



Andrew Wilkie MP  
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR CLARK

Senator Glenn Sterle  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the *Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021* ('the Bill').

This Bill proposes to prohibit the importation and exportation of greyhounds for racing, breeding or any other commercial purpose, which would go some way to reigning in the cruelty of greyhound racing. Australia is one of only seven countries where greyhound racing is still legal, and by exporting greyhounds overseas Australia is contributing to animal cruelty around the world. Research shows greyhounds exported overseas are at high risk of mistreatment and early death.

According to Department of Agriculture statistics 258 greyhounds were exported from Australia between January and May 2023. The absence of an international tracing system makes it difficult to monitor the wellbeing of animals once they leave Australia or even to know their location. Furthermore, Australian greyhounds may be sent via approved countries to 'blacklisted' countries that do not have adequate animal welfare protections or are incorrectly listed as companion animals to circumvent restrictions. Measures designed to ban greyhound exports to specific countries are clearly ineffective and wider restrictions, such as those imposed by this Bill, are required.

While it is my strong belief that the only way to ensure the welfare of greyhounds is to ban racing entirely, this Bill is a welcome step towards improving animal welfare. I note the RSPCA and Animals Australia agree that legislation banning the export of greyhounds is urgently needed.

The greyhound trade results in animals suffering unbearable cruelty and must not be tolerated. I urge the Senate to do the right thing and pass this Bill in full.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP  
Independent Member for Clark

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