

Wednesday 26 February 2020

Commission contests unfair claims made by Sky News

The Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) rejects unfair claims made by Sky News Commentator, Peter Gleeson, that “The industry is being hounded and terrorised with reforms that are way over the top”.

In response to the claims made by Mr Gleeson, these are the facts:

Abandonment of Grafton Race Meeting

Mr Gleeson made assertions that the track at the Grafton race meeting on Monday 24 February 2020 was safe for racing. This was not the case. Abandonment of this race was done strictly in accordance with the [Protocol for track inspection and race abandonments](#) and in full consultation with Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) and local track curators.

Footage of the track conditions can be found [here](#).

The decision to abandon any race meetings is not taken lightly or made unilaterally, and is always made in full consultation with GRNSW and local track curators. While the disruption to participants is acknowledged and something that we hope to avoid, protecting the welfare of the greyhounds is always paramount.

Participants being driven from industry

“Despite the claim made by Mr Gleeson that the reforms are “driving people out of the industry”, records show that the industry is continuing to grow. In fact, 443 new participants were registered by the Commission in the period 1 July – 31 December 2019 highlighting that the greyhound racing industry in NSW remains a vibrant part of communities across the state”, Ms Lind says.

Industry terrorised with reforms that are way over the top

The Commission is regularly consulting with industry participants and stakeholders in areas right across NSW in relation to the state Government’s draft NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice. The Code was identified by the NSW Government’s Greyhound Industry Reform Panel as a key reform needed to drive long term improvements in animal welfare in the NSW greyhound racing industry.



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The draft Code has been developed by the Commission with the assistance of a number of stakeholders including the Animal Welfare Committee in which GRNSW is an industry representative.

Commission staff have attended 10 race meetings across NSW and held seven information sessions at clubs including Wagga Wagga, Lismore, Dubbo, Richmond, The Gardens, Nowra and Wentworth Park during February 2020. Through these sessions, the Commission has consulted directly with participants on what should be in the draft Code of Practice to ensure the draft prioritises the welfare of greyhounds, as well as supporting the long-term viability of the industry and its participants.

“No participant has suggested that Code of Practice reforms are ‘way over the top’ with the majority acknowledging the need for a Code to be developed to assist with sustainability of the industry”, Ms Lind says.

The Commission will continue to work with the industry to ensure NSW is leading the way in protecting the welfare of greyhounds and safeguarding the integrity of the industry.

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