

Dear Committee

The *Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021* comes following years of reports of horrific treatment of Australian dogs in greyhound racing across the world. Between 2016 and 2021, 1,313 greyhounds were exported from Australia.

The only way to protect our greyhounds is a Bill that permanently bans the export of greyhounds for commercial purposes **entirely**. The welfare of greyhounds is routinely sacrificed for profitability and gambling revenue. The winners are the overseas industries, the exporters, those involved in the illegal supply chain and the gambling industry. The cost to greyhounds is one of loneliness, kept in barren, confined concrete cages, deprived of any enrichment and companionship, malnourished, denied proper physical care when ill or injured with poor animal welfare standards in place. When they no longer turn a profit, they are destroyed. Putting our exported greyhounds at risk of this cruelty, abuse and neglect overseas is wrong.

Many airlines have supported the welfare of Australian greyhounds by refusing to transport them on their planes because they have acknowledged the cruelty inflicted on the dogs and want nothing to do with this industry.

It is time our Australian government accept the suffering of our exported greyhounds and how the legislation has failed and will continue to fail because exporters will always take advantage of loopholes in the legislation. Once greyhounds leave Australia, they are almost impossible to track and protect because of unscrupulous people in the industry. A simple solution is for a complete ban on export of greyhounds for commercial purposes. It is time that the Australian government show the community that they are committed to the welfare of our animals. This Bill must be passed to protect our greyhounds so no more are exported from Australia. That is the only way to end this cruelty and abuse! Once any exported animal leaves Australia we have no control over their welfare. The exporter supply chains have clearly failed in the greyhound export industry.

Banning commercial greyhound export is supported by animal welfare groups including Humane Society International, RSPCA Australia, Animals Australia, the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds, and Free the Hounds. This cruel industry has existed for years. The community were horrified when Animals Australia exposed the suffering of greyhounds to these exported racing tracks where no animal welfare standards for these gentle dogs existed. I support this Bill completely. The only way to protect these greyhounds is to end their export.

The government have a moral and ethical responsibility to step up and end this abuse once and for all. Tinkering around the edges of legislation to still continue the greyhound export industry is not acceptable. We have the failures of the Greyhounds Australasia (GA) system that has operated a 'greyhound passport' scheme for export of greyhounds to supposedly protect greyhounds leaving Australia. However, exporters have taken advantage of loopholes in the system and greyhounds have still ended up in these banned countries like Vietnam and China. Greyhound Racing Victoria and other state authorities are reportedly currently investigating greyhounds being flown into the UK before being rerouted to China. Recent reports even show greyhounds are being exported overseas without Greyhounds Australasia's approval, making a mockery of the so-called enforcement system. Greyhounds Australasia (GA) clearly are failing to protect greyhounds. Nothing less will be accepted by the Australian community. A complete ban on the export of greyhounds is what is needed now, and this would also represent many like-minded people in the community fed up with the cruelty that can be ended by this Bill.

No matter what promises the industry makes neither the welfare of the dogs, nor where they end up, can be guaranteed after they are exported. To end this cruelty the only appropriate measure is to shut down this export trade altogether.

A complete ban on commercial greyhound export is long overdue.

Please support **the Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition Bill 2021** to end this cruelty of our gentle greyhounds.

Your sincerely