

Racing Minister must reveal welfare data

RSPCA South Australia is calling on State Racing Minister Leon Bignell to release evidence that backs his claim that the SA greyhound industry is “good, clean and safe”.

On Thursday, NSW Premier Mike Baird announced he was banning greyhound racing in that State in the wake of a Special Commission of Inquiry Report that found in NSW alone more than 50,000 greyhounds were killed because they were deemed uncompetitive.

During the NSW Special Commission’s investigations, an internal, confidential memo between Greyhound Racing SA CEO Matthew Corby and Greyhound Racing Australasia was uncovered.

It estimated between 13,000 and 17,000 healthy greyhounds each year were killed nationally by the industry each year and that rehoming programs sponsored by the industry (inclusive of the Greyhound Racing SA GAP program) rehome just 6 per cent of pre-raced and retired greyhounds (memo attached).

For the past 18 months, RSPCA SA CEO Tim Vasudeva has repeatedly requested that Greyhound Racing SA publish statistics relating to the number of greyhounds bred, raced and killed in South Australia.

GRSA refuses to publicly reveal this information.

“If Mr Bignell is confident the industry in South Australia is clean and safe for animals he needs to reveal the evidence to support his claim,” Mr Vasudeva said

“There has been an outpouring of public support for the NSW Government’s decision in the wake of revelations regarding the number of dog deaths the industry is responsible for.

“The South Australian community will not stand for a greyhound racing industry in SA shrouded in secrecy.

“If Mr Bignell does not have the data on animal welfare to support his decision, his expression of support is baseless and a Parliamentary Inquiry is required urgently to force GRSA to, at the very least, publicly disclose the number of dogs killed annually,” he said.