

# The Australian Veterinary Association Limited

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## New South Wales Division

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23 March 2015.  
Mr Paul Newson  
Chief Executive officer  
Greyhound Racing NSW

Dear Mr Newson,

Many thanks for your request for input on the proposed GRNSW Welfare and Integrity Levy. We would be happy to continue to make our expertise available to proposals and decisions that relate to the health and welfare of greyhounds.

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) recognises that GRNSW is taking steps toward promoting improved welfare outcomes for greyhounds. We support the highest animal welfare and ethics possible, not just for the racing side of the greyhound industry but also the breeding, training and post-race life of every greyhound born. The industry faces a great many challenges to regain credibility, and we see the veterinary profession as having an important role in facing and overcoming these challenges, particularly those in relation to animal welfare.

The AVA strongly supports the need for substantial industry reforms with an emphasis on animal welfare (and integrity). We support in theory the need for industry to fund changes via a levy.

The AVA understands that GRNSW is seeking to get started in raising funds to implement the reforms to be identified by the Special Commission. It is inevitable that the necessary reform of the industry will have significant costs. However, having a more detailed plan may facilitate greater acceptance by both the community and the industry of the levy.

When we asked members to comment on this levy, many commented that raising a levy without a firm plan for how it will improve both welfare and integrity might be viewed as 'being seen' to be making progress without actually doing so. Some even expressed the view that GRNSW might be accused of paying 'lip service' to welfare. A sounder approach would be to have a strong and detailed plan for how animal welfare can be improved. This plan would provide the accountability measures the public and industry are likely to expect for how the proposed levy funds are to be used. With a detailed plan, a budget could then be established and this would dictate the amount needed to be raised to fund the project.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and we look forward to providing further input in the future.

Yours sincerely

Dr Geoffrey Scarlett  
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