



A WAY FORWARD FOR GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

NSW Government response to the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel recommendations

Panel recommendation	Government response
A new governance model	
1. The commercial and regulatory functions for the industry should be separated and vested in two different entities.	Accepted.
Reconstitute Greyhound Racing NSW as the commercial entity	
2. Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) should be reconstituted as the commercial entity of the industry, responsible for developing greyhound racing in NSW as a competitive and sustainable industry with high levels of public trust.	Accepted.
3. GRNSW should be reconstituted as a statutory state owned corporation with the NSW Treasurer and Minister for Finance as shareholder ministers and the Minister for Racing as the portfolio minister.	GRNSW should be reconstituted as an independent statutory body corporate with commercial objectives similar to a state owned corporation and with a social objective regarding animal welfare.
4. The commercial entity should be governed by a board of at least five but no more than seven directors (including a chair and deputy chair), serving a term of up to three years at a time and able to be reappointed for a maximum period of nine years in total.	Accepted.
5. A chief executive officer should be appointed by the board to run its daily operations.	Accepted.

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>6. Shareholder Ministers should be authorised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. select board directors, with the assistance of a selection committee b. select the chair of the board c. remove the board or any board director d. appoint an administrator for the board. 	<p>Accepted in principle, noting the Government’s position is to establish the commercial entity as a statutory body corporate (see recommendation 5).</p> <p>These functions will be performed by the Minister for Racing.</p>
<p>7. All board directors must be selected using a merit-based selection process with skills-based criteria.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>8. The board should have the following composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The board should have an appropriate mix of skills, knowledge and expertise. b. Office holders of racing clubs should not be eligible for appointment as a director. c. No more than two directors should be active industry participants on a five person board and no more than three on a seven person board. d. More than 50 per cent of the board should be “independent directors”, that is, persons that have no association with the industry or have not been involved in the industry in the preceding seven years. e. The chair and deputy chair of the board should be independent directors. 	<p>Accepted with minor changes.</p> <p>In addition, former members of previous GRNSW boards or earlier organisations responsible for commercial or regulatory functions for greyhound racing should not be eligible to be directors.</p>
<p>9. GRNSW will be required to hold an operating licence to authorise its role as the industry’s commercial entity.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>10. The requirement for an operating licence should be established in legislation.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>11. The Minister for Racing should be responsible for granting the operating licence and monitoring compliance.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>12. The operating licence should authorise the commercial entity to oversee or conduct greyhound race meetings by allowing it to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. authorise greyhound race clubs to operate greyhound racing venues and to conduct greyhound race meetings, or b. operate greyhound racing venues and conduct greyhound race meetings on its own behalf. 	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>13. The operating licence will outline the Minister’s requirements for the administration of greyhound racing by the commercial entity.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>14. The operating licence should specify review triggers, with the potential to vary, amend or cancel the licence.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>Establish a new Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission</p>	
<p>15. A Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (the ‘integrity commission’) should be established as an independent statutory corporation in legislation. The integrity commission should represent the State.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>16. The integrity commission should be able to exercise its powers and make decisions independently of government.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>17. The integrity commission should be responsible for animal welfare, overseeing the integrity of the greyhound racing industry and monitoring and enforcing compliance.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>18. The integrity commission should be headed by a chief commissioner, responsible for overseeing the administration and operation of the commission and the performance of its functions.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>19. The chief commissioner should be supported by two commissioners.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
20. The chief commissioner and commissioners should be appointed by the Governor, on recommendation of the Minister for Racing. The Minister for Racing should also be able to recommend to the Governor the removal or suspension of the commissioners in very specific circumstances.	Accepted.
21. The appointment of the commissioners should be subject to a merit-based selection process.	Accepted.
22. The appointments should be for a term no longer than three years, and the commissioners should be eligible for reappointment.	Accepted.
23. A chief executive should be appointed by the chief commissioner to run the integrity commission's daily operations based on a selection process consistent with the requirements of the <i>Government Sector Employment Act 2013</i> .	Accepted.
24. Major decisions of the integrity commission should be made by a majority of the three commissioners.	Accepted.
25. The integrity commission should have the capacity to form and disband advisory committees.	Accepted.
26. A Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee should be established to advise the integrity commission and should be comprised of five members – an independent animal welfare or behaviour expert; a senior officer of RSPCA NSW; the Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW or their nominee; an industry representative; and a representative from the commercial entity.	Accepted.
27. The integrity commission may also wish to establish a rules of racing advisory committee with any rules related to animal welfare to be reviewed by the Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee.	Accepted.

