

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 5 September, 2018

Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission on the right track

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has been the independent regulator for greyhound racing in NSW since commencing operations on 1 July 2018.

The Commission's Chief Executive Officer, Judy Lind, said Commission staff managed a smooth transition of functions on 1 July and have been hard at work ever since.

"We delivered the new Re-homing Policy on 2 July and continue to develop the Code of Practice, and review the Rules of Racing," Ms Lind said.

The Commission is committed to being a fair, balanced and transparent regulator and has provided a clear mechanism to support this approach through the Internal Review Process, which allows participants aggrieved by a decision made by the Commission, to have that decision reviewed.

"Staff have been providing information and supporting participants so that they are compliant with the rules and understand the high animal welfare and integrity standards expected by the Commission."

"Our customer service hotline has received over 2200 calls and our support staff have registered 42 litters, 54 participants and retired 185 dogs," Ms Lind said.

Animal welfare remains one of the Commission's top priorities both on and off the track as the Commission continues to deliver on its promise to follow up on greyhounds identified as being at high risk of animal welfare breaches.

"55 concerns have been reported via our hotline and online form; this information has significantly contributed to investigations being managed by the Commission."

"We have had 90% compliance rate from the 100 kennel inspections completed so far, and follow-up on the non-compliant kennels has seen some good improvements."

Since 1 July, the Commission's stewards have successfully regulated 197 race meetings including 2,018 individual races, 165 performance trials, and taken 1,265 swabs.

"Our stewards have continued to issue sanctions at the track where appropriate; demonstrating our continued commitment to upholding the integrity of the sport."

While the Commission has been achieving its initial milestones, Ms Lind recognises that there is still a long way to go.



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"I continue to remind the industry to look out for one another, if you see anyone struggling or have a concern, please contact the Commission so we can intervene early and prevent a concern from becoming a serious welfare issue."

Anyone with a welfare or integrity concern relating to greyhound racing in NSW is encouraged to call the Customer Service Hotline 1800 951 755, or complete the online form available on the Commission's website www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/whispli

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