

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Racing
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7665
Email: minister.howlett@dpac.tas.gov.au



Mr Griff Parry
Lure Coursing Tasmania
Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Parry

Thank you for raising your concerns regarding the impact of the Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 (the Bill) on the lure coursing and sprint dog racing organised by Lure Coursing Tasmania.

I am advised that representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas), who are responsible for developing the Bill, met with you on 8 December 2025 to gain a better understanding of the sport organised by your club to inform their advice.

Based on the advice from NRE Tas, I am pleased to confirm that lure coursing and sprint dog racing not involving greyhounds are not expected to be impacted by the Bill.

If the Bill is passed, from 1 July 2029, it will be an offence under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* to race greyhounds in any way (including time trials, with or without a lure), or to race any other dog breeds in a way that replicates current greyhound racing. It will also be an offence to keep a dog for racing, or to keep, sell, breed or acquire any dog that is intended to be used in greyhound or commercial dog racing.

A "commercial dog race" is defined as a race, between two or more dogs, in pursuit of a mechanical or electronic lure, where certain other actions occur (such as gambling).

A single dog **or two dogs** being timed on a course, such as in lure coursing, where there is no betting involved, even though there is pursuit of a mechanical lure, does not replicate the current form of greyhound racing. Therefore, it will not be impacted by the Bill.

Similarly, sprint dog racing involving non-greyhounds will not be impacted, as we understand that dogs are timed individually.

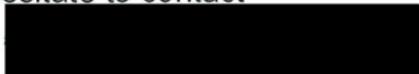
If there are any unintended or unforeseen impacts on lure coursing and other dog related activities because of the Bill, the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* enables the making of regulations which would exempt those activities from the post-2029 prohibitions on dog racing (if necessary).

Regulations, if required, are the appropriate mechanism to exempt a particular activity as any amendment to the Bill could inadvertently lead to a loophole enabling commercial dog racing. Regulations could, for example, enable the activity to be undertaken by approved entities only. Regulations are also more easily updated if circumstances arise where a new recreational dog activity is proposed to be introduced.

Further, as the Department explained, the Bill also amends the *Dog Control Act 2000* to enable organisations other than Tasracing to operate a greyhound suitability assessment program. I understand this could serve as a mechanism for an organisation such as Dogs Tasmania to assess the suitability of retired greyhounds to be kept as pets and to be exempt from current muzzling requirements and other restrictions relating to greyhounds.

If the Bill is passed, I would be pleased to have NRE Tas work with you on exploring the need for Regulations and other options for Dogs Tasmania during the transition period, noting that the transition period would end on 30 June 2029.

Finally, I would like to confirm that Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) registered greyhounds will continue to be permitted into Tasmania, if they are not intended to participate in greyhound racing.

Thank you for your engagement on this important reform. Should you have any further questions or require clarification on the Bill, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Anita Yan, Deputy Chief Operations Officer via email at 

Yours sincerely



Hon Jane Howlett MP
Minister for Racing

cc: Commissioner Sean Carroll