Panel recommendation	Government response
28. The Minister for Racing should be the responsible minister for the integrity commission.	Accepted.
29. The Minister for Primary Industries should have a concurrence role in approving the Greyhound Industry code of practice to ensure consistency with NSW Government animal welfare policies and the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i> .	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The Minister for Primary Industries will also have a concurrence role on key decisions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommending the Chief Commissioner and supporting Commissioners to Cabinet for subsequent appointment by the Governor • exercising some Ministerial powers, such as the power to refer matters related to animal welfare to the integrity commission.
30. The Minister for Racing should have the ability to issue directions to the integrity commission on its operations in the public interest.	<p>Accepted in principle.</p> <p>The Minister for Racing should have the power to direct and control the integrity commission but not in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operational and investigative matters • compliance and enforcement decisions • reports • advice • licensing functions in respect of any specific person. <p>When the Minister does give directions on other matters, it must be in writing and published.</p>
31. The integrity commission should be legally required to publicly report on its operations.	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The integrity commission should report to Parliament on a yearly basis, with regular reporting to the Minister for Racing.</p>
Compliance and enforcement powers strengthened	
32. The integrity commission should be given a broad range of investigative powers to enable it to effectively discharge its functions and achieve enforcement and animal welfare outcomes.	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of the Integrity Commission, RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW), NSW Police Force and local councils should be further discussed and agreed between these bodies. The Government notes that the Panel report proposes Memorandums of Understanding to be developed.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>33. The integrity commission should have the authority to enter and search:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. public premises AND b. the premises of licensed participants and licensed facilities AND c. other private premises, if the integrity commission has a reasonable suspicion that an offence or non-compliance has occurred or is occurring at the premises. 	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The Government notes that these powers relate to the regulatory functions of the integrity commission.</p> <p>The Government also notes that the power should extend to a reasonable suspicion that an offence “is likely to occur” for consistency with the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i>.</p>
<p>34. The integrity commission should have the authority to enter any part of a premises used for residential purposes only with an occupier’s consent or with a search warrant.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>35. Inspectors of the integrity commission and the RSPCA NSW should be able to obtain overt video and photographic evidence when lawfully inspecting a property. The <i>Surveillance Devices Act 2007</i> should be amended to allow for this.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle.</p> <p>Inspectors appointed by the integrity commission and inspectors of approved charitable organisations as defined under the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i> (currently, the RSPCA NSW and the AWL NSW) should be provided with this power.</p>
<p>36. The integrity commission should be able to use evidence from lawfully obtained covert surveillance in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a police officer has applied to a court for a surveillance device warrant for the purpose of investigating an indictable offence AND b. the power to undertake covert surveillance is exercised by a police officer. <p>The <i>Surveillance Devices Act 2007</i> should be amended to allow for this.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The Government notes that covert surveillance powers will only be available in relation to indictable offences.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>37. Police officers should be seconded to the integrity commission to enable direct application for search warrants for residential properties and surveillance device warrants in appropriate circumstances.</p>	<p>Accepted with minor changes.</p> <p>Police officers should be able to be seconded to the integrity commission. Police officers should apply for surveillance device warrants on behalf of the integrity commission.</p> <p>Officers of the integrity commission should be authorised to apply directly for search warrants to enter parts of premises used for residential purposes only.</p>
<p>38. Officers of the integrity commission should be appointed as inspectors under the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i>.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>39. Prosecutions for offences related to greyhounds under the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i> or <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> should be undertaken by the integrity commission except in circumstances agreed in Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the RSPCA NSW, the Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW) and NSW Police Force. The Director of Public Prosecutions may sometimes elect to take responsibility for prosecutions under the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i>.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>40. The integrity commission should be able to employ, second or use specialist staff, including veterinarians and police officers.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>41. The integrity commission should be responsible for regulating all licensed participants, clubs, licensed trial tracks and related persons (for example, managers), and other persons associated with greyhound racing.</p>	<p>Accepted with minor changes.</p> <p>Registration and licensing of clubs will be the responsibility of the commercial entity.</p>
<p>Measures to ensure independence of the integrity commission from industry</p>	
<p>42. Integrity commission officers should not be industry participants.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>Industry participants should be defined as including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • licensees • members and employees of clubs • any person involved in the promotion of the commercial objectives of the commercial entity.

