

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN TASMANIA

Submission by Janet Scott

Madam Secretary

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN TASMANIA

Email: stephanie.hesford@parliament.tas.gov.au

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Dear Madam Secretary

I have provided my submission below and please let me know if you require any further information. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Inquiry Into Greyhound Racing in Tasmania

Kind regards,

Janet Scott

I refer to the following Terms of Reference that this submission relates to:

Inquiry Into Greyhound Racing in Tasmania

[e] Any other matter incidental thereto

[Issue 1]

The intrinsic risk of further live animal baiting since the 'lure' is specifically designed by the Greyhound Industry to represent as close as possible a small, squeaky, furry live animal which affects the very essence of the integrity of greyhound racing and the public confidence in it.

The live animal baiting expose on 4 Corners highlighted the inherent risk in greyhound racing of trainers/owners using live animals to get a winning edge over other greyhounds. Greyhound Racing will never be a 'clean sport' while every time a greyhound dog races it is in essence chasing a 'live, small, furry, squeaky animal' – the 'lure'. The industry has recommended the following to make the 'lure' more realistic:

Extract from 'Catching Pen Review'

<http://www.greyhoundracingqueensland.com/media/16536/catchingpenreview.pdf>

- Of particular note was that reported injury rates were not markedly different regardless of whether the finish on lure or catching pen was being used. On the other hand, there was an increase in suspension rates (especially in respect of marring and failing to pursue). While this is a significant issue, a number of measures could be implemented with a view to addressing those suspension rates without the need to cause further angst and division in the industry by again changing the system of racing.
- A lure that better resembles a hare/rabbit which is suspended closer to the ground. The lure should have some bright colour around it and importantly have a loud and effective noise maker attached.

The very nature of greyhound racing is that, it all centres around the chasing of a [small, live animal] 'the lure' illustrates the public can never have confidence in the greyhound industry when in every race you can see the dogs chasing imitations of small and live animals. The integrity of greyhound racing and the public confidence is further diminished every time a greyhound races and chases these lures.