

Communique - Greyhound Racing Transition Working Group

This communique highlights the key discussions and considerations from the Greyhound Racing Transition Working Group meeting held on 14 January 2026:

Summary of matters discussed:

1. Correspondence

The Commissioner detailed discussions he has had with the Greyhounds Tasmania representative Luke Gatehouse, regarding industry representation on the working group. Those discussions are ongoing.

2. Update on Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee and Legislation

It was noted that the Greyhound Racing Transition Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee (JSC) for further consultation with industry and stakeholders in February 2026. A date of March 2026 has been proposed for further debate in the Legislative Council.

The Commissioner detailed a request for his attendance before the JSC on 11 February. Tasracing have received a similar request to attend on 10 February. Working group members are encouraged to advise the Commissioner of matters they wish him to raise at the JSC.

The Commissioner forwarded the communique of the previous working group meeting to the chair of JSC.

3. Oct-Dec statistics for greyhounds – update

Tasracing provided an update of greyhound statistics in Tasmania. Tasracing staff will commence the next statewide greyhound audit on Monday 19 January 2026. This will be conducted over a 4-week period. Tasracing also detailed the essential staff required to undertake the audit/greyhound transition program. This included the recent addition of two new animal welfare staff, an investigator and a traceability officer whose primary roles are focused on the greyhound transition program. These

roles are currently being funded by the Commissioner's office. Future funding will be made through annual budget funding applications.

Tasracing intends to conduct greyhound transition audits twice a year. Tasracing raised the effective work undertaken by the new Traceability Officer and the record rectification work undertaken which will ensure greater accuracy in the future.

The Commissioner will be notifying Greyhounds Tasmania of the audit dates and a request for co-operation from participants. He will also include details of an increase in Tasracing EAP services for greyhound participants (see *Item 7*). ***This has since been communicated and the request for co-operation from participants was supported by Greyhounds Tasmania.***

The working group discussed the Tasracing guidelines for retiring dogs. Tasracing have agreed to distribute these guidelines amongst the working group members.

4. Greyhound Transition Modelling

Tasracing provided an update that they are currently undertaking modelling on future Greyhound Racing in Tasmania and will provide these modelling options at the next working group meeting. Modelling options will then be presented to the JSC & Ministers Office. As has been previously reported there are no current plans to alter the 2025/6 season.

5. Budget

The Commissioner detailed that he was working on a budget submission for the Greyhound Transition Program and requested feedback from working group members.

6. Complaints

Complaints are being managed through the Commissioner's office. The Commissioner detailed one animal welfare greyhound matter that is being investigated by Tasracing TIU. Complaints are to be processed in line with the Commissioner's complaint handling framework.

7. Wellbeing and support (participants)

The Commissioner provided an update on the provision of welfare and counselling services for greyhound participants throughout Tasmania (both North and South). Suitable providers have been identified and procurement of these services is currently being undertaken. Once these services have been contracted the contact

and location details will be made available on the Commissioner's website. It is proposed the cost of these services will be met by the Commissioner's office. The cost of these services will form part of the budget application.

Currently participants are permitted 2 x free counselling sessions through Tasracing's EAP service. Greyhound Participants have raised concern that this may not be enough sessions given the greyhound transition decision. To address this, the Commissioner has decided to cover the cost of an additional 4 counselling sessions through the confidential EAP service (6 in total). This has been communicated to participants through Greyhounds Tasmania.

8. Local Rules of Racing

The issue of introducing local rules to assist Tasracing in the requirements of the greyhound transition, including traceability was raised. It was decided to evaluate the requirement for local rules after a decision had been made on the proposed bill before Parliament.

The next meeting of the working group will be held on 18th February 2026.

Any enquiries can be directed to the office of the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner by email to GreyhoundTransition@racingintegrity.tas.gov.au.



Sean Carroll
Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner

20 January 2026