Panel recommendation	Government response
43. Integrity commission officers should have no direct or close relationships with the industry and industry participants.	Accepted.
44. Stewards should be solely responsible for regulating race day events and trials under the rules of racing.	Accepted.
45. The integrity commission’s enabling Act should specify the circumstances when formal consultation with the commercial entity is required. This should include a requirement to consult on major policy and legal developments, such as development of the code of practice, amendments to the rules of racing and track safety requirements.	Accepted.
46. The integrity commission should be sufficiently staffed and resourced.	Accepted.
47. The integrity commission’s budget should be based on the efficient costs of performing its functions and it should seek annual funding from the consolidated fund via normal State budgetary processes.	Accepted.
48. As a condition of the operating licence, the commercial entity should fully offset the costs to Government of maintaining the integrity commission.	Accepted in principle. Industry contribution to regulatory costs will escalate over initial 5-year transition period, in accordance with transition plan, to 100 per cent.
Relationship of the integrity commission to other animal welfare regulators	
49. The integrity commission should have primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting greyhound related offences recognising the RSPCA NSW, AWL NSW, NSW Police will have complementary roles which collectively improve the overall reach and capacity for enforcement.	Accepted.

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>50. Information about investigations should be able to be lawfully shared between the integrity commission, the RSPCA NSW, the AWL NSW and the NSW Police in appropriate circumstances.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>Information should also be made available to local councils. Local councils have a range of regulatory and enforcement responsibilities and powers including under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> and <i>Companions Animals Act 1998</i>.</p>
<p>51. The integrity commission should enter into MOUs with compliance and enforcement bodies such as the RSPCA NSW, AWL NSW and the NSW Police.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>An MOU with the Office of Local Government will also be considered. Local councils have a range of regulatory and enforcement responsibilities and powers including under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> and <i>Companions Animals Act 1998</i>.</p>
<p>An enforceable animal welfare code with the highest standards in Australia</p>	
<p>52. The integrity commission should develop and recommend a code of practice for the treatment, handling and care of greyhounds based on the five domains of animal welfare outlined in more detail in this report – the code of practice should be approved by the Minister for Racing with the concurrence of the Minister for Primary Industries.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>53. The code of practice will apply to greyhounds owned or supervised by any licensed greyhound industry participant.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The integrity commission should also have jurisdiction over unlicensed industry participants and their greyhounds (associated with the greyhound racing industry) that should be licensed/registered.</p>
<p>54. The code of practice should be enforced by inspectors of the integrity commission.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The code of practice will sit under the integrity commission's enabling Act.</p>
<p>55. Penalties for breaches of the code of practice should include work orders, penalty infringement notices, fines, licence restrictions, suspensions and lifetime disqualification from the industry.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>56. The code of practice should ban the use of barking muzzles.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
57. The code of practice should ban the use of aversive substances on greyhounds or the use of regulated products other than for their intended purpose, except where prescribed by a registered veterinarian	Accepted.
58. Age and litter limits should be set for breeding females in the code of practice.	Accepted.
Stronger regulation for those who provide aid to greyhounds	
59. The role of greyhound health assistants should be established for those who are not veterinarians but provide limited healthcare to greyhounds such as massage therapy, acupuncture and other complementary therapies, non-invasive injury detection and first aid.	Accepted.
60. Greyhound health assistants should be licensed by the integrity commission based on demonstrated competencies which will require completion of training and/or recognition of existing skills.	Accepted.
61. The services that greyhound health assistants can provide should be clearly defined.	Accepted.
62. A licence condition of greyhound health assistants should be evidence of a relationship with a registered veterinarian to whom greyhounds can be referred when in need of veterinary assessment and care.	Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.
A NSW specific breeding cap is not proposed at this time	
63. Industry should continue to advocate for a national approach to breeding controls for greyhounds.	Accepted.
64. Additional options for breeding controls and other total lifecycle management initiatives, including a target date for achieving zero unnecessary euthanasia, should be considered in two years informed by more robust data.	Accepted.

