9 January 2015

The Hon. Andrew Constance, MP
Treasurer
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Treasurer

Proposed Greyhound Racing Tax Breaks

I write on behalf of a large number of constituents who oppose the proposed reduction in greyhound racing wagering tax rates.

Thousands of greyhounds are destroyed every year, with most dogs bred never making it to the track because they cannot run fast enough for a profit. Most dogs that do make it to the track will also be destroyed when they retire because there are not enough homes to adopt them. This is an indictment on our civilised society.

Community pressure led to a Legislative Council select committee inquiry into the greyhound industry and its first report included damning animal welfare findings.

I share the strong community concern that the committee's second report recommends a staged reduction in taxation rates on wagering to make NSW greyhound racing more viable and competitive.

The greyhound industry is cruel and fails to provide any long term community or economic benefits. Even the committee concedes that the proposed tax break would have little community benefit.

The proposed tax reduction would cost the NSW community almost $100 million each year in lost tax revenue, funds that could be spent on services and infrastructure including health, education and public transport. I am also concerned about tax breaks for industries that facilitate problem gambling and its negative social impacts.

Greyhound racing needs to urgently improve its animal welfare standards and hould not receive tax breaks.

Could you reject recommendations from the Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW to reduce taxation rates on greyhound racing wagering and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney
Cc: Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing

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