



*INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING REGISTERED TRAINER MR. RONALD MARSDEN'S  
ATTENDANCE AT THE BULLI RACETRACK ON 10 AUGUST 2021.*

**By Video Conference**

**Stewards: Mr. W. Birch (Chairman)**

**Mr. J Hodder**

**Ms. L Warren**

**14 September 2021**

---

Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) Stewards today inquired into the circumstances surrounding Mr. Ronald Marsden's attendance at the Bulli race meeting on 10 August 2021. Mr. Marsden was observed to be selling dog food in the carpark of the racecourse. Stewards' held concerns surrounding Mr. Marsden's attendance at the venue given his residence is in a Local Government Area (LGA) of concern. The enforceable NSW Government Public Health Orders on 10 August 2021 restricted all workers from leaving those LGA's other than those considered to be 'authorised workers'.

Stewards also inquired into an allegation that Mr. Marsden had sought to transport the greyhounds he had engaged to race on the day back to his residence in contravention of the GRNSW and GWIC protocols which required all greyhounds located in a Local Government Area of concern to be transported by a registered transportation company to satisfy the NSW Government Public Health Orders.

At the inquiry today Mr. Marsden provided evidence to satisfy Stewards that his pet supplies business was a registered business, together with evidence of Covid-19 testing and his vaccination history. Mr. Marsden explained that he had sought advice from NSW Health concerning the requirement he must satisfy to be considered an 'authorised worker' in accordance with item 5, 'Health care and social assistance' category of 'authorised workers', which provides for services in animal welfare, care and accommodation.

Mr. Marsden also provided evidence of a Covid-19 test collected on 8 August 2021 which returned negative on 9 August 2021. This test was taken to satisfy the requirement for 'authorised workers' to have a Covid-19 test 72 hours prior to leaving their LGA for the purposes of work.

When asked about the allegation that he had requested for the transport company to allow him to take his greyhounds back to his residence, Mr Marsden explained that he contacted GRNSW and requested permission from Mr. Wayne Billet to do so and this permission was granted. Mr. Billett provided evidence to support this and informed Stewards that as Mr. Marsden was an 'authorised worker' he did not believe that this conduct would breach the recently implemented NSW Government Public Health Orders. He further stated that he had a further conversation with Mr. Marsden a short time later following Mr. Marsden being contacted by Mr. Birch, and it was agreed that Mr. Marsden's greyhounds would be transported back to his residence by the transport company.



After considering the evidence provided, Stewards were satisfied that Mr. Marsden was fulfilling the role of an 'authorised worker' based on animal welfare grounds during his attendance at the Bulli racetrack on 10 August 2021. Furthermore, Stewards were satisfied that Mr. Marsden had fulfilled all testing requirements pursuant to the NSW Government Public Health Orders.

In respect of the transportation arrangements, Stewards, having regard to the evidence provided by Mr. Billett, determined not to take any further action particularly given that the greyhounds were transported back to Mr. Marsden's residence by the transport company in accordance with the NSW Government Public Health Orders and the GRNSW and GWIC protocols.