

NSW LEADING THE WAY WHEN IT COMES TO GREYHOUND RACING WELFARE & INTEGRITY

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AHEAD of the pack – when it comes to the regulation of the greyhound industry, that is exactly how the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has been described.

That declaration of praise was made by Mr Graham Ashton, the head of the South Australian inquiry into their greyhound racing industry.

“They [GWIC] are, from what I can tell, ahead of the pack in terms of setting animal care conditions that are consistent with community expectations,” Mr Ashton said.

Since its establishment five years ago, the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has not only delivered on its mandate to establish greater oversight and enforcement of integrity and welfare standards in NSW, but it has earned a reputation as the pre-eminent leader within the global greyhound racing community.

It is something Mr Ashton recognised when drawing on the knowledge of GWIC as part of his inquiry process. He said the Commission was “important in providing a lot of expertise and contribution to the review”.

“I think they are the closest anywhere to setting industry standards that the community would accept and therefore I have brought a number of GWIC conditions across,” he said.

As indicated, many of the 57 recommendations made directly from Mr Ashton in his independent review were based on the standards set by GWIC.

In particular, Mr Ashton said that the Commission’s Code of Practice, which came into effect on 1 January 2021, contained animal welfare policies which Greyhound Racing South Australia should implement as part of governance reforms.

The acknowledgement of GWIC as an industry leader reaffirmed an opinion that the Commission’s Chief Commissioner, Mr Alby Taylor, already held.

“When I reflect on our journey, the Commission has spearheaded a number of major advances in greyhound welfare and integrity and established itself as a leading regulator in the sport,” Mr Taylor said.

“For example, the Commission’s world-first eTracking system accounts for every racing greyhound, while the greyhound welfare code of practice, race injury reduction strategies and new rehoming pathways are all proof that the industry puts the welfare of greyhounds as its highest priority.”

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