

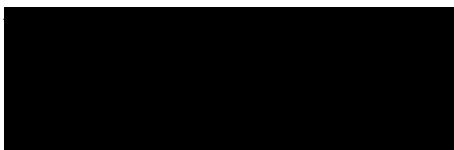


MICK GENTLEMAN MLA

-7 SEP 2016

Minister for Planning and Land Management
 Minister for Racing and Gaming
 Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
 Manager of Government Business

Member for Brindabella



Dear 

Thank you for your letters about not supporting the ending of greyhound racing in the ACT. I am responding on behalf of Government.

As you will know on 7 July 2016 the outcomes of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the NSW greyhound racing industry were released. The result was the passage of legislation which prohibits the breeding or keeping of greyhounds in NSW for racing in or outside NSW on and from 1 July 2017. The Government is concerned by the findings of the Inquiry and is investigating the implications for the ACT industry, and the impact of the closure of the industry in NSW.

I have received numerous emails and letters of support of ending greyhound racing in the ACT. I have also met with representatives from the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club, who have expressed their concerns. The issue is, clearly, of significant interest not only to the participants in the ACT racing industry, but also to the community in general.

We are currently considering the Special Inquiry Report and the NSW program of reform ahead of a review we will be undertaking into the Memorandum of Understanding the government has entered into with the ACT racing industry. This review is due as the MOU is due to expire at the end of June 2017. This work will guide a decision about the future of greyhound racing locally, noting that most participants actually reside in NSW.

In relation to the issue of legislative and procedural fairness, I can assure you that whatever the outcome is for greyhound racing in the ACT, stemming from the review of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government will act consistently with any legal requirements, noting that any closure of the industry in the ACT, as in NSW, may require legislative amendment.

I thank you once again for taking your time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Mick Gentleman MLA
 Minister for Racing and Gaming

6/9/16

Cross, Narelle

From: Cross, Narelle
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 4:32 PM
To: MACC
Cc: Bogiatzis, Patti; Morgan, Anneliese; McDonald, Helen; Pirani, Yuka
Subject: FOR INFO: BM16/2165 Response to letters in support of the Canberra Greyhound Racing Industry [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: GOVERNMENT COORDINATION - Advice - Response to letters in support of the....pdf;
 GOVERNMENT COORDINATION - Advice - Response to letters in support of the....tr5

Hi All

Just closing the loop on this. Minister Gentleman's Chief of Staff spoke to Simon Tennent and Brett Monger this morning and requested each letter from the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club Members be responded to individually. I understand SPD is working on this request.

Kind Regards

Narelle Cross | Directorate Liaison Officer - Economic Development | 02 6205 5527 Office of Minister Berry - Minister for Sport and Recreation | Office of Minister Bourke - Minister for Small Business and the Arts | Office of Minister Gentleman - Minister for Racing and Gaming Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government PO Box 1020 Canberra City ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

From: Cross, Narelle
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 10:41 AM
To: MACC
Cc: Bogiatzis, Patti; Morgan, Anneliese; Tennent, Simon; McDonald, Helen; Monger, Brett; Pirani, Yuka
Subject: FOR AMENDMENT: BM16/2165 Response to letters in support of the Canberra Greyhound Racing Industry [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Patti

Please return BM16/2165 to SPD for amendment following receipt of further correspondence from the CGRC at the meeting on 23 August 2016 (attached and on TRIM). Please note BM16/2165 was not provided to CGRC at their meeting on 23 August 2016. Please update TRIM accordingly.

Thank you

Kind Regards

Narelle Cross | Directorate Liaison Officer - Economic Development | 02 6205 5527 Office of Minister Berry - Minister for Sport and Recreation | Office of Minister Bourke - Minister for Small Business and the Arts | Office of Minister Gentleman - Minister for Racing and Gaming Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government PO Box 1020 Canberra City ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

From: Clarke, Jason
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 9:38 AM
To: Cross, Narelle
Cc: Dawes, David
Subject: FW: Message from "LAB00L02P11"

Hi Narelle,

This is the document given to us by CGRC yesterday. I have had to reduce the size and quality to get it small enough to scan. Sorry!

Simon Tennant took 3 copies with him so the directorate do have it in physical form.

Ta!

