



Submission on the Racing Industry (Closure of Greyhound Racing Industry) Amendment Bill



**Prepared by the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds
January 2026**

We acknowledge the traditional owners of Country across Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the role Elders play in maintaining connection to Country, culture and community.

End greyhound suffering



About the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds

The Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG) is a not-for-profit committed to ending greyhound suffering by exposing the cruelty and corruption of the greyhound racing industry and lobbying for law reform. We have members across Australia.

We call on Australia's state governments to:

End taxpayer funding. A national survey on attitudes towards dog racing revealed that 69% of Australians oppose the use of taxpayer funds to prop up the greyhound racing industry. State and territory governments must listen to their constituents and stop diverting funds from education, healthcare and employment programs to support this archaic and callous industry.

Stop unsustainable breeding. The greyhound racing industry breeds many more dogs than can be rehomed. Caps on breeding must be introduced to ensure that all dogs bred by the industry are able to live out their lives as pets at the end of their racing career.

Implement whole-of-life tracking. Greyhounds in the racing industry are vulnerable to unnecessary euthanasia, particularly those puppies who do not race and dogs who are rehomed by industry participants. A system must be implemented to monitor the welfare of each greyhound for their entire life.

Establish independent regulators in all jurisdictions. Most jurisdictions rely on self-regulation by the industry, which has been shown again and again to be corrupted by conflicts of interest. Governments benefiting from betting tax revenue must establish independent regulators that prioritise the welfare of greyhounds.

Stop building new tracks. Attempts by the industry to build 'safe' tracks have failed. The evidence shows that greyhounds continue to be injured and killed on all track designs currently in operation, including straight tracks. There is no such thing as a safe dog racing track.

End greyhound racing countrywide. The above reforms will improve animal welfare, but will not eliminate the death, injuries and suffering of greyhounds as a result of greyhound racing. There is no such thing as a safe greyhound racing track. We call on all governments to end greyhound racing, ensure that all greyhounds go to safe, loving homes, provide a transition package for workers exiting the sector, and transition all tracks to public land for sports fields, parks or housing.



Executive summary

CPG appreciates the opportunity to support the New Zealand Government's Racing Industry (Closure of Greyhound Racing Industry) Amendment Bill. In our submission, we provide the following information for consideration by the Primary Production Committee:

- 75% of New Zealanders support the shutdown of greyhound racing:
 - Similar public sentiments have led to the shut down of greyhound racing in most countries/jurisdictions that formerly allowed it.
 - Jurisdictions in the United Kingdom and Australia are implementing similar bans.
- Safe greyhound racing tracks do not exist, irrespective of their design or expense:
 - Evidence from Australian straight or single turn tracks is unambiguous: greyhounds continue to die and be injured.
 - Australian greyhound racing tracks upgraded at great expense have continued to kill and injure greyhounds.
- Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) continues to mislead the New Zealand Government on greyhound racing deaths and injuries:
 - By calculating injury and death rates using total starters (34,303), GRNZ has artificially deflated injury and death rates by a factor of 22.
 - Recalculating GRNZ data using the number of unique greyhounds that started one or more races in 2024-25 (1,544) shows that:
 - almost 50% of racing greyhounds were injured in that year
 - almost 1 in every 100 racing greyhounds died at a racetrack.
- Further amendments to relevant New Zealand legislation would prevent export of greyhounds, or their reproductive material, to countries where greyhound racing continues.
- Further amendments to relevant New Zealand legislation would prevent personal and societal harms resulting from gambling on international greyhound races.



Evidence in support of shutting down the New Zealand greyhound racing industry

The majority of New Zealanders support the shut down

An independent survey commissioned by the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) showed that about 75% of New Zealanders would vote to ban commercial greyhound racing if the decision was put to a public referendum.¹

Similar results were found in Australia. An independently commissioned survey found the majority of Tasmanians (74%) supported the phrase out of greyhound racing in that state.² Most recently, an in-depth voter survey commissioned by Free the Hounds and GREY2K USA Worldwide found 60% of Western Australians want the WA Parliament to phase out dog racing.³ A survey commissioned by CPG and GREY2K USA Worldwide found that nearly 60% of Australians supported a ban on greyhound racing.⁴ This reflects a global loss of social licence for this brutal gambling activity, with it being banned in almost all US States (including Florida, the home of greyhound racing), and bans are being planned in the United Kingdom.

