



Greyhound  
RACING SA

9 October 2009

## Consultation Paper

Dear Industry Participant

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### Background

For sometime now, Greyhounds Australasia (GA) has been investigating and considering the implementation of microchipping greyhounds in Australia and New Zealand.

The microchip review was undertaken over an 18 month period by a GA Sub Committee, to consider the potential benefits of microchipping as a form of greyhound identification in contrast with the current method of ear branding. Furthermore, the review sought to identify potential opportunities for technology adoption opportunities where it could be demonstrated they enhanced the integrity of greyhound racing, increased efficiencies and provided greater access to on-line exchange of industry information.

More broadly, with the potential for government regulatory directives to be forced upon jurisdictions, GA decided to take a proactive approach by committing to extensively researching, microchips, so as to be well informed on the matter.

It is to be noted that over the past two decades, most state/territory governments in Australia and New Zealand have introduced microchipping for domestic dogs, so the potential to enforce on greyhounds is deemed high. Today, both New Zealand and Queensland have microchip legislation in place which is applicable to racing greyhounds. It should be noted it is a legislative requirement in NSW for dogs to be microchipped, however, greyhounds are exempt.

### Current status

At the June GA meeting a motion to adopt microchipping was considered and narrowly defeated due to two main issues remaining unresolved for three jurisdictions:

- *Integrity concerns*
- *Microchipping of existing stock*

GA at its September Board meeting received revised recommendations in regard to the microchipping of greyhounds for the Australian and New Zealand greyhound racing industries from the three jurisdictions.

Specifically, the revised microchip recommendations are:

- *All greyhounds whelped from 1 January 2011 are to be microchipped and ear branded in one ear*
- *All existing racing stock will be allowed to race without a microchip until they retire*
- *From 1 January 2012 all racing greyhounds will be eligible to race if identified by either two ear brands or a microchip and one ear brand*

The revised position addresses integrity concerns raised in some jurisdictions about the potential removal and duplication of microchips whilst allowing existing racing stock to be 'grand-fathered' from the requirement to be chipped.

At the September GA meeting the Board resolved to:

1. Financially contribute \$120,000 p.a. over the next 3 years to cover the basic microchip cost for its Members
2. Request each GA Member to formally consider its position on the revised proposal prior to the November meeting
3. GA members to seek input of industry participants on its revised proposal
4. A final decision to be made on the microchipping of greyhounds at the 26 November meeting

GA has identified potential technology benefits associated with microchips and these are outlined below

- Potential elimination of greyhound registration papers by electronic photo identification
- Uploading and downloading of greyhound data automatically into Controlling Body computer systems instead of manually keying data
- Monitor the health of a greyhound through the use of temperature sensor microchips
- Establish efficiencies at kenneling through the use of scanners
- The use of automatic weighing systems to replace the current manual system
- Additional integrity checks prior to boxing
- Offer industry advancements for participants who wish to monitor their greyhounds via recording of: weight changes, trial times, feeding regimes via a scanner and utilization of home computer associated technology

The revised recommendations are subject to endorsement or otherwise by individual GA Member jurisdictions and will be tabled for discussion at the GA Board meeting being held in Melbourne on 26 November 2009.

At the September 2009 GRSA Board meeting, the Board requested feedback from our industry participants so as to form an informed opinion in preparation for the November GA meeting.

GRSA welcome your comments and ask you consider the above proposal and provide comment in the attached survey form and return to GRSA in the envelope provided by Friday 23 October 2009. Alternatively, I welcome calls on this matter in the interests of enabling maximum opportunity for industry to comment. Comments can also be sent via email address: [admin@grsa.com.au](mailto:admin@grsa.com.au)

With the return of the survey, you have the opportunity to participate in a lucky draw for a dinner for two in Chasers Restaurant on a Thursday night to the value of \$55.

Yours sincerely



**Peter Ali**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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