



**ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEW ON WELFARE ISSUES
AFFECTING GREYHOUND RACING IN NEW ZEALAND**

March 2019

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1. Executive Summary

The New Zealand Racing Board (NZRB) commissioned Hon Mr Rodney Hansen QC in May 2017 to inquire into and report on welfare issues affecting greyhound racing in New Zealand. The terms of reference included a review of animal welfare standards currently applying to greyhound racing in New Zealand and the level of compliance with these standards, having regard to recommendations of previous inquiries into greyhound racing.

In October 2017 Mr Rodney Hansen QC finalised his report to the NZRB and presented 20 recommendations for action. Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) accepted all recommendations in their totality.

Following the release of the Hansen QC report (the report), GRNZ developed a 3 year plan to achieve compliance in all recommendations.

It is the considered view of NZRB management that satisfactory progress has been made in year one, particularly in terms of health and welfare standards, rehoming initiatives and dog-tracking, database integrity and track safety.

GRNZ has built internal capability and capacity to effectively deliver the recommendations. Project managers for the Database and Rehoming projects were employed, with temporary agency staff onboarded to assist with the investigation of missing dogs.

A subsequent communications plan has included the preparation of quarterly updates to the Minister of Racing and Minister of Agriculture. An annual update summarising progress over the last 12 months was provided in February 2019.

Of the 20 recommendations in the report 7 have been completed, 12 are work-in-progress, and 1 is in scoping. This review has found GRNZ's approach to be sound, their staff to be engaged and motivated, and progress against all 20 recommendations to be acceptable.

This said, there is much more to do over the next two years, particularly in the area of implementing track safety initiatives that are currently being trialled. Overall GRNZ are well positioned to deliver the balance of the report's recommendations.

2. Purpose

This report has been developed to update the Board of NZRB on GRNZ's progress in implementing the 20 recommendations of the 'Report to NZRB on Welfare Issues Affecting Greyhound Racing in New Zealand'.

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It is recommended the Board note this report and approve the recommendations from management in section 5.

3. Background

In May 2017 Hon Rodney Hansen QC was engaged by the NZRB to inquire into and report on welfare issues affecting greyhound racing in New Zealand (NZ). The commissioned report was intended to assist both the NZRB and the Board of GRNZ in assessing progress in the industry and opportunities for improvement.

Mr Rodney Hansen QC finalised his report in October 2017.

The report provided 20 recommendations, which included 13 sections, largely within two main subject areas of *population management* and *safety concerns* within a racing environment. The purpose of these recommendations, based on being successfully implemented, would further advance the welfare of greyhounds in New Zealand.

GRNZ accepted all 20 recommendations of the report and moved with pace to incorporate these into their ongoing programme of work. They divided the recommendations into the following areas:

1. Animal health and welfare
2. Registry and database
3. Track safety
4. Dog tracking, deregistration and euthanasia

GRNZ have set a two to three year timetable to deliver on the recommendations and in the first year following the release of the report have demonstrated that real outcomes can be achieved along the way.

GRNZ management have met with various stakeholders in relation to issues around greyhound welfare, including covering progress on the Hansen Report recommendations. Over the last 12 months these stakeholders included:

- Ray Smith, Director-General of the Ministry for Primary Industries
- Chris Rodwell, Director Animal Health & Welfare, Ministry of Primary Industries
- National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (this committee reports directly to Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture)
- Matthew Ward, (former) Chief Executive of the NZ Veterinary Association
- Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture
- Hon Meka Whaitiri, the then Minister of Animal Welfare

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GRNZ will meet with Kieran McAnulty, Labour List MP and Deputy Chair of the Primary Production Committee, April 2019.

GRNZ have suggested the most significant highlights over the period include:

- Introduction and enforcement of new health and welfare standards (from 1 February 2019) as part of Recommendation #1
- The development and successful trial of the 'Great Mates' prison programme (joint venture with the Department of Corrections) as part of Recommendation #15

In May 2018 GRNZ produced their first quarterly update on progress related to the recommendations of the Hansen Report. Two versions of the update was produced. Firstly, a version for the Minister's office (which was also sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor). Secondly, and allowing for a 4 week period to account for any comments or questions from the Racing Minister, the report was tailored for wider distribution and published online.