Jason Clarke
Senior Advisor

Advisor for Work Safety and Industrial Relations Advisor for Gaming and Racing Office of Mick Gentleman MLA
Member for Brindabella

t: 620 54513

m: 0449 679 611

e: jason.clarke@act.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

From: LAB00L02P11@act.gov.au [<mailto:LAB00L02P11@act.gov.au>]

Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 9:21 AM

To: Clarke, Jason

Subject: Message from "LAB00L02P11"

This E-mail was sent from "LAB00L02P11" (MP C4503).

Scan Date: 08.24.2016 09:20:44 (+1000)

Queries to: LAB00L02P11@act.gov.au

Orubuloye, Chris

From: Bron, Benjamin on behalf of BARR
Sent: Tuesday, 12 July 2016 10:51 AM
To: CMTEDD MLO
Cc: Cook, Michael
Subject: FW: Thank you for putting animal welfare first

For response please.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 July 2016 3:53 PM
To: manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au; BARR
Cc: martin.pakula@parliament.vic.gov.au; brisbane.central@parliament.qld.gov.au;
mawson@parliament.sa.gov.au; minister.day@dpc.wa.gov.au
Subject: Thank you for putting animal welfare first

Dear Premier Baird & Minister Barr

I am writing on behalf of [REDACTED] to thank you for putting animal welfare first-it is extremely rare that this occurs & is truly a red letter day.

Thank you for the following:

- conducting a thorough investigation
- taking appropriate action in the wake of these findings & -turning over greyhound racing tracks for community use

[REDACTED] & it is disappointing to see that in the wake of your decision, Vic, QLD, SA & WA have announced that they will not be following your lead. In SA [REDACTED] continue to have jumps racing & greyhound racing to our bitter disappointment.

There is a saying along the lines of Don't ask the question if you won't like the answer.

The other states who have vowed ongoing support for the greyhound racing industry haven't wanted to confirm the truths that are widely known about this industry because they don't want to be faced with the prospect of having to take meaningful action, such as you both have done.

Banning the industry is the only meaningful action. Predictably the papers are bleating about loss of livelihoods. Should those livelihoods come at the expense of animal welfare? In your report it stated that anywhere between 49,000-68,000 greyhounds have been disposed of during a 12 year period. If you use the lower figure of 49,000 dogs this equates to 4,083 deaths pa or 11 dogs for every day across a year. If you use the higher figure of 68,000 dogs, this equates to 5,666 deaths pa or 15 dogs for every day of the year.

When Australia banned whaling, because it was morally wrong, those workers had to retrain & find other livelihoods, as do many in the manufacturing industry today. So why can't people in the greyhound racing industry retrain & find other livelihoods that don't involve animal cruelty / mass deaths?

How other states can ignore the truths & the statistics are beyond us. The industry talks up their integrity units & their greyhound adoption programs.

The 4 Corners report captured an ex integrity officer participating in the live baiting scandal in Victoria & the adoption programs rehome only a tiny proportion of retired dogs.

All in all, the greyhound racing industry is grubby at best & your investigation uncovered that live baiting continued after the scandal came to light. This industry has

had decades to clean up its act & whilst there are people who do the right thing, there will ALWAYS be those who don't / won't.

The other ministers who have claimed support for greyhound racing should be obtaining your report & actually reading it before throwing their support behind this industry. It is sad that the wagering & greyhound racing industries have such a hold on the other state governments not to mention the gambling revenue those governments are addicted to-it is quite a conflict of interest, which is why they won't ban it.

Converting the racing tracks for community use is a wonderful idea & a greater number of people will benefit from the use of these venues, GH racing is not widely supported morally or in attendances.

Once again, thank you for making this decision-one of the few where ethics has triumphed over vested interests.

Kindest regards



ANDREW BARR MLA
 CHIEF MINISTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Treasurer
 Minister for Economic Development
 Minister for Urban Renewal
 Minister for Tourism and Events

EMAILED
 5/9/16

Member for Molonglo

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email in support of ending greyhound racing in the Australian Capital Territory.

The numerous emails and letters of support I have received since my response to the release of the findings from the Special Commission of Inquiry into the NSW greyhound racing industry, demonstrates that the Canberra community takes animal welfare matters seriously.

