

To The Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021 as introduced. I am an Australian citizen and registered voter in the North Sydney electorate.

I am concerned by the ongoing export of Australian greyhounds to countries where they face vulnerability to abuse and premature death.

Australia has a troubling history of sending unwanted greyhounds to countries with inadequate animal welfare protections. Thousands of dogs have been sent to destinations like Macau, where they were subjected to dismal living conditions and ultimately met tragic ends.

Numerous pleas from Greyhounds Australasia, state racing bodies, and the Australian public to ban the export and import of greyhounds for commercial use have been largely disregarded.

I support the ban on greyhound and breeding material exports and imports for the following reasons:

- Lack of animal welfare legal protection in importing countries: Australian greyhounds are sent to countries with insufficient or unenforced animal protection laws.
- Absence of a formal tracking system for exported dogs: Once greyhounds leave Australia, there is no record of their fate, leaving them without Australian animal welfare regulation and potentially subjected to inhumane treatment.
- Lack of formal rehoming and adoption programs in destination countries: In some countries, greyhounds have no expectations of a post-racing life, leading to prolonged racing or premature euthanasia.
- Stress and injuries associated with long-distance transport: Long flights with stopovers cause immense distress, injuries, and even death for the greyhounds.
- Absence of current legislation around greyhound exports: The racing industry's 'passport' system lacks government enforcement, making it ineffective in preventing exports to blacklisted countries via approved destinations.

I urge you to advocate for the full passage of the bill in the Senate. By taking a firm stance against this cruel practice, we can protect the welfare of these animals and uphold Australia's commitment to animal welfare.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine Harris