Subsequent quarterly updates were provided in August and November 2018 and in February 2019.

Key staffing appointments have driven progress. Recognising the importance of the report, and the programme of activity ahead, GRNZ made some key staffing appointments. These included:

- Sue Walls - Database Project Manager. Sue is responsible for the migration of the current database to the Cloud and the various additional fields that the database needs to capture
- Ricardo Lindsay - Project Manager - Rehoming. Rick provides support to Greg Kerr (Racing Manager)
- Contract temps - Missing dogs. Temporary agency staff were employed over a 3 month period with the task of phoning owners, trainers and Licenced P's to identify the whereabouts of unaccounted for dogs (Recommendation #8).

4. FY 2018 - Review of progress made over the last 12 months

The following provides an overview of each of the report's recommendations, the actions taken by GRNZ to achieve the recommendation (status), a comment, assessment on GRNZ's progress towards achieving the recommendation, and suggested actions for GRNZ to consider.

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	IN PROGRESS
	SCOPING

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Section 1 - Animal Health and Welfare				
Hansen Recommendation	GRNZ Actions and response	Comments	Recommended Actions	Status
01 The Health and Welfare Standards currently under consideration by NZGRA should be finalised and made binding on members as soon as is practically possible. They should include provision for best practice standards for the socialisation and habituation of greyhounds.	The new GRNZ Health and Welfare Standards were distributed to LPs in June 2018 and were in place from 1 August 2018. An accompanying education campaign took place. These Standards have been enforced since 1 February 2019.	Completed.	GRNZ to continue to monitor compliance to these new standards.	
02 All kennels used for breeding, rearing and training greyhounds for racing should be inspected by the RIU at least once a year.	<p>- Agreement has been reached with the RIU and annual inspections will be undertaken, including microchip scanning of all greyhounds on the property.</p> <p>- In addition, a new kennel inspection process is to be developed; and will now be confirmed once the outcomes from a review of the RIU is known (as part of the Messara Report recommendations)</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Despite agreement being reached with the RIU to inspect kennels annually there are still concerns over the consistency of their inspections.</p> <p>One challenge is the RIU are not trained to inspect for welfare issues as their focus is on integrity.</p> <p>Concern that the RIU do not have resources or time to conduct welfare inspections.</p>	<p>GRNZ will lobby for the introduction of welfare inspectors for all Codes.</p> <p>This recommendation is dependant on whether the RIU is reviewed post the Messara Report.</p> <p>An interim agreement should be reached as to a kennel inspection process, prior to the MAC's recommendations to the Minister.</p> <p>RIU to confirm their ability to conduct welfare inspections.</p>	
03 NZGRA should continue to encourage and facilitate training assessments and to publish educational materials for trainers with particular emphasis	- An education campaign for all new health and welfare standards was completed in October 2018. This included workshops, articles and other	Positive steps made facilitating the training through QED Associates and publishing educational materials. LP's have been critical	<p>GRNZ should continue to monitor gaps in effectively educating LP's.</p> <p>QED Associates are due to complete their scoping project for GRNZ mid-March 2019. They are also in discussion with the two equine Codes.</p>	

<p>on generating awareness of the new welfare standards.</p>	<p>educational material being distributed to LPs. - Additional campaigns will follow. QED Associates have been contracted to a scoping project with the objective of developing an overarching training and education program with qualifications unique to each level of licensing (e.g. Handler, Breeder, Trainer).</p>	<p>of the short lead time associated with GRNZ implementing new Rules of Racing, however this was due to meeting animal welfare requirements set by MPI.</p>	<p>Development of educational programmes should involve the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). Any cost effectiveness should be explored. Programmes should be recognised through Unit Standards or Micro-credentials.</p>	
<p>04 Steps should be taken to ensure that the vaccinations of greyhounds remain current by requiring proof of vaccinations on registration for naming and thereafter annually and/or as a condition of permission to race.</p>	<p>- The new GRNZ Vaccination Policy was approved and communicated to LPs prior to being put in place 1 August 2018. - The process including vaccination books are to be released May 2019. This provides LPs time to get all vaccinations up-to-date before enforcement begins from 1 August 2019. From this date vaccinations will be a criteria to register a litter and to nominate to race.</p>	<p>Originally the requirement to prove vaccinations had been administered was at 4 months old only. This recommendation is not a change in the rules of racing, rather the introduction of compliance monitoring by the RIU. Lead times for LPs to implement have been acceptable. A new platform for recording and accessing vaccination details for each greyhound is currently under development and will be in place August 2019.</p>	<p>GRNZ should complete the platform for recording and accessing vaccination details for each greyhound by August 2019 Vaccination certificates are currently manually entered into the system. Options for enforcement should be explored, RIU could do spot checks of vaccination cards at the racetrack. To enforce compliance GRNZ should explore if nominations can be linked to vaccinations being up to date.</p>	