As you may be aware, the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club has a reciprocal arrangement with Greyhound Racing NSW to license all ACT trainers and to investigate matters relevant to ACT racing, therefore the shutdown of the NSW greyhound industry would effectively end the greyhound industry in Canberra.

As required by law, we are currently formally considering the Special Inquiry Report and the NSW program of reform alongside the review we will be undertaking into the Memorandum of Understanding with the ACT Racing Industry.

The ACT Government and I care deeply about ensuring the safety and welfare of all animals, including those that are part of our racing industry. Discussions about the future of greyhound racing in the ACT will consider both the promotion of animal welfare and support of industry participants.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
 Phone + 61 2 6205 0011 Fax + 61 2 6205 0157 Email barr@act.gov.au



@ABarrMLA

Andrew.Barr.MLA

andrewbarr

During the next 12 months there may be dogs which need re-homing after they retire from racing. If you would like to consider adopting a Greyhound, please contact the RSPCA at <https://www.rspca.org.au/adopt-pet>.

Thank you for your support in this important matter.

Yours sincerely


Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

02 SEP 2016

Bogiatzis, Patti

From: GENTLEMAN
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 4:38 PM
To: Cross, Narelle
Subject: FW: Greyhound racing ban

Do we have a response for this

Cheers

Eben Leifer | Office Manager
Office of Mick Gentleman MLA | Member for Brindabella
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Racing and Gaming
Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
Manager for Government Business
t: 620 50218 | e: eben.leifer@act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 4:33 PM
To: GENTLEMAN; BARR
Subject: Greyhound racing ban

Hi Mick and Andrew

The Castle is a revered portrayal of Australian culture and identity; at least for some of us. Remember Coco and son of coco, the names of the cherished family greyhounds? The castle is a tale of battlers sticking it to the man against all odds; a fitting tale given the NSW and ACT announcement to ban greyhound racing.

Let's not beat around the bush. Greyhound racing is a sport made up of battlers. It's a passion shared by the trainers, breeders and punters all around Australia. It is a great Australian pastime for a great number of Australians. And that's why I can't accept this abrupt decision to ban greyhound racing.

Mike Bairds captain call to ban the industry was a decision devoid of consultation with the Industry and community, let alone his own cabinet. Your own announcement to follow along with the NSW Government was also devoid of any consultation.

Meanwhile animal activists are celebrating a great 'victory'. It was an easy target for the activists, go after the battlers that make up the greyhound racing industry while they sip on their lattes in inner Sydney. If this isn't class warfare, what is? And they won't just stop at greyhounds. They have a long list to come, including dare I say it, horse racing. Remember the bill boards that appear around the Melbourne cup week each year? I have also seen a number of news articles this week in which animal activists have indicated they want recreational fishing banned.

This is a line in the sand moment. If the ACT Government caves into a small but vocal minority of animal activists, what will be banned next?

All over the world people are showing a deep cynicism and disappointment with the political process. Trumps popularity in America, the Brexit vote and in our own democracy strong swings away from the major parties towards independents and minor parties.

The problem is politicians have lost touch with everyday Australians. Our society is being cursed by politician correctness, yet the policies stink of hypocrisy. For example, the pet industry is guilty of cruelty on a much larger scale. Thousands of pets are abandoned and euthanised, and many dogs and kittens are bred

from the cruel practice of puppy farms. Yet no one would seriously suggest a blanket ban of owning a pet; instead reforms and proposed and over time the industry is improved.

I fear for the day that this country has banned everything even remotely offensive to these inner city snobs. All that we will have left to do is sip on lattes.

Surely there are more pressing social concerns for the ACT Government?

I am still holding onto hope that the ACT will change it's position and instead look to reform the local greyhound industry. I urge you to reconsider the implication of your decision- for now and for future generations. In the spirit of the Castle, let's give the battlers a win- the outcome will effect their lives a lot more than it will effect your political campaign.

I would also like to invite you to a greyhound racing meeting on a Sunday of your choosing- come and see first hand what you are taking away.

I do hope that you will take the time to respond to my email, or alternatively you can call me on

[REDACTED]

Thank you and all the best for the upcoming election.

