

2 March 2026

Kristie Johnston MP
Chair - Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 Inquiry
Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition

Via email only: greyhoundtransition@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Questions on Notice and Additional Information Request – Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 Inquiry

I am writing to respond to Questions on Notice and further information request raised in your letter dated 17 February 2026. Please find my responses below.

The first paragraph of the correspondence refers to my appearance before the Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition (JSC) on Wednesday, 11 February 2026 for the Committee's Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 Inquiry where it states "Throughout this appearance, you agreed to take on Notice a number of questions asked during the hearing." During my evidence before the JSC my recollection is that at no time did I take any questions on notice. However, I respond to the questions raised in good faith, ensuring transparency and to expedite your deliberations.

Q1. Could you please provide data regarding the number of greyhound racing participants who have thus far accessed the welfare services offered by the Office of the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner since the announcement of the industry transition.

I am in the procurement stages of establishing a statewide participant welfare framework to provide confidential counselling and support services, delivered by independent and accredited providers. These services will complement existing Tasracing EAP support services. The Tasracing EAP program was previously capped at two sessions per participant. I have committed to fund four additional sessions to ensure meaningful access to assistance. This has been communicated to the greyhound participants through Luke Gatehouse and Greyhounds Tasmania. As EAP service is confidential and has been an existing complimentary service that has been utilised, I am only notified once the two complimentary sessions have been utilised and payment is requested for subsequent sessions. Quite rightly, I am not provided details of individuals (or their relevant racing code) that utilise the two complimentary sessions.

To date I have not been contacted for any additional payments have been required.

It is expected the counselling and support services, delivered by independent and accredited providers will be available in April 2026.

Q2. On page 19 of the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner's Annual Report for 2024-25, it states that the Office received 55 complaints. Of those 55, 8 related to greyhounds, 15 to thoroughbreds, 24 to harness racing, 6 to Tasracing and 2 to the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board. Without detailing specific complaints, please provide details of the issues/themes from the complaints relating to greyhounds. Please also provide data on the current status of complaints relating to greyhounds (e.g. numbers upheld, dismissed, under investigation etc.).

The 8 greyhound industry complaints mentioned in 2024-25 annual report relate to various participant conduct, licensing, and Tasracing Process issues. These complaints have all been investigated and closed.

Q3. Can you provide updated complaint details for the current year so far, in line with the style of data for 2024-25, and with the issues/themes of those complaints relating to greyhounds outlined, including data on current status?

As of 28 February 2026, there have been 40 greyhound industry related complaints. These complaints relate to;

11 x complaints about greyhound participants conduct

12 x complaints about Tasracing process/conduct

3 x related to licensing

13 x complaints about inquires relating to the greyhound transition. – support service on offer to participants, compensation, consultation, appointments.

1 x Non RTI request for information

Q4. On page 21 of the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner's Annual Report for 2024-25 it is noted that the Office creates information reports when information relevant to the industry is received, but is not related to a specific matter. The Annual Report presents that until the end of June 2025, 30 such reports had been created. 10 related to greyhounds, 8 to harness racing, 7 to thoroughbred racing and 5 others. Please provide an outline of the matters covered in information reports relating to greyhounds in 2024-25?

The Racing Integrity Commissioners Complaints framework has been established to allow confidential reporting both regarding identity and the nature of the information. Detailing the nature of information has the potential to reveal the identity of the complainant and in doing so undermines the confidence of the complaints framework. If this information is crucial in assisting the JSC in its deliberations I would be prepared to provide this information in an "in camera" setting.

Q5. Beyond the complaints made and the information reports noted in Question 4, are there any other investigations of inquiries that you have completed or undertaken in relation to greyhound racing in 2024-25? Please provide details of that nature of any such investigations.

An investigation was conducted at the request of the Honourable Jane Howlett MP, Minister for Racing, regarding the death of Raiders Guide who died on 29 July 2025 of a cardiac arrest after suffering significant injuries during a race on 28 July 2025, at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club. The investigation did not explore how the injuries were sustained by Raiders Guide but examined the process and systems of Tasracing managing such an incident. There are no other matters to report.

Q6. A key part of the new system to oversee racing in Tasmania is the Integrity and Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The legislation, the Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024, established the new system and the Advisory Committee. Has the Advisory Committee been established?

If so, who are its members? How many times has it met, noting under the legislation the Advisory Committee is required to meet at least once a quarter. Has it done so? Can copies of any minutes please be provided?

The Integrity and Animal Welfare Advisory Committee was established in 2025 and has met on two occasions.

The members of the Committee are;

Sean Carroll,	Tasmania Racing Integrity Commissioner - Chair
Martin Lenz,	Tasracing Chief Veterinary & Animal Welfare Officer,
Andrea Dawkins	RSPCA CEO,
Deborah McSweyn,	Chief Veterinary Officer, Biosecurity Tasmania,
Gary White,	Industry Representative
Sarah Wilson,	Community Representative - Legal
Stephen Hall,	Biosecurity Tasmania
Sandy White	Admin – Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioners Office

Minutes for the two meetings are attached

Q7. Can you please provide to the Committee any material provided to you as part of Ben Sellenger's 'health check' of the racing industry? Can you also confirm when this material was received.

A similar request was made during my appearance before the JSC to which I responded that the report was not relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee or my attendance. The completed PowerPoint presentation prepared by Mr Sellenger was provided to me on 15 August 2025. The reasons for conducting this health check are detailed in my 2024/25 Annual report (p16) "*this health check involves a comprehensive assessment of the overall performance of the Tasmanian racing industry and it will collate current successful work, while identifying areas for targeted improvement. The health check continues to involve significant consultation, and the assessment of industry data will provide further insights to support the Commissioner's strategic vision for the Tasmanian racing industry*".

Q8. What was the difference in greyhound numbers in Tasmania recorded between the first and second audits conducted by Tasracing? How did the number of greyhounds identified by the audits compare with the number of greyhounds that Tasracing thought were in existence? What do you think the reasons for any discrepancies are?

The audit figures from the second audit conducted by Tasracing have yet to be finalised; however, it is expected there will be a slight increase in greyhound numbers (under 50 greyhounds). This slight increase can be explained by the detailed auditing process being undertaken by Tasracing. This audit has revealed a slight increase in whelping, however, there has been a noticeable increase in the servicing of brood bitches.

The final audit results are expected on 5 March 2026.

Q9. What is the status of any recommendations or findings provided to Government from the Greyhound Racing Transition Working Group (Working Group)?

Is the Working Group authorised to make recommendations on policy, compensation and expenditure? How is the Working Group intended to operate, by consensus or by majority determinations?

There have been no recommendations provided to the Government by the Greyhound Racing Transition Working Group (Working Group). The Working Group terms of reference (attached) clearly details the Working Group "...will provide guidance and advice to the Commissioner in his development of the transition plan". The Working Group will therefore not provide recommendations to the Government. If any decision-making process would be required decisions will be by consensus.

The Terms of Reference details topics that the Working Group will provide guidance and advice to the Commissioner that will allow him to develop the transition plan.

Part of the Commissioner's legislative function as stated in *the Racing Regulation and Integrity Act* S9(d) is "to advise the Minister on integrity in racing, animal welfare and related matters and make policy proposals for the development of racing".

Yours sincerely



Sean Carroll
Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner