



Greyhounds Australasia

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Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
And Transport Committee, SG62
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

National Animal Welfare Bill 2005

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the provisions of the *National Animal Welfare Bill 2005*.

Greyhounds Australasia (GA) formerly the Australian and New Zealand Greyhound Association (ANZGA) is the national body responsible for the administration of policies and objectives as decided by the GA Board. It provides an efficient forum to facilitate a uniform; responsive and binding decision making process that maximises returns to the greyhound industry and ensures the integrity and fair conduct of greyhound racing throughout Australia and New Zealand. The GA Board is comprised of representatives from all of the controlling jurisdictions throughout this region.

For a number of years, animal rights groups have targeted the greyhound industry with unfair and unsubstantiated statements relating to animal welfare. Our organisation is a strong advocate of national animal welfare practices and have developed a number of initiatives to support this believe. GA members have assisted with the completion of an animal welfare matrix and of late we have developed a policy framework for national animal welfare.

As the national body for the greyhound industry we certainly support the concept of consistent animal welfare legislation across jurisdictions but understand in practice this may be difficult to enforce with varying analogies at state level.

In terms of meeting our international needs we note the bill mentions terms for live exports but seems to be remiss of a concept that our organisation has flagged with the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, The Hon Peter McGauran in regard to the compulsory introduction of a "Greyhound Passport".

The passport would allow authorities in Australia to track and record the export of all greyhounds to other countries, and from an animal welfare perspective would enable us to be sure that the greyhound was being exported for one of the following reasons:

- For racing purposes

- For breeding purposes

- As a pet through one of our greyhound adoption programmes

Our organisation has been involved in the development of the federal government's national animal welfare strategy which we whole heartedly support in conjunction with the Australian Racing Board and Australian Harness Racing Council.

We remain supportive of the government's animal welfare strategies but have several concerns with specific matters in the draft National Animal Welfare Bill 2005 and as a result oppose the bill.

Should you require further information in relation to our submission please contact Craig Taberner, Chief Executive Officer, GA on 03 9548 3500.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Wilson
Chairman

cc: Andrew Harding, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Racing Board
Rod Pollock, Chief Executive, Australian Harness Racing Council