[REDACTED]



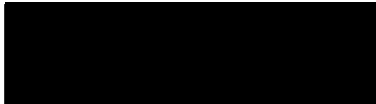
E-MAILED

7/9/16

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA

Minister for Planning and Land Management
 Minister for Racing and Gaming
 Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
 Manager of Government Business

Member for Brindabella



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2016 about not supporting the ending of greyhound racing in the ACT. I am responding on behalf of the ACT Government as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

As you will know, on 7 July 2016 the outcomes of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the NSW greyhound racing industry were released. The result that followed was the passage of legislation that prohibits the breeding or keeping of greyhounds in NSW for racing in or outside NSW on and from 1 July 2017. The Government is concerned by the findings of the Inquiry and is investigating the implications for the ACT industry of the Inquiry and the closure of the industry in NSW.

I have received numerous emails and letters of support to end greyhound racing in the ACT. I have also met with representatives from the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club. The issue is, plainly, of significant interest not only to the participants in the ACT racing industry but also to the community in general.

The Government is currently considering the Special Inquiry Report and the NSW program of reform ahead of a review we will be undertaking into the Memorandum of Understanding with the ACT racing industry. This work will guide a decision about the future of greyhound racing locally, noting that most participants actually reside in NSW.

I can assure you that if the Government choose to take action following the completion of a review it will act consistently with any legal requirements.

I thank you once again for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Mick Gentleman MLA
 Minister for Racing and Gaming

6/9/16

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Phone (02) 6205 0218 Email gentleman@act.gov.au



ACT Government

Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Greyhound Racing Ban

All Elected Members

I believe that all members of the ACT government should note the following, BEFORE they make the final decision in relation to the Greyhound Racing ban.

There are many instances where industries have had long standing animal practices that although once seen to be quite acceptable, have by todays standards, been deemed to be unacceptable and have been afforded an opportunity to reform these practises, some of which are:

- Live cattle exports
- Abatoir processes
- lamb marking
- tail docking
- sow stalls

- battery hens, and
- ewe mulesing.

A number of these reforms can and do take many years to develop and implement.

Why are these industries allowed to reform and NOT others, WHY, because we EAT these animals. What hypocrisy this is, we allow reform in some industries BUT not in an industry that gives pleasure and a livelihood to many.

Is the government as concerned about feral dogs and cats that have been abandoned or have escaped from their owners, that are wreaking carnage on our wildlife, or the many thousands of abandoned pets 'put down' by one of the very organisations pushing for this ban? All of these animals have been owned at some time by humans, does this mean that we will see a ban on pet ownership because a minority are irresponsible?

One of the issues raised in support of this ban is the re-homing of greyhounds. It should be noted that it is only in the last few years that this has even been an option as previously the public had the mistaken view that greyhounds were a savage dog, now we see a totally different opinion coming to the fore with a much better understanding of the breed.

It should be noted that the breeding reforms and the stringent regulatory reforms currently being undertaken by the industry will take at least 12 months to have full impact and natural justice should allow the industry to see these through, as has happened in the aforementioned list of animal welfare issues afforded just such an opportunity.

One major reform should be to the 'breaking in' of greyhounds. One suggestion would be that all initial training of unraced greyhounds should be linked to individual greyhound tracks or undertaken by registered individuals who have displayed and demonstrated the standards appropriate to the welfare of all animals.

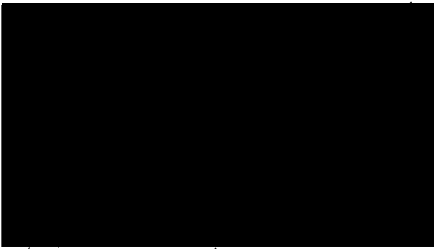
If the 'cowboys' in the industry had been banned and didn't have a licence to operate then the full force of the law could and should be applied to those individuals but NOT to the industry as a whole.

As mentioned previously the 'general public', to whom the ACT Government

owes it's existence, has accepted that reforms in animal welfare for those animals we EAT, take time. Why is this not allowed for those animals that bring JOY, PLEASURE and a LIVELIHOOD to many thousands of the general public?

We do not live under a dictatorship, though it seems that the strident vocal minority have a greater say than the many thousands of people who think that this is a very poor outcome for the majority.

