



## National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Hon Damien O'Connor  
Minister of Agriculture  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6140

Dear Minister O'Connor,

### **Hansen Report – Fifth Ministerial Quarterly Update May 2019.**

You referred to NAWAC the fifth Quarterly Hansen Report Update.

This update covers four key areas; implementing new track safety initiatives, advancing the revised vaccinations programme, social exposure and environmental guidelines and preparing for the introduction of the new rehoming program.

NAWAC has considered the update and is pleased with the progress made to date in these areas. Whilst NAWAC currently has no immediate concerns with the latest update, it would like to note three points which it will monitor for emerging risks alongside general progression with the Hansen Report recommendations:

1. Establishing full functionality within the industry database appears to remain a challenge. Such functionality is imperative to ensuring that data captured can be used to check and so enforce a number of initiatives, including vaccination status and deregistration. At this stage, industry have indicated that resolution of these issues will not impact on delivery of the Hansen report recommendations.
2. The way in which greyhounds are raised, socialised and used will impact upon their suitability for rehoming after their racing careers have ended; so impacting upon one of the key welfare concerns within greyhound racing. Whilst industry have made progress in improving the guidance around socialisation of greyhounds, including introducing a standard within the Health and Welfare Standards, the industry's socialisation policy has currently been introduced as a guideline only. In addition the

---

C/- MPI, Pastoral House  
25 The Terrace  
P O Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

Telephone: +64 4 894 0100  
Fax: +64 4 894 0733  
Email: [nawac@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:nawac@mpi.govt.nz)

socialisation guideline has then been incorporated more simply into a Breeder Education Guideline booklet. The intent behind this appears to be to allow a period of initial education and exposure for members. NAWAC will seek further clarification around the implications of this on, and the timescales for, the enforcement of these practices at the next welfare committee meeting.

3. Since NAWACs last provided an update to the Minister, the SPCA have laid live bating charges against a prominent greyhound trainer. A case review hearing is scheduled on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, NAWAC notes that there have been some staffing changes at Greyhound Racing New Zealand, including the Head of Welfare and Chief Executive leaving the organisation. Currently it appears that the welfare role has been picked up by the Head of Racing. NAWAC is of the understanding that both of these roles (Head of Racing and Head of Welfare) involve a large time commitment. There is a need to make sure that staffing changes don't interrupt progress with implementing the Hansen report recommendations and that the animal welfare function remains adequately resourced. The welfare committee has also been instrumental in the changes achieved to date and NAWAC will be looking for a further assurance that the welfare committee and its governance relationship to the board is going to have continuity despite the changes in personnel. NAWAC will raise this point at the next welfare committee meeting in June. Due to a cancelled meeting, this will be the first welfare committee meeting since NAWAC last provided advice to the Minister.

Should you wish to discuss this letter, or any other issue, you can reach me by phone on [REDACTED]

s  
9(2)  
(a)

Sincerely



Gwyneth Verkerk