

Buddy For Life Scheme

*Representation to
Minister Pru Goward MP
Member for Goulburn*

October 14, 2016



Goulburn Greyhound Racing Club

Minister Pru Goward MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Medical Research

Assistant Minister for Health

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

PO Box 168

GOULBURN NSW 2580

Dear Minister

NSW Government Greyhound Racing Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you a way forward in relation to reform in the New South Wales greyhound racing industry.

This document will cover the following areas:

- Background
- Reform since February 2015
- Buddy for Life Scheme

The primary focus is to cover the Buddy for Life concept. Its mission is to extend the life of the greyhound by ongoing management of health and welfare, the introduction of second tier racing and the broadening of streams of care at the completion of the greyhound's racing career.

The concept framework would consist of:

- Welfare
- Sustainability
- Cultural change
- Centres of Excellence
- Wagering
- Financial model
- Implementation strategies
- Value adding

As a senior Cabinet member, you are a vital part of the decision making process and Goulburn Greyhound Racing Club provides this information to you as our local Member who can contribute to the successful continuation of greyhound racing in NSW.

On behalf of
Goulburn Greyhound Racing Club Committee

Background:

A brief outline of recent history is listed below:

February 2015	ABC's '4 Corners' airs a program claiming to expose animal cruelty and live baiting in the greyhound racing industry. State Government's respond to the program with some implementing reforms and inquiries Greyhound Racing NSW initiates a reform process
Feb 2015 – June 2016	Substantial reforms as itemised on Page 5 of this document
July 2016	NSW Premier Mike Baird releases Justice Michael McHugh's Report into the Special Commission of Inquiry into greyhound racing in NSW, announcing his Government will ban the sport effective from 1 July 2017.
October 2016	NSW Premier Mike Baird announces reversal of greyhound ban

Reform since February 2015:

GREYHOUND RACING NSW 12 MONTHS OF REFORM

	THEN – February 2015	NOW – February 2016
INTEGRITY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed in its duties to properly police the industry allowing illegal acts such as 'live baiting' to occur in NSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Compliance Unit created to boost industry supervision and improve integrity outcomes Development and implementation of risk-based Industry Supervision Strategy to ensure Compliance resources are being applied where the risk of wrongdoing is greatest Review of GRNSW drug testing operational practices to ensure any potential weaknesses are identified and rigour of program enhanced
BREEDING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No licensing requirements for breeders No restrictions on breeding Blue Paws Scheme – designed to promote and encourage breeding of greyhounds in NSW (established in 2006) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of Blue Paws Scheme on 1 July 2015 Breeding restrictions introduced which limits the number of litters a female greyhound can have to three in total without veterinary approval Limitations to frequency of litters so female greyhounds cannot give birth to more than two litters in the space of 18 months Breeders must obtain a license and have facilities inspected every two years 47% year on year reduction of greyhounds born since breeding restrictions introduced (2,168 to 1,153 - for period 1 July – 31 October)
VETERINARY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No veterinary service oversight or senior management Poor injury data collection Inadequate welfare monitoring & reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of a Chief Veterinary Officer Introduction of evidence based policy development such as adoption of synthetic only lure policy Increased investment in Veterinary Services including additional veterinary staff
INVESTIGATIONS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No internal investigations or intelligence capability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a dedicated Investigations and Intelligence Unit to collect and analyse information and conduct intelligence led investigations into suspected wrongdoing Establishment of Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Hotline to ensure allegations of wrongdoing are collected, assessed and acted on www.greyhoundwelfare.com.au
RE-HOMING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRNSW Greyhounds As Pets program was not proactively advertised and had a limited capacity to accept and re-home retired greyhounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripled investment in Greyhounds As Pets in 2015. 274 adoptions in 2015. A 153% increase on 2014. Introduced a Re-homing Debate to assist independent re-homing organisations find more homes for retired greyhounds
LICENSING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensing only available for trainers and attendants with these accreditations. Others involved in the industry were not required to be registered (eg breeders) No skill requirements needed to obtain any level of licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensing of breeders in July 2015 with rearers, educators and whelpers to be licensed in 2016 ensuring greyhounds are in the custody of a licensed person at all lifecycle stages Development of comprehensive tiered licensing system requiring core educational competencies be met prior to receiving accreditation to be introduced in July 2016
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No strategic plan to set direction for industry in accordance with requirements under Greyhound Racing Act 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed high level Strategic Plan to lead industry crisis recovery and set direction for industry reform to achieve vibrant and sustainable future Established Joint Working Group with industry stakeholders to further develop detail of Strategic Plan and prepare implementation map Initiated, developed and implemented 'www.embracingchange.com.au' campaign as part of strategic communications to reposition industry and promote reform
EDUCATION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No education or training provided to participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of dedicated Industry Education and Development Unit to support industry participants with educative, guidance and awareness material Education Seminars conducted for 200 participants in 2015
RESEARCH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No investment in research and development was not consistent with the levels expected of a sporting governing body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRNSW commissioned Working Dog Alliance to undertake paper on best practice rearing, socialisation, education and training for greyhounds (released July 2015) Call for research into optimal track design and injury reductions, as well as chase motivation with additional topics scheduled for research in 2016