Please think carefully before supporting the actions of this government. By all means put tough measures in place to protect these animals but give the greyhounds, their owners, the industry and those members of the general public who enjoy owning, watching and participating in greyhound racing, a chance to have a future.





E-MAILED
7/9/16

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA

Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Racing and Gaming
Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
Manager of Government Business

Member for Brindabella



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 19 August 2016 about not supporting the ending of greyhound racing in the ACT. I am responding on behalf of the ACT Government as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

As you will know on 7 July 2016 the outcomes of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the NSW greyhound racing industry were released. The result that followed was the passage of legislation that prohibits the breeding or keeping of greyhounds in NSW for racing in or outside NSW on and from 1 July 2017. The Government is concerned by the findings of the Inquiry and is investigating the implications for the ACT industry of the Inquiry and the closure of the industry in NSW.

I have received numerous emails and letters of support to end greyhound racing in the ACT. I have also met with representatives from the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club. The issue is, plainly, of significant interest not only to the participants in the ACT racing industry but also to the community in general.

The Government is currently considering the Special Inquiry Report and the NSW program of reform ahead of a review we will be undertaking into the Memorandum of Understanding with the ACT racing industry. This work will guide a decision about the future of greyhound racing locally, noting that most participants actually reside in NSW.

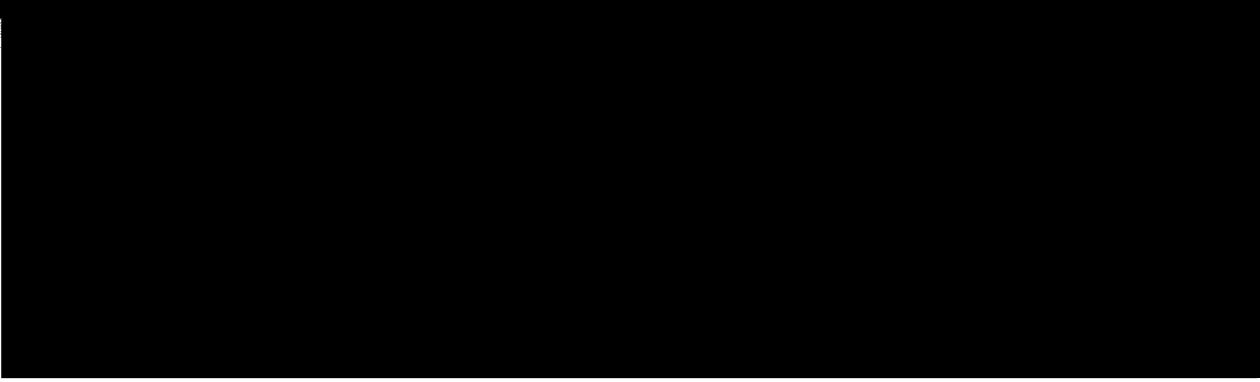
I can assure you that if the government choose to take action following the completion of a review it will act consistently with any legal requirements.

I thank you once again for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Racing and Gaming

6/9/16



Meegan Fitzharris, Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services
Yvette Berry, Minister for Housing, Community Services and Social Inclusion
Shayne Rattenbury, Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs
Mick Gentleman, Minister for Racing and Gaming
Jeremy Hanson, Shadow Minister for Gaming and Racing

cc



Dear Ministers

Draw down of greyhound racing in the ACT

As you are aware, legislation to close down the greyhound racing industry in NSW is now before the NSW Government. If the legislation is passed - and this seems likely - we predict there will be a huge increase in demand, both in NSW and the ACT, for greyhound rescue and rehoming.

As far as we are aware, there are no ACT Government arrangements currently in place to set up the processes and strategies required for this major transition.

To address this issue, we urge the ACT Government to immediately establish a task force, as the NSW Government has done. Such a task force should be widely representative - rescue groups, support networks, veterinarians, industry trainers and owners, Government animal welfare. Its first task should be to establish the extent and capacity of resources currently available in the ACT and then identify the gaps in an effort to build solutions that are workable for both the industry and rescue groups. This task force should also be used to make recommendations on the extent of funding required to manage greyhounds, as well as the industry trainers and owners addressing any suggestion of compensation.

