

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick to the Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing:

Animal Welfare – Greyhound Industry

The NT Racing Commission investigated the Darwin Greyhound Association and industry in 2021 and a report was released on the 20th July 2021.

- 1. Has work started on the implementation plan and if not, why not? If work has commenced, what agencies are involved and what work has been undertaken? Will the plan become a public document?**

Significant progress has been made in relation to the implementation plan. Licensing NT, within the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (Department), Racing Commission (Commission) and the Darwin Greyhound Association (DGA) are on track to ensure these measures are implemented in a reasonable timeframe.

The plan will be made public in due course.

- 2. Has a secretary of the association been appointed?**

Yes.

- 3. Has a service plan been developed and if not, why? If a service plan has been developed, has it been implemented?**

The DGA have a 12 month variable funding agreement which does not require a service plan.

- 4. Have any of the association's management committee members and the operations manager completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course and if not, when will participation occur? Is the NT government paying for the course fees?**

This is a question for the DGA.

It is not a Government requirement.

5. Has the Government implemented Greyhounds Australia's 'Greyhound Welfare Strategy' and if not when will to be undertaken?

The Greyhounds Australia's 'Greyhound Welfare Strategy' forms part of the implementation plan and is well underway.

6. Has the code of practice for keeping racing greyhounds been developed and if work has commenced, what Government agencies are involved and what industry people or groups?

A draft Welfare Code of Practice has been developed and provided to the Racing Commission, the NT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), the Department's Animal Welfare Unit, greyhound rehoming organisations in the NT, and industry participants. The Code will be considered at the Commission's next meeting in March 2022, where it is expected to be adopted.

7. Has the Racing Commission engaged with the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee on any aspects of the implementation plan? Who is involved and what work has been undertaken?

Yes. As above.

8. How frequently do Government officials visit and inspect the kennels for racing greyhounds? Have there been any reports submitted on the kennels any breach of good animal welfare conditions?

Stewards appointed by the Commission, have conducted kennel inspections of all licensed participants and will do so every 6 months. There were no welfare concerns identified in the latest kennel inspections undertaken.

In addition, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade's Animal Welfare Branch are now working closely with Licensing NT to monitor animal welfare standards within the industry.

9. How many stewards have been appointed by the NT Government and what is the term of office?

Five. The appointments are not for a fixed period.

10. The report recommends amendments to the Racing and Betting Act and the Animal Welfare Act – when will amendments be presented to parliament?

A review of the *Racing and Betting Act 1983* is currently being undertaken.

The Animal Protection Act 2018 does not fall under the Racing, Gaming & Licensing portfolio.

11. Have meetings been held between NT Government agencies, PAWS and the rehoming association in regards to development of a Territory wide rehoming programme funded by industry? How many meetings have been held and will the new programme be ready to commence by July 2022?

One meeting between rehoming organisations, the Commission, DGA and the Department have been held, with more scheduled for the future.

12. Has work commenced on the development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Racing Commission, the greyhound industry and NT Government animal welfare agency and if not, why not? Will the MOU be a public document?

This is a question for the Racing Commission.

13. What is the NT Government's intended annual rehoming target for greyhounds?

Where possible, all racing greyhounds in the NT should find a suitable home upon the completion of their racing career.

14. Does the NT Government intend to adopt a zero euthanasia target for greyhounds?

The NT Government and Commission are of the belief that euthanasia of greyhounds should only be carried out for serious medical and behavioral reasons by a qualified veterinarian.