

## **Submission to the Standing Committees on *Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021***

**Joel MacKay**

I welcome the opportunity to submit to this important inquiry into the *Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021* (the bill). I commend the committee for taking on such an important matter.

### **Recommendation:**

1. The committee recommend the passage of the bill.
2. The committee strengthens the bill by:
  - a. Strengthening penalties
  - b. Supporting greyhound retraining and adoption.

The key reasons to pass the bill are:

**Animal Welfare:** the primary reason to support the bill is the promotion of animal welfare. Greyhound racing and commercial breeding should not happen due to concerns about the treatment and welfare of the animals involved. Prohibiting the exportation and importation of greyhounds for racing, breeding, and commercial purposes can be seen as a step towards safeguarding the well-being of these animals.

Greyhounds used in racing are often subjected to intense training, confined living conditions, and potential injuries on the track. There have been cases of overbreeding, where large numbers of greyhounds are bred to maximize profits, leading to issues such as the culling of surplus dogs that are deemed unfit for racing. These practices have raised widespread public outrage and led to calls for better protection of greyhounds.

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**Ethical Concerns:** Greyhound racing industries have faced criticism regarding the exploitation of animals for entertainment and profit. By enacting this bill, it demonstrates a commitment to ethical considerations by curbing the commercialization of greyhounds and preventing their involvement in industries with potential ethical concerns.

**Responsible Pet Ownership:** The bill allows exemptions for the import and export of domestic pet greyhounds. This provision ensures that responsible pet ownership is not hindered, allowing individuals to keep and care for greyhounds as companion animals while still addressing concerns about commercial exploitation.

**International Standards:** The bill aligns with international trends and standards regarding animal welfare. Many countries have taken steps to address the ethical and welfare concerns associated with greyhound racing and commercial breeding. Supporting the bill brings Australia in line with these global efforts. For example, jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom and several U.S. states have implemented strict regulations, oversight bodies, and adoption programs to ensure the welfare of greyhounds after their racing careers end. By studying and adopting successful international models, the bill can benefit from existing frameworks

**Reducing Overbreeding:** Prohibiting the commercial export and import of greyhounds may contribute to reducing overbreeding. This measure can help prevent the excess supply of greyhounds and potential welfare issues associated with surplus dogs in the racing and breeding industries.

### **Strengthening the bill**

To strengthen this bill as it passes, I also recommend enhanced penalties for illegal activities related to greyhound racing. Greyhounds used in racing are often subjected to intense training, confined living conditions, and potential injuries on the track. There have been cases of overbreeding, where large numbers of greyhounds are bred to maximize profits, leading to issues such as the culling of surplus dogs that are deemed unfit for racing. These practices have raised widespread public outrage and led to calls for better protection of greyhounds.

There is also an opportunity to support greyhound retraining and adoption programs. Greyhounds used in racing are often subjected to intense training, confined living conditions, and potential injuries on the track. There have been cases of overbreeding, where large numbers of greyhounds are bred to maximize profits, leading to issues such as the culling of surplus dogs that are deemed unfit for racing. These practices have raised widespread public outrage and led to calls for better protection of greyhounds.

Thank you again for the opportunity to consult on this bill. I look forward to the committee recommending its passage.