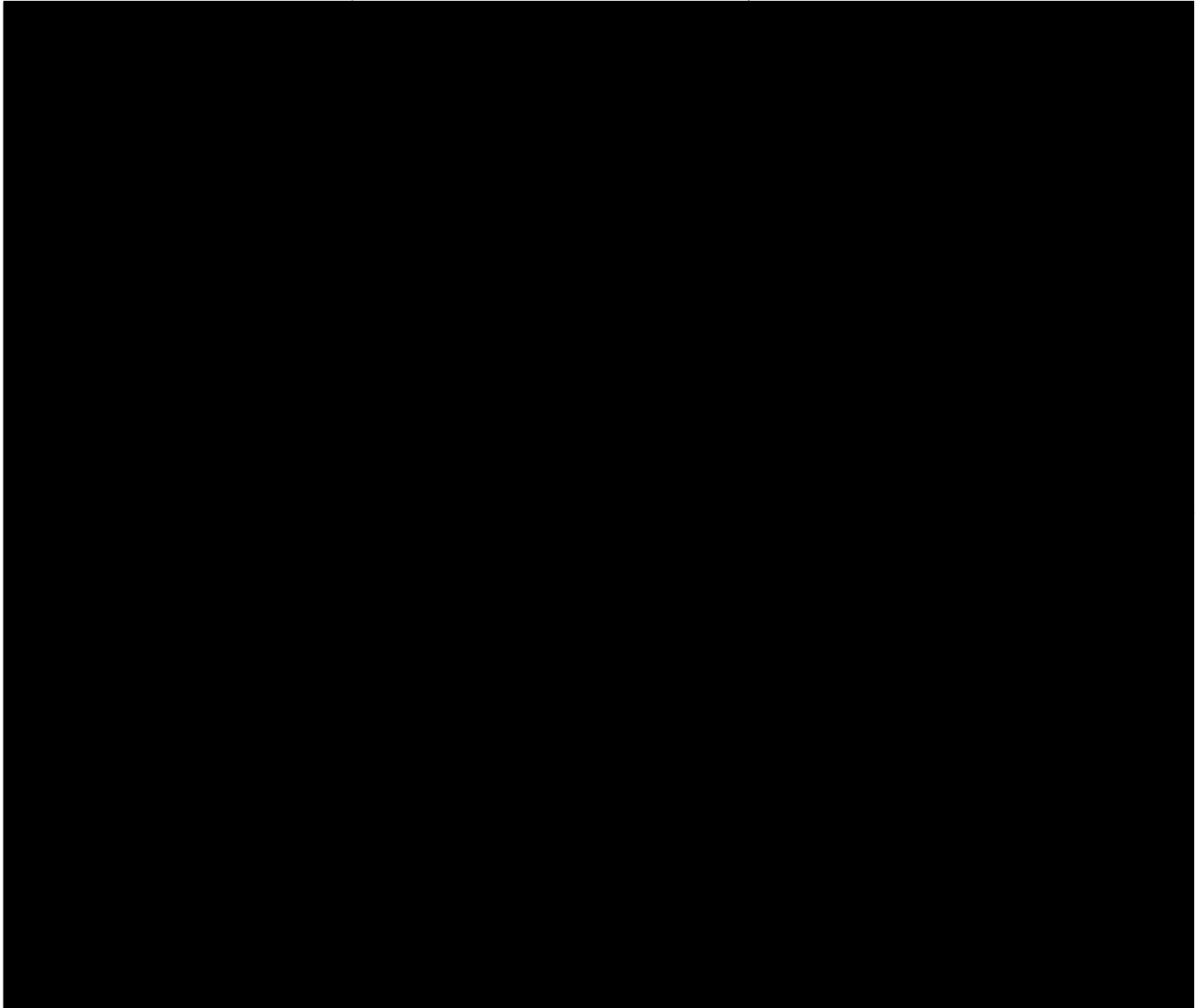
The task force will be needed when legislation goes to the Legislative Assembly, so establishing it now would give us the ability to build processes and relationships to ensure the best management possible. Realistically, we believe it would probably become a semi-permanent body over the life of the industry draw down in the ACT and NSW.

We anticipate too that whatever is done in the ACT cannot occur in isolation from the NSW task force.

We hope that the ACT Government will see the value in communicating with the NSW Government about the lessons learnt in the setting up of its own task force.