Panel recommendation	Government response
New licensing scheme administered by the integrity commission	
<p>65. A new greyhound racing licensing scheme should be established to support improved animal welfare. The new scheme should apply to all industry participants, including breeders, owners (including syndicates), rearers, educators, trainers, greyhound assistants and trial track operators.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>66. The standard conditions of the new licensing scheme will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. mandatory education and training requirements b. compliance with the code of practice c. record keeping and reporting requirements d. the maximum number of dogs that can be kept by the licensee e. any other requirements as determined by the integrity commission. 	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>67. Several categories of some licence types should be available depending on the scope and scale of the industry participant's operations.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>68. Syndicates will be required to have an owner licence on which all members are listed but with a manager nominated to be primarily accountable for compliance. Managers and syndicate members should all be responsible for any penalty infringement notices for breaches of a licence.</p>	<p>Accepted with minor changes. The manager should have day to day responsibility for the greyhound. All syndicate members and managers should be responsible for compliance.</p>
<p>69. A condition on the breeder licence will be that a breeder is responsible for reporting every pup whelped and for the welfare of every pup whelped until ownership is transferred.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>70. Most industry participants should be required to complete training or demonstrate existing competency to obtain and maintain their licence.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
71. The commercial entity should be required to educate industry participants on the new regulatory scheme.	Accepted.
72. There should be a transition period to enable existing participants to complete education requirements under the new scheme.	Accepted.
Registration of all greyhounds administered by the integrity commission	
73. A new greyhound racing register should be established and managed by the integrity commission to capture the identity and whereabouts of all greyhounds throughout their lifecycle.	Accepted. Further work will be undertaken to establish the relationship between the greyhound racing register and the Companion Animals Register.
74. The greyhound racing register should be accessible by the RSPCA NSW, AWL NSW, Local Councils and NSW Police.	Accepted.
75. The greyhound racing register should include greyhounds that retire and are retained by an industry participant as a breeding dog or pet.	Accepted in principle. Further work will be undertaken to establish the relationship between the greyhound racing register and the Companion Animals Register.
76. The greyhound racing register should not include greyhounds that retire and are retained by non-industry participants. New owners will be responsible for registering these animals on the companion animals register.	Accepted in principle. Further work will be undertaken to establish the relationship between the greyhound racing register and the Companion Animals Register.
77. Greyhounds that are registered on the companion animal register should not be required to wear a muzzle.	Accepted in principle. The Office of Local Government, in conjunction with the Responsible Pet Ownership Reference Group, will develop a framework to transition away from the existing requirements for the muzzling of greyhounds.
78. The greyhound racing register should be updated by the licensed owner when the greyhound is rehomed or euthanised.	Accepted in principle. Information should be lawfully shared between persons responsible for the greyhound racing register and the Companion Animals Register so that there is visibility of a greyhound's whereabouts throughout its life.