By continuing to allow greyhound racing, the New Zealand Government would be supporting a dying industry, which domestically and internationally has lost its social licence. **New Zealand would become increasingly isolated as one of the few jurisdictions that supports this cruel and wasteful gambling activity.**

There is no such thing as a safe greyhound racing track

GRNZ's Annual Reports show that greyhounds continue to die and suffer injuries on New Zealand racetracks. Despite promises from GRNZ and the industry to address welfare concerns, the 2024-25 financial year saw a high number of greyhounds die and be injured.⁵ There can therefore be no trust in the industry's assurances that they will stop or reduce track deaths and injuries.

¹ <https://www.sPCA.nz/advocacy/news/article/greyhound-survey-results>

² https://www.emrs.com.au/sites/default/files/documents/202508-01_Pre-Parliament_Poll_Greyhound_Forestry.pdf

³ <https://www.freethedogs.com.au/wa-survey-on-dog-racing/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1767924914350950&usg=AOvVaw0WNYmHsBrkskhrME9fk6aQ>

⁴ <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/greyhound-racing-survey/>

⁵ <https://www.sPCA.nz/advocacy/news/article/end-of-season-greyhound-racing>



In their 2024-25 Annual Report, GRNZ states that should the proposed shut down of the industry be avoided, more straight tracks and single turn tracks will be built as a welfare measure. Data from Australian greyhound racing tracks show clearly that it doesn't matter how many millions of dollars are spent on upgrading, or building new, greyhound race tracks, they will continue to kill and maim greyhounds. CPG provides a number of examples for the Primary Production Committee's consideration.

The reality of straight tracks

While straight tracks are somewhat safer than curved tracks, straight tracks are still dangerous, with dogs running at up to 70kmh, bumping into each other, stumbling on the surface, and suffering injuries and deaths. Some of the most distressing racing scenes in recent years have occurred on straight tracks.

The Australian racing industry knows that straight tracks are somewhat safer than turn tracks, but have never replaced a turn track with a straight track. Instead, straight tracks are built to provide a 'product differentiation' to the gambling market and to race young dogs and old dogs that would struggle on tracks with turns.

The following data shows deaths and injuries for Australian straight tracks, compiled by CPG from official stewards reports for the period 2020 - October 2025:

Track	On-track deaths	Total injuries	Category D injuries*
Capalaba QLD	8	943	44
Q Straight QLD	0	101	6
Murray Bridge Straight SA	2	435	101
Richmond Straight NSW	5	513	106
Healesville VIC	7	1764	319
TOTAL	22	3756	576

* Category D injuries are the most serious, causing the subsequent deaths of many dogs

TABLE 1
Straight tracks - track deaths and injuries, 2020-2025



The failure of new-build racetracks

The Australian greyhound racing industry consistently promises safe new tracks but once built, often with public funds, these tracks still kill and injure greyhounds.

Two recent examples highlight that all racetracks are harmful to greyhounds: The Q in Queensland, and the Traralgon track in Victoria.

The Q, Queensland

The Q is a three-track greyhound racing centre near Brisbane in Queensland. It is the world's most expensive and supposedly advanced greyhound racing complex, and opened with trials in March 2025. The Racing Queensland CEO promoted The Q as being "*designed with animal welfare at its core*", already "*the envy of greyhound racing jurisdictions across Australia and the world*". The Q's original budget of \$39m blew out to \$90m, with at least \$44m coming from public funds.

Alarming, The Q has become Australia's deadliest racing centre. At least 21 greyhounds have died after racing at The Q, with more than 600 injured.

The \$1m Brisbane Cup, "*one of the world's richest and most prestigious races*", had to be abandoned in July 2025 due to the dangerous track surface.⁶

The Q Straight track was heavily criticised by trainers and owners after opening on 26 June 2025, with one veteran participant writing on an online racing participant forum: "*I just watched my first straight track race at Q. I feel like Im in a nightmare and my brain is trying to tell me that didnt just happen ! I have never seen a more stupid design in all my life , its the wrong equipment being used for **** sake . How does this **** even get passed when its at blue print stage ?I seriously cannot believe what I just witnessed.*"

Traralgon, Victoria

The \$7.6m Traralgon track opened in 2022 with \$3m coming from public funds. It used a "*state-of-the-art*" J-curve layout designed by Professor David Eager and University of Technology Sydney, with the "*highest of safety and animal welfare standards*" and "*designed to optimise racing safety from the ground up.*"

The Traralgon track was closed in July 2024 after 14 on-track deaths and more than 1,000 injuries.⁷

