

TUESDAY 26 MAY 2020

Ellen Harris appointed as industry representative on Animal Welfare Committee

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has announced that Ellen Harris has been appointed as the industry representative on the Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee.

Chief Commissioner Alan Brown AM has welcomed Ms Harris to the role and extended his thanks to all who expressed an interest in joining the committee as the industry representative.

“Ellen has been a part of the greyhound racing industry for over ten years, holding managerial positions with the Greyhound Breeders, Owners & Trainers’ Association and the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club,” Chief Commissioner Brown said.

“Ellen brings with her a wealth of industry knowledge as well as an enthusiasm for continued improvement; she is well respected within the industry and I am confident she will be a positive voice for the industry and its commitment to animal welfare.”

“I would like to thank all who took the time to express an interest in joining the Committee, we had very strong candidates and I am sure there will be other opportunities for them to provide valuable contribution to industry reform in the future.”

The role of the industry representative is open to any greyhound racing industry participant or person who otherwise has knowledge and expertise about the industry. Ms Harris was assessed as meeting these requirements. She has been appointed for a two-year term.

“I would also like to acknowledge the previous industry representative, Mr Sandro Bechini, for his involvement in the committee throughout his term, in particular his contributions to the development of the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice,” Chief Commissioner Brown said.

The Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee was established in 2017 under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* with representation specified under section 33(2)

The committee is chaired by Dr Tanya Stephens, President of the Australian Veterinary Association’s Welfare and Ethics Group. In addition the Greyhound racing Act requires representation by the RSPCA NSW, currently represented by Ms Kathryn Jurd; the Public Service Chief Veterinary Officer or their nominated representative, currently, Ms Suzanne Robinson, Director of Animal Welfare at NSW Department of Primary Industries; a nominee of Greyhound Racing NSW, currently Dr Alicia Fuller and a representative of the greyhound racing industry, now Ms Harris.

Over the last two years the Committee has addressed strategies to reduce the incidence and severity of race-related injuries in greyhounds, animal welfare standards for special events such as the Million Dollar



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Chase, hydration policies, ear branding, rehoming programs, the socialisation of greyhound puppies to increase opportunities for rehoming, and the development of the Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

“The Commission looks forward to working with the Animal Welfare Committee on projects that will continue to secure a prosperous industry by improving welfare and integrity,” Chief Commissioner Brown said.

For more information on the Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee, visit the Commission's [website](#).

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