See more at www.embracingchange.com.au



Buddy For Life:

What is the Buddy for Life Scheme?

Buddy for Life is a scheme that ensures the welfare and management of the greyhound's total life cycle.

In general terms, this is achieved by:

- World's best practice in animal welfare
- Broadening of streams of care at every stage of the greyhound's life
- The introduction of second tier racing

Our primary focus is to cover the concept of the Buddy for Life Scheme (BFLS).

The concept framework would consist of:

- Welfare
- Sustainability
- Cultural change
- Centres of Excellence
- Wagering
- Implementation strategies
- Value adding
- Financial Model



LIFE CYCLE OF FIDO UNDER THE BUDDY FOR LIFE SCHEME

A simple explanation of the scheme may be best expressed by following the life cycle of 'Fido' if he were to be entered into the proposed scheme.

- Fido is whelped
- Fido is registered with the regulatory authority
- Fido is the responsibility of the breeder until entered into the Buddy for Life Auction
- Fido is purchased by owner 'A' at the Buddy for Life Auction. At this time the following occurs:
 - Purchase price plus an additional \$2000 fee
 - \$2000 fee is one off and paid to Buddy for Life
 - \$2000 fee makes greyhound eligible for entry into the Buddy for Life scheme at any stage of its life cycle
 - Eligibility for special races with additional prizemoney as well as a \$100,000 heat and final series.
- Fido is reared until approx. 14 months of age and is the responsibility of the purchaser who is responsible for health and welfare

- If at any stage Fido becomes unable to progress to breaking-in due to injury, the owner may surrender him to the Buddy for Life system
- At approx. 14 months of age, Fido is educated for racing by undergoing training period known as breaking-in
 - Fido performs to owners expectations and progresses to preparation for mainstream racing
 - Fido does not progress sufficiently to enter mainstream racing and is:
 - Retained by owner as a pet
 - Surrendered to Buddy for Life scheme
 - Fido is injured and is retained by owner as a pet
 - Fido is injured and is surrendered to the Buddy for Life scheme
 - Future racing within second tier racing framework
 - Considered for entry to Greyhounds as Pets scheme
 - Entry into 'Farmcare'
- At the completion of the break-in period, Fido is prepared for mainstream racing
- Fido meets regulatory procedures for eligibility to commence mainstream racing
 - Fido performs to owners expectations and progresses within the mainstream racing framework
 - Fido does not progress sufficiently in the mainstream racing framework and is:
 - Retired and retained by owner as a pet
 - Surrendered to Buddy for Life scheme where Fido is assessed for either:
 - Future racing within second tier racing framework
 - Considered for entry to Greyhounds as Pets scheme
 - Entry into 'Farmcare'
 - Fido is injured and is retained by owner as a pet
 - Fido is injured and is surrendered to the Buddy for Life scheme
- At any time during Fido's mainstream racing period (18 months – 4 years) the following may occur:
 - Fido is no longer competitive and is:
 - Retired and retained by owner as a pet
 - Surrendered to Buddy for Life scheme where Fido is assessed for:
 - Future racing within second tier racing framework
 - Considered for entry to Greyhounds as Pets scheme
 - Entry into 'Farmcare'
 - Fido is injured and is retained by owner as a pet
 - Fido is injured and is surrendered to the Buddy for Life scheme where he is assessed for:
 - Future racing within second tier racing framework
 - Considered for entry to Greyhounds as Pets scheme
 - Entry into 'Farmcare'
- Fido reaches the end of his racing career in mainstream racing (approx. 4 years of age) and the following occurs:
 - Retired and retained by owner as a pet
 - Surrendered to Buddy for Life scheme where Fido is assessed for:
 - Future racing within second tier racing framework
 - Considered for entry to Greyhounds as Pets scheme
 - Entry into 'Farmcare'

