



Submission on Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill



**Prepared by Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds
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We acknowledge the traditional owners of Country across Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and recognise the role Elders play in maintaining connection to Country, culture and community.

End greyhound suffering



About Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds

The Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG) is a not-for-profit committed to ending greyhound suffering by exposing the cruelty and corruption of the greyhound racing industry and lobbying for law reform. We have members across Australia, including Tasmania.

We call on Australia's state governments to:

End taxpayer funding. A national survey on attitudes towards dog racing revealed that 69% of Australians oppose the use of taxpayer funds to prop up the greyhound racing industry. State and territory governments must listen to their constituents and stop diverting funds from education, healthcare and employment programs to support this archaic and callous industry.

Stop unsustainable breeding. The greyhound racing industry breeds many more dogs than can be rehomed. Caps on breeding must be introduced to ensure that all dogs bred by the industry are able to live out their lives as pets at the end of their racing career.

Implement whole-of-life tracking. Greyhounds in the racing industry are vulnerable to unnecessary euthanasia, particularly those puppies who do not race and dogs who are rehomed by industry participants. A system must be implemented to monitor the welfare of each greyhound for their entire life.

Establish independent regulators in all jurisdictions. Most jurisdictions rely on self-regulation by the industry, which has been shown again and again to be corrupted by conflicts of interest. Governments benefiting from betting tax revenue must establish independent regulators that prioritise the welfare of greyhounds.

Stop building new tracks. Attempts by the industry to build 'safe' tracks have failed. The evidence shows that greyhounds continue to be injured and killed on all track designs currently in operation, including straight tracks. There is no such thing as a safe dog racing track.

End greyhound racing countrywide. The above reforms will improve animal welfare, but will not eliminate the death, injuries and suffering of greyhounds as a result of greyhound racing. There is no such thing as a safe greyhound racing track. We call on all governments to end greyhound racing, ensure that all greyhounds go to safe, loving homes, provide a transition package for workers exiting the sector, and transition all tracks to public land for sports fields, parks or housing.



Executive summary

CPG congratulates the Tasmanian Government for its Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 and appreciates the opportunity to make a submission. CPG supports this Bill and makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Change Subclause 11C(1) of the amended *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and Schedule 8 of the amended *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* to ensure the definition of “commercial dog race” captures races with no lures.

Recommendation 2

Amend Subclause 11C(5) to prevent the transfer of Tasmanian greyhounds or their reproductive material overseas.

Recommendation 3

Amend Clause 4 of the Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024 to ensure controls on greyhound transfers apply to all greyhounds, whether registered or not.

Recommendation 4

Amend clause 18 of the Dog Control Act 2000 to repeal the requirement to muzzle greyhounds on 1 July 2029, when greyhound racing ends in Tasmania.

Recommendation 5

Amend the penalty provision in subclause 7(1) of the Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024 to include a period of imprisonment.



CPG supports the Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 (the Bill)

Greyhound racing is a dying gambling industry

Despite claims of the local industry about its future, greyhound racing is being phased out around the world. New Zealand will end greyhound racing this year. Only four countries (Australia, Ireland, US and UK) still allow greyhound racing, but a number of United Kingdom jurisdictions have, or are working on, introducing legislation to end greyhound racing. In the USA, 44 states (including Florida, where greyhound racing started over a century ago) have outlawed greyhound racing and only one state still has active racing tracks.¹ Clearly, as a global concern, greyhound racing is nearing its end.

Domestically, the Australian Capital Territory ended greyhound racing in 2018. Given recent or current reviews in WA and South Australia, there are question marks about the long term future of greyhound racing there.

Tasmanians do not want greyhound racing in their state

An independently commissioned survey of Tasmanians showed that the majority (74%) supported the phase out of greyhound racing,² and a survey commissioned by CPG and GREY2K Worldwide found that nearly 60% of Australians supported a ban on greyhound racing.³

The Tasmanian greyhound racing industry is incapable of reform

An assessment in 2023 of the Tasmanian greyhound racing industry and the regulatory framework found the following:⁴

- Greyhounds are still being killed.
- Greyhounds trained by the use of animal body parts.
- Inadequate kennelling of greyhounds.
- Doping of greyhounds is rife.

¹ <https://www.grey2kusa.org/about/states.php>

² https://www.emrs.com.au/sites/default/files/documents/202508-01_Pre-Parliament_Poll_Greyhound_Forestry.pdf

³ <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/greyhound-racing-survey/>

⁴ <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/racing-regulation>



- Two thirds of people who presented greyhounds with banned substances (i.e. substances that give the dog an unfair advantage over non-doped dogs) did not have to serve any period of suspension.
- Industry participants with a significant history of doping, animal welfare and other breaches are celebrated by the industry body.

This report showed unambiguously that in the 10 years or so since live baiting and mass killings of greyhounds came to light, the Tasmanian greyhound racing industry continues to be plagued by animal cruelty, doping and providing poor housing for greyhounds – it is incapable of reform.

CPG therefore strongly supports the shutting down of the Tasmanian greyhound racing industry, and takes the opportunity to make a number of recommendations about specific aspects of the Bill.

