

cc: Inquiry into Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021

I am writing to register my support for the Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021 as introduced.

Australian greyhounds continue to be exported to countries where they are vulnerable to abuse and premature death. Recent examples include Canya Cruise and Turbo Thomas who were both exported to China in 2021 just days after racing at Melbourne tracks. While they were exported as “companion animals”, they are now both listed on a Chinese breeding website.

Australia has a long history of sending unwanted greyhounds to countries where there is no guarantee they will be treated humanely. This includes around 20,000 dogs sent to Macau where dogs were kept in prison like cells and then killed.

This was despite Greyhounds Australasia, state racing bodies and the Australian public calling on successive federal governments to ban the export and import of greyhounds for commercial use.

In summary, the reasons I support a ban on greyhound and breeding material exports and imports are:

1. Lack of animal welfare legal protection in importing countries: Australian greyhounds are exported to countries that either do not have animal protection laws or they are not enforced.
2. The lack of a formal tracking system for dogs exported to other countries: Once greyhounds leave Australia, there is no record of their fate. They are not protected by any Australian animal welfare regulation and there is no guarantee they will be treated humanely.
3. The lack of formal rehoming and adoption programs in destination countries: There is no expectation of a life post-racing for greyhounds in some countries. This means greyhounds are forced to race past an appropriate retirement age or killed at an unnecessarily young age.
4. Stress and injuries associated with long-distance transport: Flight times to most countries from Australia are several hours with many requiring stopovers. Greyhounds are known to suffer great distress, injury and even death during flight.
5. Lack of current legislation around greyhound exports: The racing industry has a 'passport' system in place for greyhound exports. But this is not enforced by government legislation. The penalties for breaching the industry rules are minimal and are not proving to be a deterrent. The solution proposed by the racing industry is an amendment to the Export Control Act. However, this will not stop participants exporting greyhounds to blacklisted countries via approved destinations.

I urge you to assist in ending this cruel practice by recommending that the Senate pass the

bill in full.

Thanks you