

The Hon David Harris MP

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing,
Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, Minister for the Central Coast



Ministerial Statement of Expectations issued to Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission

This statement outlines the NSW Government's expectations for the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC) to meet by the end of June 2026.

These expectations are primarily based on the report from the Inquiry under Part 8 of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (the **Act**) into Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) (**Inquiry**). The Inquiry, led by the Hon. Lea Drake as Acting Commissioner of GWIC, delivered a comprehensive report to Government on 31 July 2025 (Report). The statement forms part of the NSW Government's response to the Report (**Report**) and reform agenda to ensure the highest standards of governance, integrity and animal welfare in the greyhound racing industry.

This statement applies from the date of publication.

1 Enhanced reporting and transparency – greyhound rehoming

GWIC is expected to review, revise and publish definitions for use across its organisation, GRNSW and the broader greyhound industry, for the terms 'adoption' and 'rehoming', in addition to any other related terms as GWIC considers appropriate. In doing so, GWIC is to consider the relevant findings and recommendations of the Inquiry report. This includes that greyhounds should be recorded and reported as 'rehomed' only once they are adopted as a companion animal in a residential setting, with a new ongoing owner, who is a non-industry participant. The new ongoing owner must have accepted responsibility for the greyhound and be registered as the owner on the Companion Animals Register.

The Minister for Gaming and Racing will consider amendments to GRNSW's Operating Licence to apply any newly established definitions for use across the greyhound racing industry to GRNSW.

As part of improving welfare oversight and transparency on greyhounds transitioning out of the industry, GWIC is expected to:

- **review its greyhound rehoming reporting process:** to ensure greyhounds are only recorded and reported as 'rehomed' once they meet strict criteria associated with any newly established definitions
- **publish annual statistics:** in respect of the number of greyhounds that (pursuant to the definition of 'adoption'):
 - have been successfully adopted directly by industry participants to non-participants
 - have been successfully adopted via Greyhounds as Pets (**GAP**) program
 - are in the process of being adopted or awaiting adoption via the GAP program
 - have been returned after being initially adopted via one of the above pathways
 - have been provided to a third-party adoption agency, including another animal adoption or rescue organisation, for adoption¹.

¹ GWIC does not have jurisdiction to collect data from independent third-party rehoming organisations and is therefore expected to report on greyhounds provided to these organisations for adoption (e.g. by participants).

GWIC is expected to establish definitions, and review its reporting processes, as soon as practicable with a view to ensuring changes to reporting practices outlined above can take effect for FY2026-27 reporting onwards.

GIWC is also expected to:

- investigate options to enable reporting and publication of annual statistics on greyhounds successfully adopted via independent third-party adoption agencies, and
- report to the Minister with detailed advice on this matter by 30 June 2026, including advice about any systems and/or legislative changes proposed to allow this type of reporting.

2 Analysis concerning greyhound breeding

GWIC is expected to conduct initial analysis to inform and advise the Government concerning the Report's recommendation for the introduction of an annual maximum cap on the number of greyhounds whelped in NSW. The analysis should appropriately balance broader animal welfare with industry considerations. It may involve GWIC undertaking, or commissioning, relevant research to ensure its analysis is evidence-based, as well as GWIC meaningfully consulting with stakeholders.

In preparing its analysis, GWIC should have regard to the maximum number of greyhounds required to be whelped each year to support a sustainable racing industry, including these factors:

- the number of greyhounds:
 - already awaiting rehoming and capacity for them to be rehomed
 - able to be adopted annually
 - needed to responsibly sustain appropriate racing levels in NSW
- any relevant impacts that may arise from the Government response to the Report, including in relation to rehoming matters generally.

GWIC may also examine alternative approaches to a breeding cap to support sustainable breeding practices in the industry and prepare advice to the Minister on their respective merits, with any alternatives appropriately informed by the results of the above analysis and consultation.

GWIC is expected to report to the Minister with this analysis and advice by 30 June 2026.

3 Minimum standards for greyhound rehoming facilities

GWIC is expected to develop and issue detailed minimum standards for greyhound rehoming facilities such as the Londonderry GAP facility and other third-party facilities. Any standards should supplement the *NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No. 5 – Dogs and Cats in Boarding Establishment*, which already apply to these facilities.

As part of planning to introduce an approach to compliance and enforcement with the standards, GWIC is expected to develop a plan for conducting annual inspections and audits of all GAP facilities in close consultation with a qualified canine welfare scientist. Audit evaluations of GAP facilities should examine infrastructure, maintenance, enrichment, and staff-to-dog ratios. It is anticipated this plan would be enacted at a later stage, subject to the potential amendment of GRNSW's Operating Licence and consideration of the issuing of a Ministerial Direction to GWIC.

