

**WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2020**

## **COMMISSION CORRECTS THE PUBLIC RECORD**

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission is concerned that significant misinformation relating to the operation of the Commission has been circulated as part of discussion on the draft Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

Chief Commissioner, Alan Brown AM, said that it is troubling to hear that some people are seeking to spread information about the Commission and the draft Code of Practice that is either untrue or misleading.

“The Commission recently facilitated the public consultation process for a draft NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice which has been prepared as required by the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*,” Commissioner Brown said.

“The need for a new Code of Practice was one of the principal recommendations of the Lemma Reform Panel that was accepted by the NSW Government as a condition for the reversal of the ban on greyhound racing in NSW,” Commissioner Brown said.

“The Commission is facilitating the development of the NSW Government’s Code, which will ultimately be approved by the NSW Government, not the Commission.”

“The draft code was developed by the industry’s Animal Welfare Committee comprising industry representatives including GRNSW.”

“Once implemented it will ensure there are enforceable standards that protect the welfare of greyhounds and allow the industry to pass public scrutiny. This is vitally important to ensure the industry not only survives but can thrive” he said.

Another misconception being used to discredit the Commission is the suggestion that the welfare function costs the industry significantly more than when it was previously administered by GRNSW.

Here are the facts:

- In 2019, a review of the Commission’s total annual expenditure of \$15.7m for the 2018-19 financial year found it was a reasonable cost for the work the Commission was expected to carry out.
- The review also found that GRNSW’s expenditure on the same welfare functions (before they were taken over by GWIC) was found to be \$13.89m, not \$9 million as has been suggested.
- Almost 80% of the Commission’s budget goes towards supporting race day, integrity, compliance and industry support and education services.
- The annual costs of the Commissioners is \$325,000, not \$1million as has been suggested.

“Given that the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry determined that there was previously a substantial underspend on welfare in greyhound racing, this modest increase is appropriate,” Chief Commissioner Mr Brown said.

Finally, commentary suggesting that the Commission is an over-zealous regulator trying to shut the industry down by stealth, is contradicted by the following facts:



# MEDIA RELEASE

- Commission staff have been working tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 crisis to provide the necessary stewards, vets and others essential staff to keep the industry functioning.
- The Commission has introduced a number of online transactions making it quicker and easier for participants to comply with specific requirements.
- Earlier this year the Commission conducted a customer satisfaction survey of 399 anonymous participants which indicated a customer satisfaction score of 86%.

“These results tell me that the majority of the industry understands the true role of the Commission, we are here to secure a prosperous industry by improving welfare and integrity,” Chief Commissioner Brown said.

“The Commission respects the views of others and values constructive feedback. However, it is important to ensure that the information disseminated to both the industry and the wider community is factually accurate.”

The Commission will continue to correct the public record when inaccuracies are promoted as fact. A full set of responses to frequently misrepresented information can be found on the Commission’s website at [www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/truefacts](http://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/truefacts)

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