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<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-11/racing-cancelled-again-the-q-unsuitable-track/105519924>

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<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-13/traralgon-greyhound-racetrack-injuries-calls-for-suspension/101959436>



Attempts by the Australian greyhound racing industry to build 'safe' tracks have failed. The evidence shows that greyhounds continue to be injured and killed on all track designs currently in operation, including straight tracks. **There is no reason to believe that building such tracks in New Zealand will have a better outcome for greyhounds.**

GRNZ continues to provide misleading track death and injury data

A common practice that Australian greyhound racing industry bodies apply to hide the real track death and injury rates is to present these rates as a proportion of total number of starters. Given that almost all racing greyhounds race many times in one reporting period, this produces artificially low death and injury rates. The real rate should be calculated by using the number of individual greyhounds that raced in the reporting period.

GRNZ reports injury statistics in their annual reports based on the severity of the injury. The statistics are reported as a percentage of the total *starts* in a given year. This is misleading as it does not paint the full picture of an individual dog's likelihood of injury. For example, in the 2024-25 GRNZ Annual Report,⁸ the injury rates are reported as a percentage of total starters. CPG had to source the number of unique greyhounds racing in New Zealand during 2024-25 from the Racing Integrity Board 2024-25 Annual Report, because GRNZ did not publish this information.

By using the total number of starters, GRNZ artificially greatly reduces the death and injury rates. In 2024-25 there were 1,544 unique greyhounds⁹ that started a race 34,303 times – on average more than 22 races per dog. The more times a dog races, the higher the chance of an injury.

Recalculating the GRNZ data using the number of unique racing dogs yields the following injury rates:

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https://www.rwwa.com.au/docs/rwwalibraries/default-document-library/rwwa-annual-report-2024---2025.pdf?sfvrsn=a26d08bc_1

⁹ <https://racingintegrityboard.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/RIB-Annual-Report-2025.pdf>



Injury category*	Total number of incidents*	Incident rate/1,000 starters*	Incident rate/1,000 unique dogs
Minor 1-10 days	338	9.9	219
Medium 11-21 days	179	5.2	116
Major I 22-42 days	125	3.6	81
Major II >42 days	117	3.4	76
Euthanised track injury	9	0.3	6
Medical event after race	5	0.1	3

* Data taken from GRNZ 2024-25 Annual Report, which also contains a definition of the injury categories.

TABLE 2
Recalculation of injury rates

This analysis shows that **almost half (49.2%) of greyhounds that raced in New Zealand during 2024-25 were injured**. CPG accepts that this figure could be affected by greyhounds that were injured more than once (ie each instance of a greyhound that was injured in more than one race in 2024-25 reduces the total number of injured dogs), but data to assess this is not published by GRNZ. Nevertheless, **the injury rate per unique dog that raced in 2024-25 was about 22 times higher than that reported by GRNZ**.

Especially horrifying is the statistic that **nearly 1 in every hundred (0.8%) greyhounds that raced in New Zealand during 2024-25 died on track as a result of their injuries or post-race medical episodes**. No wonder GRNZ wanted to hide this information.

Recommendation 1

CPG strongly supports the New Zealand Government's Racing Industry (Closure of Greyhound Racing Industry) Amendment Bill in full.



Further amendments for consideration

Amend relevant legislation to prohibit the export of greyhounds, or their reproductive material

As greyhound racing is allowed to continue in other countries, including in some Australian states and territories, there will be incentive for owners of New Zealand ex-racers and their offspring to sell their dogs, or their reproductive material, to those jurisdictions. Even worse would be selling these to countries where illegal greyhound racing takes place. This would permit the shifting offshore of welfare concerns and cruelty against greyhounds.

Recommendation 2

Amend relevant New Zealand legislation to prohibit the export of greyhounds and their reproductive material.

Amend relevant legislation to prohibit betting on international greyhound racing

Greyhound racing exists solely for the purpose of gambling, which causes immense personal and societal harms. Shutting down the greyhound racing industry will lead to New Zealanders who have developed a greyhound racing gambling addiction to look elsewhere. Online gambling companies will no doubt look to continue raising revenue from New Zealand gamblers and offer bets on greyhound racing elsewhere in the world. To ensure that these harms are minimised, relevant New Zealand laws should be amended to prohibit gambling on greyhound racing anywhere in the world.

Recommendation 3

Amend relevant New Zealand legislation to prohibit gambling on overseas greyhound races.