GWIC is expected to investigate the implications of potential legislative reforms to allow GWIC to conduct annual audits of other greyhound rehoming facilities run by third parties. In doing so, GWIC is to give regard to the potential resourcing and cost implications as well as the need to

mitigate possible unintended consequences. This includes examining whether an increased compliance burden may deter voluntary third-party participation in greyhound rehoming.

GWIC is expected to develop and issue the minimum standards, and report to the Minister on other matters above for consideration, by 30 June 2026.

4 Minimum standards for kennelling and long-term off-site care

GWIC is expected to develop and issue minimum welfare standards for greyhound kennelling facilities and long-term off-site care arrangements, including ‘farm-stay’ programs as part of best practice guidance. In doing so, GWIC is to consider:

- the need to engage a qualified animal welfare scientist to develop the standards, and
- whether such standards should be informed by the Five Domains model, with particular emphasis on mental wellbeing, behavioural needs, environmental enrichment and opportunities for agency and natural behaviours.

GWIC is expected to investigate the implications of potential legislative reforms to allow GWIC to conduct annual audits of long-term kennelling facilities, including assessment against the minimum standards.

GWIC is expected to develop and issue the minimum standards, and report to the Minister on other matters for consideration, by 30 June 2026.

5 Oversight of greyhound deaths

GWIC is expected to investigate and prepare advice concerning how it could obtain autopsies for greyhound deaths under GAP’s care to determine the cause of death if the greyhound died a sudden death (with cause of death unknown) and/or the greyhound died under suspicious or unusual circumstances.

Amendments to GRNSW’s Operating Licence will be considered to facilitate processes for GWIC to obtain autopsies in these circumstances, and to ensure any related recommendations from GWIC in response to autopsies obtained are actionable.

GWIC is expected to report to the Minister with advice concerning this matter as part of the consideration of Operating Licence amendments, by 30 June 2026.

6 Additional measures for greyhound safety and welfare

GWIC is expected to introduce measures to ensure the protection of greyhound safety and welfare on-track and in-between races. This includes:

- enhancing use of its electronic records systems and processes to ensure they are effective in enabling on-track veterinarians (OTVs) to access greyhounds’ racing records (including records of previous injuries) when conducting pre-race checks in the exam room
- ensuring by 30 June 2026 that rules in NSW for minimum recovery time for all greyhounds between races have been based on expert advice from appropriately qualified veterinarians
- giving due and proper consideration to the lowering of the maximum racing temperature and amending the GWIC Hot Weather Policy, informed by relevant research
- monitoring veterinary medical research findings and updating hot weather and recovery time policies accordingly, on an annual basis at minimum.

GWIC is expected to report to the Minister on its progress in relation to implementing the above measures by 30 June 2026.

7 Track safety reporting

GWIC is expected to publish reporting on catastrophic injuries (per track), in a manner that clearly identifies the number and rate of lethal and non-lethal serious injuries (per track) over each quarter, and annually.

This reporting is to be publicly available and include the most recent snapshot for each track, with information on the historical rates of injury and a trajectory of reported injuries over time.

GWIC is expected to implement this measure by 30 June 2026.

8 Injury reporting

GWIC is expected to develop a plan to enhance reporting on serious injuries and outcomes that:

- identifies measures to improve the transparency of reporting on serious race injuries to better inform the deliberations of the Race Injury Review Panel
- ensures deaths and euthanasia performed off-track, which can be directly attributed to a race injury and occur within a relevant period (such as the standdown period following injury), are appropriately accounted for in its public reporting of injury outcomes.

GWIC is expected to report to the Minister on its enhanced reporting plan by 30 June 2026.

9 Review of greyhound euthanasia matters

GWIC is expected to review certain matters relating to greyhound euthanasia to ensure its ongoing proper use on the grounds of medical or safety reasons and prevent potential abuse or misuse, including:

- undertaking a review of its Greyhound Rehoming Policy, with consideration given to the circumstances where euthanasia of a registered greyhound is accepted and any relevant factors identified in the Inquiry report for further limiting greyhound euthanasia.
- in consultation with GRNSW, examining the Greyhound Care Scheme to consider its long-term effectiveness, with an annual review and analysis of both on-track and off-track euthanasia for racing injuries to identify euthanasia trends (as distinct from on-track euthanasia only).

GWIC is expected to report to the Minister on its progress in addressing the above matters by 30 June 2026, including its review plans.

10 Consideration of historical matters in examining suitability to be registered

GWIC is expected, in exercising its registration functions, to adopt a comprehensive approach to determining whether a person is a fit and proper person to be, or to and remain, registered as an industry participant. This includes taking into account historical conduct that occurred prior to GWIC's establishment.

The Hon. David Harris MP
Minister for Gaming and Racing

9 December 2025