We would be happy to discuss this further and to contribute to the work of an ACT task force.

With kind regards





MICK GENTLEMAN MLA

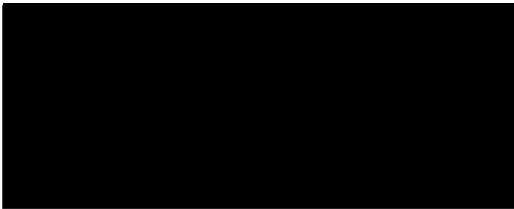
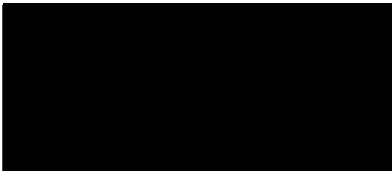
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Racing and Gaming
Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
Manager of Government Business

Member for Brindabella

Bm16/2127

E-MAILED
7/9/16
Sent via
post.

COPY



Dear

Thank you for your letter about the establishment of a task force for the transition of the Greyhound Racing Industry in both NSW and the ACT. I acknowledge you have also written to Minister Fitzharris MLA, Minister Berry MLA and Minister Rattenbury MLA on this matter. I am responding on behalf of the Government as Minister with portfolio responsibility for this issue.

As you will know on 7 July 2016 the outcomes of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the NSW greyhound racing industry were released. The result was the passage of legislation which prohibits the breeding or keeping of greyhounds in NSW for racing in or outside NSW on and from 1 July 2017. The Government is concerned by the findings of the Inquiry and is investigating the implications for the ACT industry of the Inquiry and the closure of the industry in NSW.

We are currently considering the Special Inquiry Report and the NSW program of reform ahead of a review we will be undertaking into the Memorandum of Understanding with the ACT racing industry. This work will guide a decision about the future of greyhound racing locally, noting that most participants actually reside in NSW.

It is anticipated that this review will conclude in the second quarter of 2017 at which time the Government will be clear on the future of the industry in the ACT and therefore at this stage I believe it is too early to establish a task force ahead of any government decision.

I thank you once again for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Racing and Gaming

6/9/16

2 revisions - can't move forward - the transition



9 September 2016

Mick Gentleman, ACT Minister for Racing and Gambling

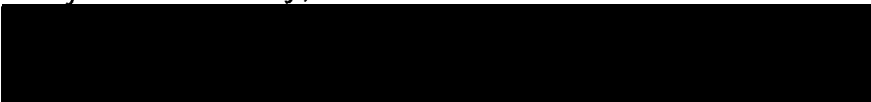
cc:

Andrew Barr, ACT Chief Minister

Meegan Fitzharris, Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services

Yvette Berry, Minister for Housing, Community Services and Social Inclusion

Shayne Rattenbury, Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs



Dear Mick

Draw down of greyhound racing in the ACT

Thank you for your response to our letter of 13 August on this subject.

As specialists in dog re-homing, we will be directly involved in handling the likely impacts of the ACT greyhound industry closure. Thus we are keen to have a definitive statement of your Government's policy position and strategy on the issues shown below, should it be returned in the upcoming election.

We were interested to see that the ACT Government will be undertaking a review of its Memorandum of Understanding with the ACT greyhound racing industry - we assume that this is an MOU with Canberra Greyhound Racing Club.

Your letter states that the review "will conclude in the second quarter of 2017 at which time the Government will be clear on the future of the industry..." We find this statement particularly interesting in the light of your clear announcement that 'greyhound racing has no future in the ACT' (www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-07/greyhound-racing-has-no-future).

Could you please confirm that

- the conclusion of the review in the second quarter of 2017 means the ACT Government will have no strategy in place by 30 June 2017 to address the likely impacts on the ACT of the closure of the NSW greyhound industry on 1 July
- you are not progressing the review during the Government's caretaker period

