

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Chair

GREYHOUND WELFARE WORKING GROUP

I refer to the letter from the Hon Reece Whitby MLA, former Minister for Racing and Gaming, dated 7 March 2023 regarding Petition No. 064 – Ban Greyhound Racing in WA.

It has come to my attention that the letter contained incorrect information regarding the status of the Greyhound Welfare Working Group (GWWG). The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) was responsible for drafting the response on behalf of Minister Whitby.

On behalf of the DLGSC, please accept my apologies for providing incorrect information regarding the status of the GWWG.

I instructed my staff to conduct a review of the matter, and I am informed that the staff member responsible for drafting the response had relied on outdated information that suggested the GWWG was still operational.

Further, Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) have provided the following information regarding the status of the GWWG:

- The Minister for Racing and Gaming and Lisa Baker MLA, Member for Maylands, established the GWWG in 2017, which was facilitated by RWWA as the principal racing authority in the State.
- The GWWG consisted of representatives from Free the Hounds, Greyhound Adoptions WA, Greyhound Angels of WA, RSPCA, WA Greyhound Racing Association, the WA Greyhound, Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association, Ms Lisa Baker MLA, representatives from the Minister for Racing and Gaming's office, and RWWA.
- Following substantial discussions regarding the achievements of the GWWG and the progress of specific projects, in 2019 it was agreed to disband the GWWG.

- The GWWG achieved some significant improvements to welfare standards across several key areas, including:
 - A review of the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds, with participation from welfare experts and advocacy groups to include the highest standards of welfare.
 - The development of a joint Foster Carer Workshop to support those involved in fostering retired racing greyhounds.
 - Additional funding secured to support another greyhound rehoming group to assist with veterinary care and rehoming expenses.
 - The Track Injury Rebate Scheme was commenced, and valuable feedback was provided through the working group leading to a further expansion of the scheme.
 - The long-term publication of stewards reports on RWWA's website to improve transparency.
 - Provision of extensive industry data by RWWA in annual and other corporate reports.

If you have further questions on this matter, please contact Jennifer Shelton, Executive Director - Racing, Gaming and Liquor, on (08) 6552 7606.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lanie Chopping', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lanie Chopping
Director General

2 February 2024