



MEDIA RELEASE

[Saturday, 24 June 2017](#)

Greyhound racing participants urged to provide feedback on draft Code of Practice

Greyhound Racing Victoria is hosting a series of forums and support days to help greyhound racing participants to provide feedback on the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)'s draft Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds.

The draft Code was released for consultation on June 14 and is open to submissions for up to 60 days. GRV is aware that some participants have concerns about the workability of elements of the draft Code, and GRV is encouraging them to put their views forward.

GRV is currently working with clubs and the Greyhound Owners Trainers and Breeders Association to put in place seven independently run forums across Victoria to better understand participants' views and help them make submissions.

The forums will be supported by GOTBA with greyhound racing clubs in Bendigo, Traralgon, Warrnambool The Meadows, Sandown (GOTBA members only), Cranbourne and Geelong hosting the sessions.

Each club and GOTBA will invite 15-20 participants to identify issues and possible solutions with the draft Code.

These events will provide a forum for participants to discuss the draft Code, identify areas of key industry concern, and put forward ideas for change, including alternative drafting.

GRV staff will also attend these events as observers to listen to participants' feedback and hear their suggestions on the draft Code, which will also inform GRV's own response to Government.

In addition to these session, GRV will attend each of the 13 Victorian greyhound racing clubs during July and August to talk to participants about the draft code.

As part of his review into Victorian greyhound racing in 2015, Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Charles Milne recommended the that the code of practice be revised to set a minimum standard for the care and management of greyhounds throughout their life.

GRV CEO Alan Clayton said it was important that participants were heard and that their input was crucial to forming the final version of the code.

"Greyhound racing has come a long way in the past two years and the industry is going from strength to strength," Mr Clayton said.



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“With overwhelming participant support, the landscape of greyhound racing in this state has significantly changed – with animal welfare as a priority and these changes are ensuring the long-term prosperity of our industry.

“I’m aware that some participants are concerned about elements of the draft but I want to stress that this version is just that - a draft. That’s why feedback from participants is vital to help shape the final version.”

“I have already spoken to the Government and I’m confident that any legitimate concerns will be addressed.”

Mr Clayton took the opportunity to acknowledge the support Victorian greyhound racing had been given.

“We have received nothing but full support from the Government as we work with them and our participants to continue to reform greyhound racing and ensure it has a strong and sustainable future.”

The draft Code and details on how to make a submission can be found at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/dogs/greyhounds/code-of-practice>

Workshops will be held at:

The Meadows – Monday, June 26

Sandown (GOTBA members) – Tuesday, June 27

Cranbourne – Tuesday, June 27

Geelong – Wednesday, June 28

Bendigo – Friday, June 30

Traralgon – Saturday, July 1

Warrnambool – Tuesday, July 4

Interested participants will be notified of times.

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For media inquiries please contact:

Luke Holmesby | Public Affairs Manager, Strategic Communication | 8329 1143 |
lholmesby@grv.org.au

Ian Haberfield | Communications Manager, Strategic Communication | 8329 1154 |
ihaberfield@grv.org.au