<p>05 The NZGRA should consider whether it is necessary for ear branding to continue and, if it is, to require ear branding to be done under local anaesthetic or otherwise so as not to cause pain to puppies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solution needs to be agreed by Greyhounds Australasia and meet integrity requirements around identification. We have begun these discussions. - In the interim, topical anaesthetic cream has been distributed to ear branders for use on all puppies since 1 October 2018. 	<p>GRNZ's initial position was that they were keen to explore removing ear branding. This has been held up by consensus not being reached by Greyhounds Australasia (which GRNZ are members).</p> <p>GRNZ have implemented the use of local anaesthetic, which is positive, however there is no mechanism in place to ensure ear branders are following the correct procedure, or in fact using the topical anaesthetic cream at all.</p>	<p>Implement checks to ensure ear branders are using local anaesthetic, while Greyhounds Australasia develop their policy.</p>	
<p>19 NZGRA should give effect to the recommendation in the WHK report to record the veterinary care of all greyhounds in a central database.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post race injury reporting rule in place as of 1 August 2018. - A new platform for recording and accessing vaccination details for each greyhound is currently under development and will be in place August 2019. - A centralised database is considered difficult to achieve due to the inability of veterinary clinics located nationwide to share information on individual animals 	<p>Positive steps made in recording Greyhound statistics through the central database. This is segmented by racetrack.</p> <p>Sue Walls (ex NZRB) managing IT, building and maintaining the database.</p> <p>Race day and post race injuries are reported to and recorded by the Stipendiary Steward(s). The process of feeding this information (once presented)</p>	<p>As is the process for the equine Codes and Australasia Greyhound authorities, GRNZ utilises a self-reporting process for post-race injury or lameness. Is an opportunity for GRNZ to lead the way in developing an improved system, less reliant on self reporting, that others in the industry could follow?</p>	

	- GRNZ will ensure the database includes more information regarding the health stats of individual greyhounds.	into the central database works well.		
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Section 2 - Registry and Database				
Hansen Recommendation	GRNZ Actions and response	Comments	Recommended Actions	Status
06 The NZGRA should introduce a rule change to establish a separate register of breeding bitches, to require registration of a brood bitch prior to service and for deregistration on ceasing to be used for breeding purposes.	- A new breeding female registry has been established. - The new GRNZ Registering a Breeding Female Policy has been in place since 1 August, which outlines the new regulations regarding number of litters, age of female and other criteria that needs to be met to register and breed a litter (eg up-to-date vaccinations and health checks).	Completed, new register exists.	No further actions required	
07 The NZGRA should take steps to ensure that its database is revamped so as to ensure that up-to-date, easily accessible and accurate information is available on every greyhound born in New Zealand or imported into New	- An IT specialist was employed to project manage database improvements in April 2018. - Welfare enhancements in the database to date include the breeding female registry, recording of service and whelping information, and	Ensuring that a robust database existed was a key recommendation of the Hansen Report. GRNZ collect a significant amount of data, however their current system means they have few options to report this information	Data integrity has been of concern. Significant achievements within registry and database include: (1) Updates to the deregistration process to make it easier for owners and trainers. - Paper system to be replaced by online - Checks in place including requirement for a vet certificate, and details of	

