

**11 February 2025**

## **GWIC's commitment to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare and driving transformative change has been reinforced**

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission's commitment to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare and driving transformative change has been reinforced by penalties handed down to former industry participant Collin Wasson.

On 10 February at Wagga Local Court, Mr Wasson entered guilty pleas to two charges of offences under section 39 of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (NSW), for contravening standard 9.5 of the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

Standard 9.5 of the Code of Practice relates to unlawful euthanasia of greyhounds.

Mr Wasson was issued with a \$4,000 fine, an 18-month Community Corrections Order and a disqualification order prohibiting him from acquiring or possessing a dog for five years.

The Commission's pursuit of criminal charges followed on from the regulatory action taken against Mr Wasson in May 2024.

Mr Wasson was issued with a lifetime disqualification from greyhound racing by the Commission after he was found guilty of 16 offences, including arranging for another person to kill four of his greyhounds.

The lifetime disqualification prohibits Mr Wasson from holding a registration within the greyhound racing industry, attending race meetings, or engaging with other greyhound racing industry participants for the purpose of greyhound racing.

GWIC Commissioner Chris Wheeler welcomed the decision as it highlights how dedicated and serious the Commission is about reform.

*"The New South Wales greyhound racing industry has zero tolerance for this sort of atrocious behaviour, and we are pleased that this outcome very clearly underlines this position," Commissioner Wheeler said.*

*"We hope this outcome sends a very clear message of our intent to not only hold people accountable for their actions, but to continuously drive reform and help the industry towards a sustainable future."*

Commissioner Wheeler said whilst taking action in the Criminal Courts is reserved for only the most serious of matters, it underlines the Commission's intent to provide the strongest possible deterrence against offending.

*"This is a demonstration of the Commission's unwavering commitment to uphold the highest standards of animal welfare and integrity in our sport," Mr Wheeler said.*

*"Those who breach animal welfare standard have no place in the NSW greyhound racing industry and they will face harsh and severe, but appropriate, penalties. We make no apologies for that."*

oOo

### **Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission**

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission is the independent regulator for the greyhound industry in NSW. The Commission was established to promote and protect the welfare of greyhounds, safeguard the integrity of greyhound racing and maintain public confidence in the greyhound racing industry.