

Commissioners' Priorities 2020



The Commissioners meet weekly to make strategic, policy and operational decisions, with the assistance of the Chief Executive Officer and other Commission staff.

The following are just some of the key topics the Commissioners dealt with during 2020:

Strategic

- Examined alternative options for funding the cost of the Commission's operations
- Approved arrangements for the conduct of greyhound racing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Assisted with the development of the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice, and managed the consultation process with Government, industry stakeholders and the community for introduction of the Code from 1 January 2021
- Prepared a detailed submission to the statutory review of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*
- Established an expert panel to review guidelines for the management of serious injuries and euthanasia, and endorsed the implementation of its recommendations
- Prepared a submission to the Select Committee Inquiry established by the NSW Legislative Council
- Reviewed stewarding arrangements with expert assistance from Mr Ray Murrin, the former chief steward of Racing NSW
- Established the Greyhound Industry Participants Advisory Council (GIPAC) to provide a venue for direct consultation between GWIC and industry participants on matters of importance to the industry

Policy

- Improved policies regarding the stand-down period for injured greyhounds
- Enhanced policies regarding the conduct of swabbing processes
- Strengthened the Greyhound Rehoming Policy
- Introduced arrangements for the registration of greyhound trial tracks, including a new Trial Track Policy
- Sponsored amendments to legislation including the rollover of participant registrations, the waiver of registration fees and the continuation of the greyhound racing rules
- Considered and introduced a timeframe for implementing mandatory competency testing of industry participants

Operational matters

- Significant decisions on whether to grant applications for registration as a greyhound racing industry participant
- Significant decisions on whether to take disciplinary action against greyhound racing industry participants
- Decisions on applications for internal review of a decision made by an authorised Commission officer
- Monitored progress with implementing 122 recommendations by the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel
- Oversaw the Greyhound Register Reconciliation Program to validate the number and location of greyhounds
- Considered various customer satisfaction surveys with customer groups and implemented changes to enhance customer experiences.
- Considered the minimum age limit for registration as an attendant
- Examined arrangements for the registration and regulation of greyhound bookmakers
- Considered the findings of a report into kennel inspections conducted since 2018

Other

- Developed a business case for capital funding to develop and implement e-tracking technology
- Approved internal arrangements for how applications for registration are to be processed and determined
- Revised arrangements for decision-making on disciplinary and internal review matters
- Improved the structure of the Analysis of Greyhound Racing Injuries report, published quarterly
- Implemented recommendations by the Information and Privacy Commission following a desktop review of compliance with disclosure obligations under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- Reviewed internal processes for handling complaints and other requests
- Developed a fraud and corruption control framework
- Examined whether limitations should be imposed on a greyhound bitch having multiple litters