and management with regard to Greyhound racing in Queensland. Is the implementation of this new act likely to evoke public confidence?

However you dress them up, these newly established bodies charged with the responsibilities and functions that the previous boards failed at, will not change the outcome of wastage of the Greyhounds that form the 'product' of this industry. The industry relies on the mass breeding of dogs and there is not, and never will be, satisfactory demand for such large numbers of Greyhounds outside of racing, alive and well, in our community. The industry's history and culture is built on cruelty and carnage and the only way to stop this - is to stop the industry.

Whilst gambling is lawful in Australia, the use of animals in racing and betting, and the export of animals for this purpose, is amassing widespread disapproval and opposition. The declining support for dog racing is set to compound with the mounting attention and awareness and collective campaigning by organisations, welfare and rescue groups, lawyers, animal rights agencies, and growing number of concerned individuals in Australia, and internationally.

How many times over how many decades has the industry claimed that it is committed to the highest standards of animal welfare? They have honed every way of stating this – and the public will not be convinced, as the truth is now common knowledge - most dogs that are bred for racing are destroyed at an early age.

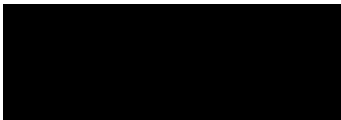
Government implementation of this Act will incur exorbitant costs whilst the community watches and wonders why the government ignores the importance of protecting animals from exploitation and abuse, and disregards the rapidly growing opposition to racing dogs for gambling.

With all due respect to Alan MacSporran, QC, and his report of the Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry, and with regard to the subsequent implementation of his recommendations 1-3 in this bill, his report refers to “the competing community expectation to protect racing animals from cruelty, unnecessary suffering, injury and death”, - but to achieve this, Greyhound racing must end.

To create a governance model for the Greyhound racing industry which reflects welfare standards consistent with community expectations.... is unrealistic, as the expectation of mainstream society is that thousands upon thousands of dogs will not be destroyed when no longer needed by a commercial gambling industry.

A separate integrity commission, regardless of its composition, and regardless of who is funding it, will not and cannot guarantee that thousands of dogs will not succumb to injuries, cruelty, caged confinement and a needless, early death for this commercial betting industry.

In summary.... given that the Greyhound racing industry relies on the breeding and routine killing of large numbers of dogs, and the overall magnitude of corruption and animal abuse, and its failure and incapacity to maintain public confidence and support, the industry and government should accept its demise. Our society has little interest in the continuation of an industry based on exploiting and killing dogs for gambling, yet bears witness to a government intent on ‘flogging a dead horse’.



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