



Hon Bill Byrne MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Minister for Sport and Racing

Our Ref: CTS 16778/15

13 AUG 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Level 8
80 Ann Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 46 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560
Email sportandracing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2015 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2426-15 tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 17 July 2015.

On 20 March 2015, a direction to cease construction at Cronulla Park in Logan was issued under section 9BM of the *Racing Act 2002* to the former Chairman of the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board (QACRIB), while the greyhound industry review was undertaken. During this time the Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry (the Inquiry) replaced the review.

The Government received the inquiry's final report on 1 June 2015. The report contained 15 recommendations. A number of the recommendations are animal welfare related, including changes to breeding incentive programs, changes to licensing arrangements and a consistent program for monitoring dogs. There is also a significant recommendation concerning the restructuring of the industry which involves the establishment of a new statutory authority to oversee the integrity of the entire racing industry.

The Government has accepted all recommendations in-principle and is now preparing a thorough response.

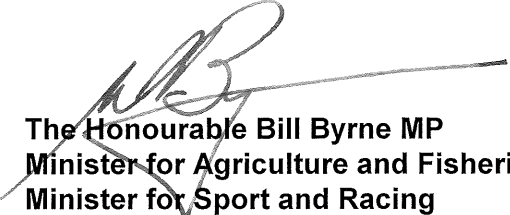
One recommendation has been implemented immediately. Consistent with recommendation two, the memberships on all of the boards associated with the racing industry in Queensland have been terminated and the three code boards for Thoroughbred, Harness and Greyhounds will be abolished in time. Retired Justice John Muir QC has been appointed as interim Chairman of QACRIB and a new seven member board consisting of four independent members will be established in due course.

Construction of the proposed greyhound racing track at Cronulla Park in Logan will remain on hold and its future determined, once a response to the Report is prepared by the Government.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with section 125(3) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr Elliot Stein, Chief of Staff in my office on telephone (07) 3719 7560.

Yours sincerely



The Honourable Bill Byrne MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Minister for Sport and Racing
Member for Rockhampton