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<p>Zealand until it is deregistered.</p>	<p>new de-registration processes. GRNZ also completed implementing a system that automatically checks that each LP has the correct licences for the activity (e.g. breeding) for which they want to participate.</p> <p>- Current developments either being scoped or underway include:</p> <p>1) a new tracking system that automatically alerts GRNZ to greyhounds that have not raced recently and puppies registered, but not raced, that may need to be de-registered.</p> <p>2) a new platform for recording vaccination details of individual greyhounds.</p> <p>3) a wider, larger database project that includes the database moving to to a web-based system, and improved data input and management processes and procedures.</p>	<p>(running reports, report templates etc). Database currently used is Microsoft Access 2007).</p> <p>GRNZ business partner is Sandfield who is building and hosting their database through Spark Rivera. All of GRNZ's current reporting is fed from the Sandfield database, including the Power BI software which customised dashboards to report track specific injury information.</p> <p>The new database will be cloud based. Stage one of this is now complete, including the migration of on-track and race day administration functions.</p>	<p>which agency the dog has gone to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRNZ to educate LPs how to use the new system, particularly those who continue to use the old paper deregistration system <p>(2) Breeding female register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strict criteria now exists before a breeding female can go to a vet for service <p>GRNZ should take steps to ensure industry takes up these new initiatives.</p>	
<p>08 The NZGRA should verify the accuracy of its database by: a) Making provision for the RIU to</p>	<p>- The RIU completed a nationwide census, micro scanning all greyhounds on LP properties.</p>	<p>These issues around accuracy measures have been completed.</p>	<p>No further actions required, measures in place to ensure accuracy of database.</p>	

<p>report on the dogs present in each kennel in the course of annual kennel inspections and by updating its database accordingly; b) Requiring trainers to provide a return of all dogs in their kennels when relicensing; c) Agreeing that thereafter the RIU audit the dogs recorded as present in kennels at the time of its annual inspection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-licensing forms include a declaration of the number of greyhounds on the property. - The annual process of kennel inspections will also include a report on greyhounds present at each kennel. - 89% of 1,271 greyhounds reported as 'missing' in the database are now accounted for. A breakdown of these numbers was presented in the Fourth Quarterly Hansen Update. - 11% of the 1,271 greyhounds were unable to be accounted for due to incomplete information received from the LP or some LPs being uncontactable. 	<p>GRNZ have worked hard to account for the number of 'missing' dogs.</p> <p>Accounting for 89% of missing dogs is extremely positive.</p>		
<p>09 The recommendation of WHK that audits of greyhounds registered as privately rehomed should be performed to verify their whereabouts should be acted on.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database enhancements around new de-registration processes now enable the capture of private rehoming information. - Every new owner adopting a greyhound through private rehoming is now called for verification. 	<p>GRNZ's deregistration database now exists.</p> <p>GRNZ contact all new private owners to check if they (1) have taken possession of their dog and (2) how the rehoming process is going for them</p>	<p>GRNZ needs to determine when their 'responsibility' ends, ie is this after the first phone call to a private owner?</p> <p>How does GRNZ work within the 'all-of-life' cycle of a greyhound.</p> <p>Ensure GRNZ's re-homing database remains up to date.</p>	

	- All greyhounds privately rehomed have been followed up on since August 2018.	When an LP adopts a dog the RIU is following up with similar checks.		
11 NZGRA should take steps to ensure that greyhound owners comply with their obligations under the general law including by requiring proof of registration with a territorial authority as a condition of registration for naming and checks on race day to ensure that registration is up-to-date.	- We have formally requested the reclassification of greyhounds as a working dog as part of creating a National Register. We have done this with the responsible Minister and the Ministerial Advisory Committee overseeing the Messara Report. - We are awaiting the outcome of these change requests. - If these requests are unsuccessful, then we will be faced with undertaking a local authority by local authority process.	Despite a comprehensive approach including suggested draft legislation for the change), it is unlikely the request for reclassification of greyhounds as 'working dogs' will be successful through central government.	Should the reclassification of greyhounds be unsuccessful via central government, this could be approached as a local government compliance issue. However, it would require individual territorial authorities to be approached. GRNZ should continue to work with NZRB Public Affairs' Team to try and advance the central government approach.	