Panel recommendation	Government response
Clear retention and rehoming requirements	
79. Owners of greyhounds should be principally responsible for the welfare of their greyhounds for their full natural life including ensuring their suitability to be rehomed at any stage of their lives.	Accepted.
80. Owners of greyhounds that have been assessed as rehomeable must prioritise the welfare of the greyhound and apply all reasonable endeavours to rehome the greyhound or personally retain the greyhound.	Accepted.
81. The commercial body rather than the integrity commission should have the responsibility of managing industry based rehoming programs.	<p>Accepted in principle.</p> <p>The integrity commission should monitor and report on the effectiveness of the rehoming program.</p> <p>Ex-racing greyhounds should be required to successfully complete a rehoming program as a precondition to entry on the Companion Animals Register.</p>
82. All rehoming programs administered or funded by the commercial body must use best practice to assess the compatibility of a greyhound with prospective owners before permanently rehoming them.	<p>Accepted with minor changes.</p> <p>The information should also be available to the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government, consistent with their obligations under the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i>.</p>
83. All rehoming programs administered or funded by the commercial body must track the outcomes of rehomed greyhounds as part of auditing requirements and make this information available to the integrity commission when requested.	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>This information about outcomes of rehomed greyhounds should be made available to the integrity commission, including euthanasia and surrender rates for rehomed greyhounds.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
Modest bond paid for all greyhounds bred for racing	
<p>84. Owners should be required to pay a modest upfront bond to the integrity commission no later than four months after whelping that is transferable with ownership. This should be paid by the breeder if they still own the greyhound at four months. This should be supplemented with annual payments, made by the person responsible for the greyhound, while the greyhound is registered with the integrity commission. Industry may develop a scheme to fund these payments.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>85. The bond and annual payments should be recoverable by the last person who has the care and control of the greyhound before it is rehomed or has been retired as a pet of an industry participant.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
Strict controls on euthanasia	
<p>86. Euthanasia can only be administered by a qualified veterinary surgeon who deems it to be in the greyhound's best interest, or by an owner in the circumstances prescribed under the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i>.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>
<p>87. Evidence of attempts to rehome the greyhound must be provided to the veterinarian when deciding if euthanasia is in the greyhound's best interest.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>
<p>88. If a qualified veterinary surgeon euthanises a greyhound on the basis of the owner's inability or unwillingness to care for the greyhound, or where the greyhound has been deemed unsuitable for rehoming based on behavioural issues, the veterinary surgeon must notify the integrity commission.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>
<p>89. The death of a greyhound must be reported to the integrity commission and accompanied by a certificate from a qualified veterinary surgeon outlining the circumstances of the death.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
Regulation of export of greyhounds	
<p>90. The NSW Government should advocate to the Commonwealth Government to regulate the export of greyhounds from Australia so that they can only be exported where the receiving country has appropriate animal welfare standards in place.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
Industry to introduce other measures to improve the bred to race ratio	
<p>91. The commercial entity should be required to report at agreed intervals to the integrity commission on the implementation and effectiveness of industry led measures to increase the bred to race ratio.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
Licensing of public and private trial and training tracks	
<p>92. The integrity commission should licence all public trial tracks.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>93. Private trial and training facilities that have a bull ring and/or a complete circular track and/or rail lure infrastructure should be licensed by the integrity commission and the licence should also authorise the use of this infrastructure at the facility.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>94. Public and private trial track managers should be licensed and all trial track facilities should only operate in the presence of a licensed trial track manager.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>95. Licensed private trial tracks should be available for use by other registered industry participants subject to signed agreements between the licensee and the participant being registered with the integrity commission.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>96. A veterinarian should be present at all public trial tracks when used for activities with a higher risk of injury based on a risk matrix to be developed by the integrity commission e.g. trialling multiple dogs in race like conditions.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>97. All trial track managers, including licensed private trial track managers, will be required to establish access agreements with veterinarians during trials where injuries occur during low risk activities.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>
<p>98. Public trial tracks should not be used or open for use for high risk activities that require a veterinarian to be present other than between the hours of one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset on any day without the permission of the integrity commission.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.</p>
<p>99. CCTV should be installed and recordings retained for a period determined by the Minister on the advice of the integrity commission for all public trial tracks and either:</p> <p>a. Option 1: for licensed private trial tracks as determined by the integrity commission; OR</p> <p>b. Option 2: for all licensed private trial tracks unless the integrity commission provides an exemption on application from a licensee.</p>	<p>Accept option one.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
Restrictions on keeping small animals at greyhound establishments	
<p>100. The keeping of small animals (dead or alive) that may reasonably be used as a lure should be banned in the rules of racing, where greyhounds are kept, trained and/or raced in one of two ways:</p> <p>Option 1: (supported by greyhound industry representative) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. no exemptions for rabbits and possums b. a very limited exemption for piglets where commercial production of pigs is the primary business of the property and this purpose co-existed with greyhounds prior to the requirement commencing – this exemption should only be granted on application by the industry participant to the integrity commission within three months of this requirement commencing and where there are strict controls in place for the separation of the greyhounds and piglets c. no exemptions at public trial tracks and race clubs d. deemed exemptions for other small animals on notification and verification by the integrity commission. <p>Option 2: (supported by RSPCA NSW) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. no exemptions for rabbits, piglets and possums b. no exemptions at public trial tracks and race clubs c. deemed exemptions for other small animals on notification and verification by the integrity commission. 	<p>Accepted option one.</p> <p>Any exemption granted by the integrity commission in accordance with option 1(b) would lapse where the relevant property changes hands or the ownership structure changes.</p>
<p>101. The integrity commission should have the authority to further limit exemptions for other small animals where it has evidence they are at risk of being used in live baiting.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>102. Restrictions on small animals being kept where greyhounds are present should be limited to industry-registered greyhounds.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
Improving track safety over time	
<p>103. Research already commissioned by GRNSW on track design and safety by the University of Technology Sydney should be completed and funded by the new commercial body.</p>	<p>Accepted. Additional research activities, such as chase motivation research that is being developed by the University of Sydney, should also be completed.</p>
<p>104. GRNSW should develop minimum track design and safety standards that support the safest form of racing which could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. requiring more straight track racing b. specifying the surface to be used at particular tracks c. reduced field sizes for some or all levels of racing on particular tracks d. requiring bigger one-turn tracks or tracks with bigger radius turns e. specifying race and lure design f. requirements for start positions, catching pens and finish on racing g. preferential draws for some or all levels of racing on particular tracks. 	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>105. These standards and a timeframe for implementation must be approved by the Integrity Commission, which will retain the capacity to intervene in track design and safety standards if they are not delivering appropriate animal welfare outcomes.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>106. A lifetime disqualification from participating as a licensed participant in the greyhound racing industry should apply for proven live baiting or any other serious animal cruelty offence.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>107. Section 530 of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> should be amended to deem live baiting as 'serious animal cruelty' for the purpose of that section.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>108. The live baiting offence in the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i> should be amended to address evidentiary difficulties in proving an animal used in baiting was alive when the offence occurred including establishing a definition for a dead animal that may have been used in baiting. This should exclude processed meats but include carcasses and unprocessed animal pieces.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle.</p> <p>This requirement should be limited to racing industry greyhounds and extended to places where greyhounds are kept and kennelled.</p>
<p>109. Section 530 of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> should be amended to introduce a new offence where a person recklessly commits a serious act of animal cruelty, with a maximum penalty of 3 years imprisonment.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>110. The <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> should be amended to enable a court to prohibit animals being kept on a property with greyhounds where the person has been found guilty of an animal cruelty offence, consistent with provisions in the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i>.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle.</p> <p>The <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> should be amended to enable a court to prohibit animals being kept by a person found guilty of an animal cruelty offence, consistent with provisions in the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i>.</p>
<p>111. The integrity commission's enabling legislation should include new offences, graduated penalties and penalty infringement notices for non-compliance with the new licensing, registration and greyhound industry animal welfare code requirements.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>Government notes control orders under the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> should continue to be imposed by a court and should not be an available remedy for breaches of licensing conditions under the regulatory regime. Each matter should be determined on its merits, however, multiple breaches could be considered as part of implementing graduated penalties.</p>
<p>112. The integrity commission should apply penalties proportionate to offences, including where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. an owner is repeatedly not able or unwilling to care for a greyhound for its natural life b. there is clear evidence a licensee is repeatedly producing dogs that are unable or unsuitable for racing or are unsuitable for rehoming. 	<p>Accepted in principle.</p> <p>These offences will relate to regulatory offences attracting disciplinary action by the integrity commission.</p>