Note: Eligibility for entry to the BFLS is transferable with any change of ownership. Eligibility remains with the greyhound for life.

SECOND TIER (FUTURE RACING)

A key part of the structure is the creation of a second tier of racing outside the mainstream format. To be eligible for Second Tier (Future Racing), greyhounds must be surrendered to Buddy for Life Scheme within a regulated environment which is totally managed and monitored by GRNSW in accordance with best practice standards.

Second Tier (Future Racing) would operate in the following way:

- Operational at Centres of Excellence
- Kennelling for up to 200 greyhounds
- Contain specialised greyhound veterinary facilities
- Contain commercial greyhound veterinary facilities
- Race fields compiled by meeting specific race times rather than number of wins.*

**This means that a series of time ranges form the basis for make-up of race fields where times that may be considered too slow for mainstream racing are acceptable in BLFS. A specific example is that for a greyhound to pass a performance trial at Goulburn over the 350m to race in the current mainstream format, it must break 20.80s. Under the proposed Second Tier (Future Racing) scheme, greyhounds who can run between 21 and 22 seconds may be graded together and provide a competitive race – like against like.*

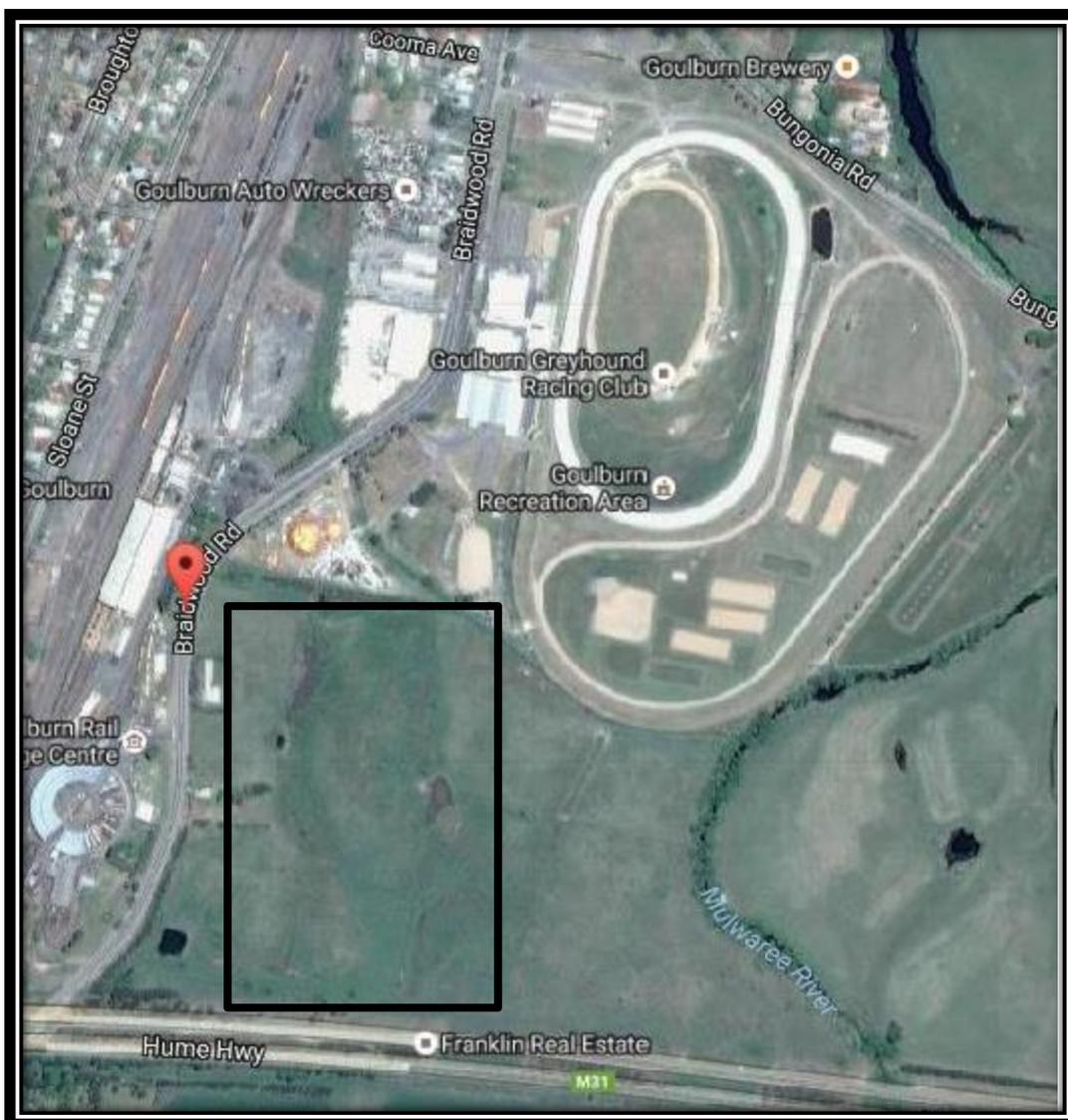
There is the potential for a Buddy for Life pilot scheme be set up on land adjacent to the Goulburn Recreation Area (Braidwood Road). This would allow for easy operation of race meetings, training and care of greyhounds to exist in close proximity to the current greyhound track.