Section 3 - Track Safety				
Hansen Recommendation	GRNZ Actions and response	Comments	Recommended Actions	Status
17 NZGRA should remove restrictions on the inclusion in the steward's report of information relating to euthanasia at racetracks.	In place from December 2017.	Restrictions removed.	Recommendation completed	

<p>18 Trainers should be required to report injuries to greyhounds that occur or are detected outside the racetrack.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The post race injury reporting rule was put in place as of 1 August 2018. - Systems have been updated in the database to allow recording of post race injuries. - An education campaign will be undertaken to ensure compliance. 	<p>Race day and post race injuries are reported to and recorded by the Stipendiary Steward(s). The process of feeding this information (once presented) into the central database works well.</p>	<p>As per recommendation #19 the current requirement is to self-report post-race injury or lameness.</p> <p>The success of self-reporting remains an issue in New Zealand, as it is in Australia where the same process exists. Despite the operational challenges of options other than self reporting, GRNZ should review this process.</p> <p>Post race injury or lameness need tighter control.</p>	
<p>20 NZGRA should continue with its program of improving safety at racetracks including: a) Undertaking or promoting further research into the causes of death and injury including into possible explanations for differences in casualty rates between race tracks. b) The completion of trials on the positioning of the lure and giving effect to any changes recommended as a result. c) Investigating the introduction of straight tracks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Injury trends are being monitored track by track. - Expert track inspections were undertaken in October 2018. - A track design and injury prevention workshop was held at GRNZ's annual conference in October 2018. - GRNZ are funding a Massey PhD student to investigate risk factors related to track injuries, including frequency of racing. - Research results reported reduced injuries using an extended lure arm, therefore the extended arm is being introduced at Addington in February 2019 prior to further roll out across all tracks. 	<p>GRNZ have made excellent progress at improving safety at racetracks.</p> <p>There is also greater visibility over injury information through the use of PowerBI report dashboards.</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consulting with leading track curators in Australia. 2. Having an academic from the University of Technology and Science in Sydney who inspect and advise on GRNZ's strategic racetracks 3. Analysing and changing racing surfaces to a sand base that retains a 	<p>GRNZ's approach is sound.</p> <p>Greater visibility and use of dashboards providing safety data is positive.</p> <p>GRNZ should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing the extended lure arm at all NZ racetracks (based on a successful trial at Addington) - Further refinement of injury data in reporting - Repeating 6 dog field trials with a view of testing impact on betting turnover - Introducing a national track curator (could be a part-time, or contract role). Despite the difference in track surfaces, explore if this could be a shared resource between the codes <p>Australia is currently trialling whether a straight track is</p>	

	<p>- Research results reported reduced congestion and reduced on track euthanasia rates with 6 dog fields, therefore 6 dog field trials will be undertaken in February 2019 at Addington.</p> <p>- Trials at the Manawatu Greyhound track, where the 375m start was moved to a 410m start, resulted in a decrease in injuries and is now the new permanent sprint distance for Manawatu.</p> <p>- Analysis of injury rates at straight tracks in Australia will determine opportunities in NZ.</p>	<p>greater amount of water (Addington)</p> <p>4. Box start positions moved to reduce sprint injuries (Manawatu)</p> <p>5. Extended lure arm trialled at Addington (assists to keep dogs off the rail)</p> <p>6. Six dog fields trialled (Addington)</p> <p>GRNZ have approached the above trials strategically, ensuring each change is trailed independently.</p>	<p>any safer than a well designed oval track. This information should be made available to Greyhounds Australasia.</p>	
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Section 4 - Dog Tracking, De-registration and Euthanasia				
Hansen Recommendation	GRNZ Actions and response	Comments	Recommended Actions	Status
<p>10 NZGRA should give consideration to requiring the de-sexing of greyhounds as a condition of deregistration.</p>	<p>- It is already a requirement for a greyhound to be desexed when going through GRNZ rehoming partners.</p> <p>- GRNZ are scoping options to enable the ease and implementation of desexing all privately rehomed greyhounds.</p>	<p>GRNZ are currently scoping this recommendation.</p> <p>All dogs rehomed through an agency (ie, GAP or Nightrave) are desexed prior to being placed with new owners.</p> <p>There is no control over privately rehomed</p>	<p>GRNZ is currently scoping options to explore the desexing of privately rehomed greyhounds, which is positive. This should continue with the goal of having greater control over the rehoming process for all greyhounds.</p>	<p>In Scope</p>