Panel recommendation	Government response
113. Members of syndicates should be liable under the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> and the <i>POCTA Act 1979</i> only where those members had knowledge of an offence or failed to take reasonable steps to ensure that an offence did not occur.	Accepted in principle.
114. New penalties should apply for not updating the racing register as required.	Accepted.
115. A new criminal offence should apply to providing false and misleading information to the integrity commission.	Noted. The <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> already includes an offence for providing false and misleading information to public authorities.
116. The <i>POCTA Act 1979</i> should be harmonised with the rules of racing concerning the keeping of animals around greyhounds registered with the integrity commission.	Accepted.
A self-sustaining industry	
117. The commercial entity should consider structural and other reforms to improve the efficiency of the industry's commercial operations and better support improved animal welfare outcomes.	Accepted. The commercial entity should be required to publish a strategic plan and be required to report on initiatives and progress to improve operational and commercial efficiency and animal welfare outcomes.
118. Government should consider intervening to increase revenue to support the greyhound industry support the additional welfare, integrity and operational costs of the integrity commission and industry by: a. legislating to amend the Inter-Code Deed so distributions better reflect contribution to TAB turnover (should the industry be unable to agree to a revised arrangement); or b. revisiting the distribution of the tax harmonisation revenues.	Noted. The Government is providing \$41 million in transitional funding support. This comprises \$30 million to upgrade greyhound tracks to appropriate safety and animal welfare standards, and \$11 million in start-up and operational funding for the integrity commission.
119. An inter-agency project team should be established for up to six months to progress legislation and establish the new bodies.	Accepted.

Panel recommendation	Government response
<p>120. New legislation for the industry should be considered by Parliament in budget session 2017 with as many of its provisions as possible to commence by 1 July 2017.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>121. The commercial entity should be established as a statutory corporation with an operating licence and the integrity commission should be established by 1 July 2017 if possible.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>122. A statutory review of the new legislation should occur once the legislation has been in place for at least three years and include the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. improvements in animal welfare b. appropriateness of a target for unnecessary euthanasia c. adequacy of compliance and enforcement powers d. appropriateness of the terms of the operating licence e. effectiveness of penalties and offences f. funding and efficiency of the Commission g. impact on exports of greyhounds. 	<p>Accepted.</p>