

Thursday 7 May 2020

NEXT STEPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREYHOUND CODE OF PRACTICE

The public consultation period for the draft NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice, facilitated by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC), closed on the 14 April 2019.

Chief Commissioner of GWIC, Alan Brown AM, has thanked everyone who took the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Code.

This Code of Practice demonstrates the NSW greyhound racing industry's commitment to the welfare of greyhounds across the state. It is an important step in enabling this long-standing sport, and the people and communities at its heart, to thrive into the future."

"Throughout the consultation period 244 submissions on the draft Code were received from people and organisations across the industry. I would like to thank all those who made the effort to contribute to the process, whether that was by providing us with their suggestions or attending one of the consultation sessions that were held across the state", Commissioner Brown said.

"It's crucial that we receive feedback on important reform projects like this as it helps us to balance appropriate welfare standards with the everyday needs and practices of breeders, owners and trainers."

"The Commission will now collate and analyse the feedback and work with the Government on the development of the final version of the Code and an implementation plan."

The requirement for a new Code of Practice was one of the principal recommendations of the Lemma Reform Panel accepted by the NSW Government and Parliament as a precondition to allow greyhound racing to continue. The Code of Practice will help ensure there are clear and enforceable standards in place so that participants of the industry have clarity on what is required of them and the welfare of greyhounds is fully protected. Creating this alignment, understanding and prioritisation of welfare helps the industry pass public scrutiny and secure its future growth and longevity.

"Introducing a new Code of Practice is not only a requirement under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*, but it is also vital to securing a prosperous industry by demonstrating how the wider-public's previous concerns are being addressed through the improvement of welfare and integrity," Commissioner Brown said.

"It will be a document that outlines the welfare expectations that the industry must meet and will provide the wider community with confidence that this is an industry made up of people that truly care for their greyhounds."

"I know that the vast majority of participants in the industry already meet the standards being set out by the Code and so will be impacted minimally. For the few that don't, GWIC will assist them to ensure they can and do comply".

Once the final version of the Code of Practice has been approved by the NSW Government and an implementation plan is released, GWIC will then work with participants during the lead up to its



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commencement so everyone understands the requirements and is fully and adequately prepared for their introduction.

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