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	- The introduction of this policy will be aligned with our new rehoming framework, as we will have more control over the rehoming process for all greyhounds.	greyhounds, (eg, when a greyhound moves from a trainer direct to an owner, or when trainers or owners keep their dog(s) as pets).		
12 NZGRA should ensure that from registration as a puppy or following importation into New Zealand until deregistration every greyhound is tracked in its database. This will include: a) Making clear, if need be by a rule change, that the obligation to deregister applies to every greyhound, not just those registered for naming. b) Introducing a rule change to ensure that a registered greyhound is at all times kept in licensed premises in the care and control of a licensed person. c) Rigorously monitoring compliance with registration and deregistration obligations including by follow-up action when non-compliance is suspected and by the checks to be undertaken in the	- A comprehensive series of communications were undertaken in regards to de-registration obligations and the rules including puppies, unraced greyhounds and greyhounds they keep as pets. - A new rule requiring all greyhounds to be in the care and on the premises of a LP has been passed, and was effective 1 August 2018. - GRNZ have planned improvements to their database to introduce an automated alert for greyhounds not raced for a given period of time and any puppies not registered to race once they reach racing age for follow up, which will be put in place in the 2019/20 season.	An automated system for deregistration is ideal. Changes to the deregistration process have been communicated through GRNZ's monthly magazine 'OnTrack' and through Advisories on the GRNZ website.	GRNZ should advance the work within the central database project to automate the deregistration process for trainers and owners (currently this process includes completing a hardcopy form and sending this to GRNZ). Mandatory fields should be included to ensure GRNZ collect all information required to effectively deregister the animal and track its rehoming options. Consider the introduction of penalties for LPs for non-compliance to deregistration obligations. The ability for the database to provide automated alerts, ie, for non-racing dogs, is positive. Certain communications to owners and trainers appear to be provided, but not 'pushed' out to LPs through digital channels. Despite the demographic and psychographic make-up of this stakeholder group, GRNZ should consider utilising digital channels to complement their existing channels.	

course of kennel inspections.				
13 NZGRA should introduce a rule change to require approval before a dog is euthanised. This will include an assessment of whether the animal is suitable for rehoming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRNZ have passed a rule that allows them to establish a policy on euthanasia pre-approval. - The introduction of this policy will be aligned with GRNZ's rehoming framework, as they will have increased capacity and more control over the rehoming process for all greyhounds. 	Taking the onus/ decision around euthanasia off the owner is a positive move. This will ensure every dog comes through GRNZ for assessment.	<p>The rehoming policy must precede this rule change.</p> <p>Implement the rehoming policy, then introduce the rule change.</p>	
14 The NZGRA should continue efforts to expand racing opportunities and extend the racing careers of greyhounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There were an extra 303 C1 grade sprint races in the 2016/17 season and an extra 529 races in 2018/19. - Collaborations with Australia on track improvements and new initiatives, including analysis of straight tracks, will continue and will determine the best options for NZ. 	<p>Excellent progress made.</p> <p>This is a 'living' recommendation.</p>	<p>Continue to develop and implement initiatives within this space. There is a link to greater returns to owners, with an extension of racing careers (while considering welfare concerns).</p> <p>Refer to recommendation #20 for detailed progress related to track safety and other welfare initiatives.</p>	
15 NZGRA should continue to increase rehoming opportunities for greyhounds while recognising that rehoming alone cannot solve the problems created by excessive numbers of greyhounds entering the industry each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRNZ increased rehoming funding by 60% in the 2017/18 season. - The Levin property upgrade is in the final stage of completion and has increased capacity to 60 kennels, allowing for anticipated growth. - Framework for GRNZ's nationwide rehoming program is underway. They aim to have key 	GRNZ have multiple streams of work underway within rehoming, with multiple rehoming partners (ie, not just GAP).	<p>Genuine attempts to improve rehoming with multiple activity is positive.</p> <p>Rehoming deals with the quantity of Greyhounds currently in existence. Despite GRNZ having discussions with breeders to discuss reducing the number of litters, does the GRNZ Board have the appetite to control breeding to assist the rehoming programme?</p>	