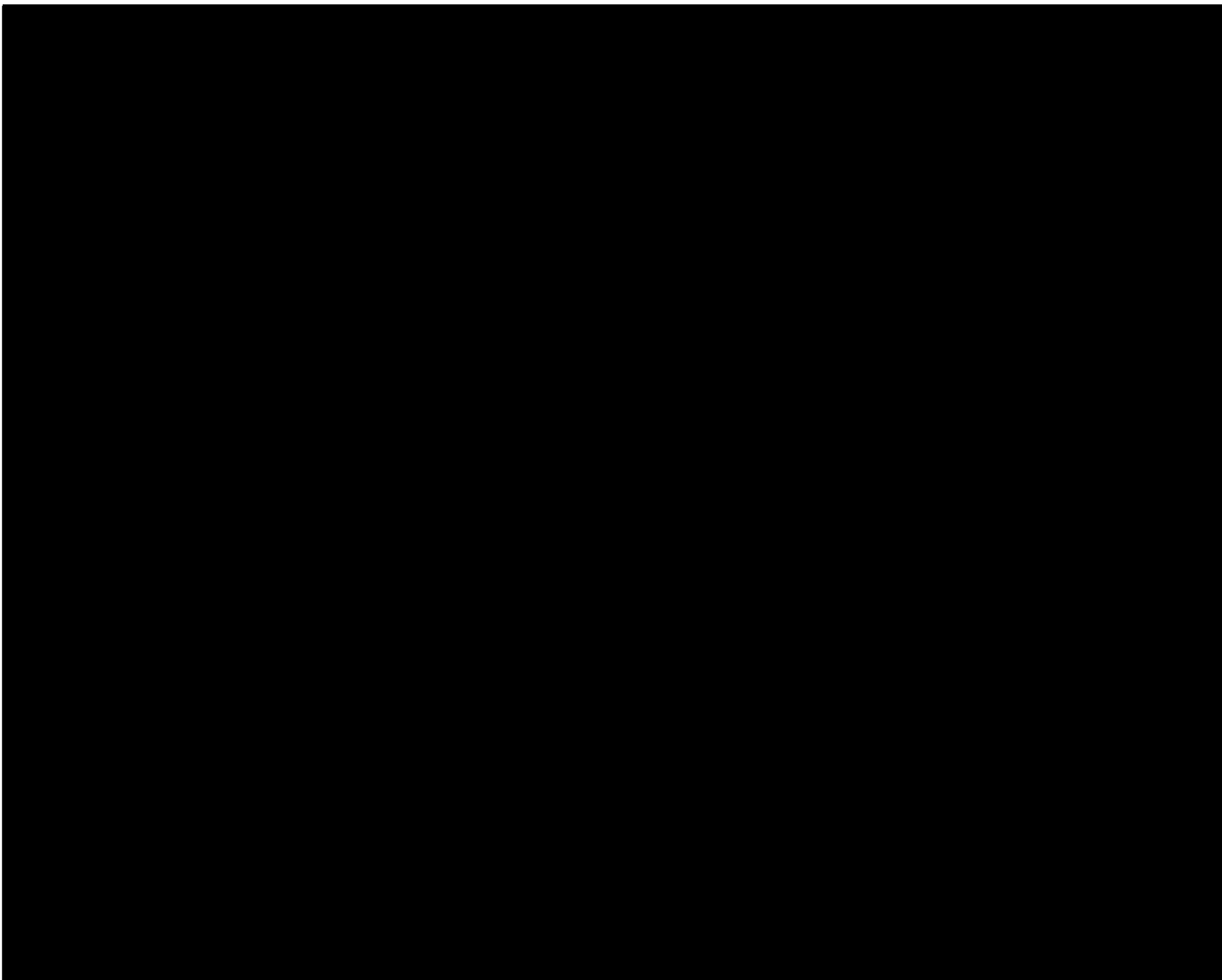
In the interests of transparent and inclusive government, we would welcome the following information:

No! Now with all codes due to expire in 2017

- names (or proposed names) of the review panel members
- details of the consultation process you plan to use in framing the terms of reference for the review
- the consultation strategy you plan to use for the review and how we might provide the panel with insight into the likely rehoming requirements and their implications for the ACT Government

Your prompt reply would be appreciated.

With kind regards



* THERE IS NO FORMAL DECISION TO BAN.
*) THE MOU IS WITH ALL ~~THE~~ CODES & IS DUE TO EXPIRE IN 2017
*) THE REVIEW OF THE MOU WILL ~~BE~~ EXAMINE OUTCOMES AGAINST OBJECTIVES
ALSO OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.