



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania
Always here, for every dog.

Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition
Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025

Dogs' Homes of Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to provide a further submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition.

Our previous submissions have addressed the practical realities of rehoming greyhounds, the importance of an orderly transition, and the resources required to ensure every dog leaving the industry is given a genuine opportunity for life beyond racing. We do not repeat those matters here. Instead, we offer a broader reflection on the decision now before the Parliament.

This inquiry has understandably considered financial impacts, employment, industry transition, and contractual arrangements. These are important considerations. Any significant policy change inevitably affects people, communities and livelihoods, and those impacts deserve recognition and respect.

However, they should not obscure the fundamental question before Parliament.

This is, ultimately, an animal welfare decision.

As Tasmania's largest canine welfare organisation, Dogs' Homes of Tasmania does not approach this issue from the perspective of politics or ideology. We approach it from experience. For more than seventy-five years we have cared for dogs when others no longer could. We see animals not at the beginning of their story, but at the end. We see the consequences of decisions already made. We see injuries, neglect and fear, but also remarkable resilience and recovery when dogs are given time, care and compassion.

Greyhounds are no different.

Our experience has consistently demonstrated that, with appropriate veterinary care, behavioural support and patient rehoming, greyhounds become exceptional companion animals. Their future should not be defined solely by the industry into which they were born.

The evidence before this Committee has largely focused on economics, implementation and transition.

Those matters are important.

They are not, however, the central question.

The central question is whether Tasmania believes it remains ethically justifiable to continue breeding dogs for an activity in which serious injury and death are recognised and foreseeable consequences of participation.

Every other question flows from the answer to that one.

Every Act of Parliament reflects a judgement about the values a society chooses to uphold. Throughout history, societies have periodically reconsidered practices that were once widely



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accepted. Those decisions rarely occurred because new facts suddenly emerged. More often, they reflected a gradual change in community expectations and a deeper understanding of what society considered ethically acceptable.

Animal welfare has followed that same path.

The standards we expect today are rightly different from those of previous generations. As our understanding of animal sentience has grown, so too has our expectation that animals should be protected from unnecessary harm. Contemporary animal welfare legislation reflects that evolution.

The question before Parliament is therefore not whether greyhound racing has provided enjoyment, employment or economic activity. It clearly has. The question is whether, in light of contemporary community expectations, it remains ethically acceptable to continue breeding dogs for an activity that necessarily exposes them to foreseeable harm.

Reasonable people may disagree about implementation. They may differ on compensation, transition arrangements or the pace of change. Those are legitimate matters for public debate.

But they do not alter the ethical question Parliament is now being asked to answer.

Importantly, supporting the end of greyhound racing should never be interpreted as diminishing the contribution of those who have participated in the industry. Many have cared deeply for their dogs and have dedicated years of their lives to greyhound racing. A compassionate transition acknowledges this reality and provides appropriate support for those affected.

Respect for people and concern for animal welfare are not competing principles.

They are both essential to responsible public policy.

That is why Dogs' Homes of Tasmania has consistently advocated for an orderly, coordinated and properly funded transition. The welfare of the dogs depends upon it. So too does the integrity of the decision itself.

The transition should not be regarded as complete simply because racing concludes. It should be regarded as complete only when every greyhound has been accounted for and every suitable dog has been responsibly rehomed into a safe and permanent home. That outcome will require continued coordination, transparency and investment well beyond the final race.

Ultimately, greyhounds should simply become dogs.

Dogs entitled to the same welfare protections, the same opportunities and the same chance to live ordinary family lives as every other companion animal in Tasmania.

Whatever recommendation this Committee ultimately makes, history is unlikely to remember the detail of funding arrangements, contractual provisions or legislative drafting.

It will remember whether Tasmania chose to continue a practice once its ethical implications had become clear.

Compassion is rarely demonstrated by avoiding difficult decisions.

It is demonstrated by making difficult decisions responsibly.



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If Parliament determines that greyhound racing should end, its responsibility does not end with that decision. It begins there.

The measure of this transition will not be how the industry ends.

It will be how the dogs are treated afterwards.

Dogs' Homes of Tasmania remains committed to working constructively with Government, regulators, welfare organisations and former industry participants to ensure every greyhound is afforded that opportunity.

Mark Wild

Chief Executive Officer

Dogs' Homes of Tasmania