	<p>elements of the new model tested from April 2019, with the full model in place by 1 August 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Mates Prison Program successfully trialled at Rimutaka Prison and is now a permanent program. <p>Discussions underway to extend the program to other prisons.</p>			
<p>16 NZGRA should continue to develop the means of making accurate projections of future requirements for greyhounds and by education or, if necessary, regulation ensure that the numbers of greyhounds bred and/or imported do not exceed the requirements of the industry having regard to the capacity to rehome greyhounds who do not race or cease racing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A modelling tool has been developed and ongoing refinements will be made to it. - GRNZ have a cap of 20 greyhounds (max five per training facility) per month that can be imported into NZ. - GRNZ have conducted meetings with large breeders to discuss reducing the number of litters. - GRNZ's new Health and Welfare Standards include a reduction in litters a breeding female can have from seven to three, and a reduction in the maximum age they can be bred, from eight to six years of age. 	<p>Modelling tool will assist the accuracy of current estimations</p>	<p>GRNZ Board to decide how they further regulate the number of greyhounds bred and/or imported into New Zealand.</p>	

5. Recommendations

Management recommends the Board NOTE the recommended actions for GRNZ as part of the ongoing activity against the review on welfare issues affecting Greyhound racing in New Zealand.

Hansen Report Rec #	Summary of Recommended Actions
01	Continue to monitor compliance to new standards
02	Agree an interim measure with the RIU for annual kennel inspections prior to MAC's final report to the Minister
03	Continue to monitor gaps in the education of LPs. Consider involving NZQA in the development of such programmes, including offering Unit Standards and / or Micro-credentials
04	Annual vaccination of Greyhounds needs to be compliance monitored. Explore whether RIU could do spot checks of vaccination cards at racetracks. Non-compliance to vaccination policies could be linked to nominations
05	Implement checks to ensure era-branders are using local anaesthetic while Greyhounds Australasia decides on ear-branding policy
18 & 19	Explore options to improve the current self-reporting requirement for post-race injuries
11	Work with NZRB Public Affairs team to advance the central government approach to reclassifying greyhounds as 'working dogs'
20	Based on a successful trial at Addington, implement the extended lure arm nationally. Repeat the Super 6 (six dog trial) to understand impact on training. Explore the viability of a national track curator role.
10	Continue to scope options to desex privately rehomed greyhounds
12	Consider the introduction of penalties for LPs for non-compliance to the updated deregistration process. Consider whether an enhance digital communications plan could complement current channels
13	Implement the rehoming policy, then introduce the rule change which ensures GRNZ have a greater involvement in the decision to euthanise a dog
15	GRNZ Board should consider whether it has any appetite to control breeding numbers

6. Next steps - the year ahead

In the next 12 months we expect GRNZ to complete the scoping work currently underway exploring the options of desexing privately rehomed greyhounds (eg, when a greyhound moves from a trainer direct to an owner, or when trainers or owners keep their dog(s) as pets.

The work ensuring the integrity of database within the cloud based database has been significant. This should be completed over the next 12 months to capture the data associated with operational and policy improvements.

The trial of various track safety initiatives, trialled independently of each other, will inform the case for implementation nationally.

GRNZ are well positioned to enter year 2 of their 3 year plan and meet or exceed all recommendations in the Hansen report.

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7. Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the inquiry were as follows:

To review animal welfare standards currently applying to greyhound racing in New Zealand and the level of compliance with these standards, having regard to recommendations of previous inquiries into greyhound racing. The review was to include but not limited to the policies and compliance practice of Greyhound Racing New Zealand in relation to animal welfare and was expected to:

- Identify and recommend changes to current standards and practices required in order to improve greyhound welfare.
- Evaluate the policy, registration, record keeping and systems relating to the welfare, breeding, racing and life cycle tracking of greyhounds bred in New Zealand and imported into New Zealand.
- Consider the best practice to be followed in the management of the welfare of greyhounds through their racing and retirement including but not limited to socialisation of greyhounds, preparation of greyhounds for retirement, and the adoption as pets process.