

**NOTES OF INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE GROUP (ICG) MEETING  
HELD IN THE BOARDROOM OF GRSA, 55 CARDIGAN STREET, ANGLE PARK  
ON MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2024 AT 10.00AM**

**ATTENDEES:**

Grantley Stevens (Chairman)  
Ben Kavenagh  
Nicolle Rantanam Reynolds  
David Lewis  
Ray Fewings  
Petar Jovanovic  
Christine Costa  
Gavin Harris  
Ryan Tugwell  
Deb Isaacson  
Keaton Bond  
Shaun Mathieson  
Heath Pocock  
Derek Kordick  
Des Jonas  
Paul Mullins  
Hayley Alexander  
Sheriden Milam (Notes Secretary)

The meeting commenced at 10.06am.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Jason Newman and Dr Greg Moore were noted apologies.

The RM provided an update on the current process of finalising the ICG panel.

**2 NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes from the ICG Meeting held on Friday 15 September, 2023 were noted as a true and correct record.

**3 ACTION LIST**

The Group noted the action list as presented.

The IFM provided an update in regard to the installation of power outlets in trainers carparks at Murray Bridge and Angle Park noting the extent of the underground works required for the project. Members requested management obtain a second quote for the work. Members suggested proceeding with installation at Murray Bridge and evaluate requirements at Angle Park. The CFO highlighted the numerous budgeted and unbudgeted capital works projects as well as inquiry outcomes that will need to be considered and prioritised. The Chair requested deferring installation at Angle Park for 12 months and determine the utilisation of Murray Bridge. He noted there may be potential for Clubs to contribute to costs. Members suggested less outlets were required due to the number of participants who now own vans with their own power. It was suggested nine poles with 2 GPO outlets per pole.

The item of longer transitions to Murray Bridge catching pen was raised, specifically relating to the straight track. It was noted movement of the catching pen location was limited. The CFO and IFM intend to canvas trainers' opinions. Members noted comparison with Capalaba to Murray Bridge and suggested it was no longer. Members suggested any issues would be associated with those dogs that had not trialed on the straight track. The general consensus from group was that the item could be removed from the action list as it was not determined to be an issue. Members suggested there were still issues with dogs that had not trialed on the track. Members suggested a drag lure would resolve issue. Members suggested this would form the outcomes of the inquiry recommendations and that the topic of lure would be included in a larger piece of work. Management committed in the meantime to maintaining sand levels to assist with slowing up in the pen and will continue with canvassing of participants for any issues.

The IFM advised that the project to increase noise on the lure was due to be completed in approximately three weeks and involved upgrades to the electronic lure.

The GM Risk & Compliance provided an update on the status of hand slipping returning. He noted an additional staff member was required and the manual implementation of the policy would be more complex and that an electronic lure would assist the process. The GM Risk & Compliance outlined the new process for trials, noting collection of data of those on track (names only) and providing a record that those persons have received a safety briefing.

The WRM provided an overview of the current GAP waitlist. The Chair questioned the groups thoughts on imposing a levy or fee for interstate dogs to enter the SA program. Members noted the responsibility for owners in rehoming needs to increase.

The Chair requested the assistance from Club committees to suggest criteria and thresholds for entry in the GAP program to be presented to the Board for consideration in order to assist to reduce the waiting list. Members noted their observations with lack of information and process around ownership. It was noted this information was currently available on the GRSA website. The WRM noted newly created literature regarding rehoming that was available and committed to distributing to clubs. It was suggested short workshops would be beneficial to participants.

## **4 AGENDA ITEMS**

### **4.1 Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry In South Australia**

#### Dual Lure

The COS outlined their thoughts on the use of finish on lure, as compared to use in Victoria and NSW. He suggested a dual lure with finish on lure would may be viable. It was noted previous trials of a dual lure in SA was not supported by industry and that if finish on lure is retained, a dual lure was not possible. Members suggested if we are going to use a dual lure, the Victorian dual lure design was optimal but agreed that where a follow on lure is used that it be a single lure. It was recommended that GRSA continue to work with the government on the best way to approach this recommendation. Management committed to investigate interstate lure designs for levels of safety. The COS to investigate further with GRV.

