

Letter forwarded via e-mail to all Liberal & National MP's in NSW 15/7/16:

As a racehorse trainer and harness racing administrator who has been employed by the racing industry my entire life I write in support of greyhound racing. I am utterly dismayed that 'democracy' in our county means that extremists with an agenda can now end any industry, despite the loss of jobs, investment and upheaval to the way of life enjoyed by people that the extremists believe are somehow morally inferior.

Michael McHugh's report into the greyhound industry is full of holes including figures that are at best a guess and don't include the most pertinent information. The flawed but unfortunately widely quoted figures on the dogs destroyed are at best an ill informed estimate. The premise that all dogs who don't live to 12 (one research site gives a greyhounds average life expectancy as 9 – 11 years) have been destroyed is at best flimsy. Just adjusting the dog's life expectancy to 10 years would greatly alter this dodgy calculation – but statistics that favour the greyhound industry are not included in this alleged unbiased report. Also missing from the statistics are any figures for dogs retired on their owner's properties or placed in homes, dogs sold overseas or dogs who died of natural causes including stillborn puppies. All dogs not racing under the age of 12 appear to have been included in the grossly exaggerated 'slaughtered because they were slow' figures.

The report's use of a decade old alleged quote from a citizen of the USA, passed off as local and relevant, illustrates the accuracy and legitimacy of the information used to end an industry. Asking the three people convicted of live baiting in NSW for figures on the acceptance of the practice is also not a reliable method of convicting 10 to 20% of the industry's participants – let alone forcing the end of the livelihood or pastime enjoyed by the 80 to 99% of people who have done no wrong.

The politics involved are also worrying from my perspective. Why did the heads of Racing NSW – John Messara and Peter V'Landys know of this decision by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April as demonstrated on a YouTube video of a Thoroughbred Breeders Australia meeting? Why was Greens MP Jamie Parker congratulating his followers over the victory of obtaining Wentworth Park for inner city dwellers sporting and recreational use in an e-mail dated February 2016? How many deals have been done that were sealed before the report was supposedly complete?

The agenda of ending all interaction between animals and humans has been the goal of animal rights groups considered extremists for some time. Obviously the ending of all forms of racing is their next step. The RSPCA would still be considered a rational voice by the majority. However, the RSPCA is currently peddling complete fabrications of lies as alleged 'scientific' studies into subjects such as use of the new whip in thoroughbred racing.

These groups are not interested in the truth in any form as they believe their righteousness outweighs the need for the general population's right to the truth. The shock factor including loaded half-truths or outright lies are aimed at an urban population who have no exposure to or knowledge of animal husbandry. Groups who suggest they support animals but whose agenda would result in their extinction are deciding for the rest of the population that an animal not living at all is preferable to a life with humans. I can't speak for the animals but this would undeniably result in a lesser quality of life for humankind.

The elimination of Australia's third largest employer, the Racing Industry, to appease animal rights groups and a minority who believe they should be able to impose their views on those who show

their affinity for animals by caring for them daily would be a great miscarriage of justice and a giant step backwards for society.

The new regulation of the greyhound industry that has already been in place for 15 months but was ignored in the McHugh report should obviously be strengthened and continue. Anyone convicted of wrongdoing should be expelled from the sport and face criminal charges.

The end of the entire industry is an overreaction that has some very negative political overtones and will result in a backlash that the current government may not be able to live down. The holding back of the release of the report has allowed a Coalition federal election victory. The following of only one of the report's recommendations is not a positive or rational move by the NSW state government.

Karen Fox.