Kennelling area



24 hour monitoring of Complex



Proposed area for Centre of Excellence for Buddy for Life Scheme Goulburn

FARM CARE

A further key element of the structure is the creation of care of greyhounds in a non-racing environment where they live out the term of their natural life. These farmstyle environments, which in infrastructure would be similar to rearing facilities, would be known as Farm Care. The properties which facilitate the operation of Farm Care would be managed by registered participants and subject to regulatory inspections and to constant monitoring of welfare standards.



CONCEPT

A breakdown of the relevant concept framework follows:

WELFARE

Best Practice Policy

- Partnering with key stakeholders
 - GAP
 - RSPCA
 - Working Dog Alliance
- Review of existing governance
 - GRNSW Code of Practice - for the keeping of greyhounds in training

Transition to Retirement

- GAP
- Veterinary assessment for suitability to continue second tier (Future Racing) racing
- Veterinary assessment to enter program
- Financial eligibility
- Introduction of broad stream 'farm care' facilities

SUSTAINABILITY

Data Collection

- Take up rate
 - Age of greyhounds
 - Entry and exit statistics
- Injury
 - Type
 - Amount
- Second tier (Future Racing) racing

- Greyhound suitability
- Number of participants
- Age of greyhounds
 - Entry and exit statistics

Future Planning

- Strategies based on information obtained during pilot program
- Monitor financial viability
- Forecast future direction of program

CULTURAL CHANGE

Industry Incentives

- Providing platforms for current industry participants to meet public expectation

Public Image & Perception

- Raise image and profile of greyhound ownership
 - Historical examples
 - Royalty – noble breed
 - First dog on Australian settlement
 - Existence of breed – refer to Egyptology
- Increased awareness of industry transparency and accountability
- Public education
- Marketing strategies



Historic representation of the greyhound in Egyptian culture and English Nobility

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

- Hub & Spoke Principle
 - Goulburn meets 2 hour radius for a significant number of current participants
 - Pre-existing state of the art kennel block and patron amenities
 - Proximity to Richmond and Wentworth Park
 - Land availability providing potential for expansion of major infrastructure
 - Established relationships with local and state government
- Veterinary Services
 - Establishment of revenue stream from commercial operation
 - Specialised greyhound service catering to a significant number of current participants within a 2 hour radius
 - Opportunity to establish joint training of veterinarians with specialist interest in greyhounds / small animals