#### Kennel Sizes on Premises

The Chair noted this inquiry recommendation and advised that GRSA would work with government and industry to achieve an outcome acceptable to all parties. Members suggested demonstrating improved environmental and enrichment conditions of kennels would be a benefit to the flexibility of this recommendation. Members noted restrictions with council building regulations that may affect the implementation of recommended kennel sizes.

#### Racing schedule/racefields and opportunities

The Chair noted the inquiry recommendation of increased G-Six events and straight track racing. The RM noted the structure required to include dual track race meetings at Murray Bridge. It was noted 342m with 8 dog fields was not preferred, this distance could benefit from 6 dog fields. He further noted factors including the number of current G-Six races, corporate wagering operator expectations and that increased 6 dog fields could lead to a viable Tuesday night opportunity. Members noted the need to consider increased straight track racing and that this could be facilitated by the installation of lights at the track. It was noted a hybrid meeting possibly would not allow for sufficient circle track racing opportunities at Murray Bridge. Members noted the need to alleviate issues presented in recommendations and to provide solutions to issues presented. The COS noted the importance of straight track racing. He suggested increased prizemoney will provide increased opportunities and attractiveness to participants. He noted straight track racing should be the ultimate priority with investigation of methods of better product delivery including camera angles and potentially a camera that followed greyhounds up the track (similar to Spidercam used in AFL).

#### GAP Facility at Murray Bridge

The Chair noted an upcoming meeting with the Murray Bridge Council to discuss development of the property

### Surgical AI

The Chair discussed the inquiry recommendation of banning Surgical AI (SAI) and suggested evidentiary support of SAI would be preferred to assist with any argument supporting the procedure. The members discussed barriers and issues with being unable to access SAI, for example, SAI increases the availability of sires enabling breeders to make the best choice for their mating.

## **4.2 Various Items**

### Finish on lure at Angle Park

Some members noted benefits of finish on lure. Some members requested once the lure is pulled away after the race and the greyhounds have entered the catching pen safely, the lure is slowed to a stop to disengage the greyhounds chasing and looking for the lure. The RM clarified the position of management and the Board in regard to finish on lure. It was suggested by the members that a survey on the topic, of trainers, could be conducted in the future to better understand opinions. The group agreed to defer further discussion on topic.

### Return of the buffet at Chasers

Management provided an update noting a final proposal will be presented to Board for determination with consideration to costs, profitability, alternative options with the intent of attracting more people to the track.

Members commended the marketing team on the Fun in the Sun events.

### Future of WAP

The CFO noted current wagering revenue figures and noted that participants should not expect WAP moving forward. He advised he was available to speak with participants or clubs for clarification.

## **4.3 Breeding and Breeding Survey**

The RM provided an overview of survey responses and requested any feedback from the group. Members questioned if there would be benefit to reintroduce incentives for third litter. The RM suggested an increase to incentives directed at sire may be beneficial. Members suggested a choice of where any incentive applies may assist. It was noted available space in kennels to breed is issue, as well as lack of rearing facilities. The RM suggested initially as an encouragement to remove breeder support restrictions which would lead to increased confidence. He advised he would send suggested amendments to group for feedback. Members questioned a GRSA breeding plan. It was advised that the GM Integrity and Welfare was presenting a plan to Board.

Members questioned if lower breeding levels would lower the GAP waiting list. The WRM noted an increase in younger, unraced dogs to the program. Members suggested greyhounds entering the program be analysed to determine any trends with particular trainers. The WRM acknowledged this was beginning to occur. Members suggested larger breeders from previous years have realised their lack of capacity and therefore have not bred subsequent litters. The RM suggested there was the possibility of SA returning to being a large importer of dogs, creating another market. Members saw positives with decrease in breeding.

## **5.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair provided an update on the appointment of CEO, with an expected announcement to follow shortly.

## **6.0 LATE ITEMS**

Nil

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday 17 May, 2024