CPG recommendations

Definition of “commercial dog race”

A definition of “commercial dog race” is proposed to be added to the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* (Clause 11C) and the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* (Schedule 8).

According to the Clause Notes, the intent of these definitions is to make “...*it an offence (after 30 June 2029) to race greyhounds in any way (time trials, lure or **no lure**) and to race other dog breeds in a way that replicates current greyhound racing (defined as “commercial dog racing”).*” CPG strongly supports the intent of this definition.

However, the definitions of “commercial dog racing” included in the Bill specify that “*commercial dog race means a race, between two or more dogs **in pursuit of a mechanical or electronic lure**, where any one or more of the following occurs...*” This definition does not capture races between two or more dogs where there is no lure.

CPG notes that to achieve the intent of this definition to cover all dog races with or without lures, the definition of “commercial dog race” in both the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* must be changed to specifically capture races with no lures.

Recommendation 1

Change Subclause 11C(1) of the amended *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and Schedule 8 of the amended *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* to ensure the definition of “commercial dog race” captures races with no lures.



Prohibition of supply of Tasmanian greyhounds overseas

Subclause 11C(5) of the amended *Animal Welfare Act 1993* prohibits the supply of a greyhound to a person “if the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the other person intends to cause or permit the dog to participate in a greyhound race or a commercial dog race.”

Despite the general decline of the greyhound racing industry worldwide, greyhound racing is allowed to continue in other countries and in some Australian states and territories. CPG is concerned that there will be incentive for owners of Tasmanian racing greyhounds and their offspring to sell their dogs, or their reproductive material, to those jurisdictions. Even worse would be selling them to countries that have lesser welfare laws or where greyhound racing is conducted illegally. This would permit the shifting offshore of welfare concerns and cruelty against greyhounds.

CPG therefore recommends the 11C(5) definition be changed to cover the transfer of greyhounds to overseas persons.

Recommendation 2

Amend Subclause 11C(5) to prevent the transfer of Tasmanian greyhounds or their reproductive material overseas.

Transfer of all greyhounds must be regulated

The amendments to Clause 4 of the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* regarding restrictions and control of the transfer of greyhounds to other parties is proposed to apply only to registered greyhounds. This is because subclause 4(2) refers to the definition of “registered greyhound”.

This creates the perverse incentive to deregister a greyhound and then transfer them to a third party, which could include a person in a country with lesser, or no, animal welfare laws, or where greyhound racing is conducted illegally.

CPG recommends that the proposed amendments to the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* be changed to ensure transfer controls apply to all Tasmanian greyhounds, whether registered or not.

Recommendation 3

Amend Clause 4 of the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* to ensure controls on greyhound transfers apply to all greyhounds, whether registered or not.



Abolish muzzling requirements

The Bill proposes to amend clause 18 of the *Dog Control Act 2000*, which relates to muzzling of greyhounds. The amendments retain the requirement to muzzle greyhounds.

CPG is of the strong view that clause 18 should be repealed on 1 July 2029, to coincide with the end of greyhound racing in 2029. There is no evidence for maintaining a legal requirement to muzzle greyhounds beyond this date as greyhounds are not a naturally aggressive breed. In fact, greyhounds are known for their gentle nature.

For example, in Victoria the requirement to muzzle pet greyhounds was removed in 2019.

RSPCA advocates against the mandatory requirement to muzzle greyhounds. RSPCA Australia has not identified any evidence of increased safety risks or incidents/issues arising from the absence of mandatory muzzling of pet greyhounds in public places in other countries or in those jurisdictions in Australia where greyhounds do not have to be muzzled.⁵

CPG is of the strong view that in the absence of any evidence for maintaining muzzling requirements for greyhounds, these archaic requirements should be repealed on 1 July 2029.

Recommendation 4

Amend clause 18 of the *Dog Control Act 2000* to repeal the requirement to muzzle greyhounds on 1 July 2029, when greyhound racing ends in Tasmania.

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<https://kb.rspca.org.au/categories/companion-animals/dogs/adopting-a-greyhound/should-pet-greyhounds-have-to-wear-muzzles>



Stronger penalties for illegal destruction of a greyhound

As the industry is being shut down, there will be significant incentives for greyhound racing industry participants to get rid of their dogs by any means.

CPG has already published evidence that this has been occurring in Tasmania, and that penalties given by TasRacing are inadequate and provide little deterrent effect.⁶

Given the additional incentives to reduce expenses in relation to their greyhounds, it is certain that the risk to greyhounds of being killed will increase significantly. CPG applauds the Tasmanian Government for introducing the Clause 7(1) offence provision. However, restricting penalties to only financial fines does not provide sufficient deterrent.

CPG strongly believes that any person killing greyhounds outside the provisions of the Act should face the possibility of imprisonment. The subclause 7(1) penalty provision must therefore be amended to include a period of imprisonment.

Recommendation 5

Amend the penalty provision in subclause 7(1) of the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* to include a period of imprisonment.

⁶ <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/racing-regulation/>