WAGERING

- Improved transparency
 - More comprehensive form including trial times
 - Competitive racing – like for like
 - Additional pool for regular format ensuring maximum field sizes
- Increased Revenue
 - Establishment of new level of racing and associated turnover
 - Full fields provide maximum turnover per race

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- Regulatory Mechanisms
 - Introduction of tracking of greyhounds throughout life
 - Introduction of second tier (Future Racing) racing (Buddy For Life)
 - Control measures to combat over supply
- Marketing of concept
 - Industry Based – to gain support of owners and trainers in the ethical racing of greyhounds
 - General Public
 - Attract new owners based on ethical racing
 - Restore public perception of greyhound industry
 - Emphasise welfare
 - Public awareness of industry transparency and accountability

VALUE ADDING

Industry Trainee Schemes

- Introduction of formal qualification for industry participants

Veterinary Trainee Placement

- Establish links with tertiary institutions

FINANCIAL MODEL

- Financial model
 - establishment & infrastructure costings
 - marketing & promotion – sponsorship opportunities / university placement
 - public & industry survey
 - Ongoing operational costs - offsets

Establishment and Infrastructure Costings

Acquisition of land from HRNSW (\$0.5m)

Purpose-built kennel block and day yards for 200 greyhounds (\$2.2m)

Includes:

- Kitchen
 - Food preparation
 - Cold storage
 - Dry stock area
- Staff locker room and showers for up to 20 staff (10 male and 10 female)
- Veterinary clinic
 - Operating theatre
 - X-ray booth and X-ray machine and digital X-ray
 - Waiting area/reception
 - 2 x examination rooms
- Office area for Complex manager and 2-3 staff
- Reverse cycle air conditioning
- Closed circuit surveillance camera x 20 and monitor/recording room
- Provision for remote access to monitoring/recording
- Hydro bath x 2
- Swimming pool
- Fit out of all kennels and office area
- Treatment rooms for ultra sound etc
- Sleepover flat for duty watch staff
- 250m slipping track with drag lure and watering system
- 20 large (100m x 10m) yards with interconnecting lanes to main kennel block plus CCTV of yards
- 3m security fence around entire complex (with controlled entry gate)
- Staff/visitor carpark with lighting
- Perimeter security lights to enhance CCTV
- Commercial boarding kennel area for dogs (number to be determined)

*A detailed model of operational costs and offsets is available.

SUMMARY

The 'Buddy for Life Scheme' is a conceptual working paper that has been developed to provide a framework for the greyhound racing industry as a whole, to ensure the welfare and management of the greyhound's total life cycle.

Buddy for Life is a pilot scheme from which to test the theories and viability of proposals in this paper and its impact on the public landscape. It recognises the challenges currently faced and the need for a change in strategic direction by regulating bodies and stakeholders in this sport.

VISION

- Sustainable ownership ensuring accountability for health and welfare of all greyhounds

GOALS

- Viable Financial Model
- An Implementation Strategy
- Value Adding
- Sustainability
- Welfare
- Cultural Change

OBJECTIVES

- Identification of Capital Costs
- Identification of Recurrent Operating Costs
- Implementation of Regulatory Mechanism
- Marketing of Buddy for Life as it applies to the Greyhound Industry
- Introduction of Industry Trainee Schemes
- Introduction of Veterinary Trainee Placement
- Ensuring of Data Collection throughout greyhound's life
- Future Planning based on pilot scheme
- Best Practice Policies in all aspects of Future Racing
- Transition of greyhounds into retirement phase
- Introduction of Industry Incentives
- Improve Public Image & Perception of Greyhound Racing

Goulburn Greyhound Racing Club's committee has endorsed the Buddy For Life' working paper and is proactive in seeking alternatives to foster comprehensive reform and secure a sustainable future.

It has authorised its Manager, Patrick Day, to actively promote and discuss the paper with GRNSW management.