

Greyhound Racing New South Wales

GRNSW Quarterly Greyhound Racing Injury Report

1 January 2018 to 31 March 2018

Overview

This report is published by Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) and details greyhound injuries and fatalities that occur at race meetings in New South Wales (NSW), as well as the related euthanasia of greyhounds. The primary purpose of this report is to keep GRNSW stakeholders including greyhound racing industry participants, wagerers, business partners and the community informed of greyhound racing injuries, fatalities and related euthanasia in the interests of transparency.

This is a quarterly report covering the period 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2018.

This report has been prepared using the information on greyhound racing injuries, fatalities and related euthanasia recorded by on track veterinarians and stewards and maintained in the OzChase system by GRNSW.

Injury severity classification

All greyhounds with an on-track veterinary reported injury have been included in this report. As the injuries range from very mild and requiring no incapacitation period to catastrophic injuries leading to death or euthanasia, the following rating guide has been used to estimate injury severity.

Table 1: Greyhound injury rating guide indicating expected stand down periods and examples of related injury types.

Rating	Incapacitation period	Typical injury types
Minor Class I	0 days	Mild skin abrasions/grazes
Minor Class II	1 to 10 days	Grade 1 muscle injury Mild skin laceration
Medium	11 to 21 days	Joint /ligament sprain Skin laceration Grade 2 muscle injury
Major	Greater than 21 days	Grade 3 muscle injury Bone fractures
Catastrophic	Deceased or euthanased immediately	Severe skull or spinal trauma Complex /open/joint fractures

Part 1. Reported greyhound racing injuries

From 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2018 (inclusive) 254 race meetings were conducted across NSW at TAB and Non-TAB racing venues. During these race meetings a total of 4530 individual greyhounds raced in a total of 19,556 race starts. There was an average number of 4.3 starts per greyhound throughout the reporting period.

There were a total of 663 incidents where a greyhound with at least one injury was identified by an on track veterinarian after participation in a race in NSW during this period. These injury incidents affected a total of 620 individual greyhounds.

The total number of reported greyhound racing injury incidents during the period represents a rate of 33.9 injury incidents per 1000 race starts and 14.6 per cent of the total number of individual greyhounds to have raced incurred at least one injury. The severity of these injuries is indicated in the following table.

Table 2: Total number of injury incidents by injury severity rating, injury rates per 1000 starts and injury rate per 100 greyhounds in NSW race meetings between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 (Q4 17) and 1 January 2018 and 31 March 2018 (Q1).

Injury Severity Rating	Incapacitation period	Total numbers of injury incidents		Injury rate (injury incidents/1000 starts)		Injury rate * (injury incidents/100 greyhounds)	
		Q4 17	Q1	Q4 17	Q1	Q4 17	Q1
Minor I	0 days	80	48	3.6	2.4	1.6	1
Minor II	1 to 10 days	207	234	9.4	12	4.2	5.2
Medium	11 to 21 days	207	235	9.4	12	4.2	5.2
Major	Greater than 21 days	118	109	5.4	5.6	2.4	2.4
Catastrophic	Deceased or euthanased immediately	34	37	1.5	1.9	0.7	0.8
TOTAL		646	663	29.3	33.9		

*The percentage of individual greyhounds racing in the reporting period who suffered an injury in each of the injury severity rating categories. Note that some greyhounds were injured more than once in the period resulting in a summation of this column exceeding the 14.6 per cent statistic which reflects the percentage of individual greyhounds that incurred more than one injury.

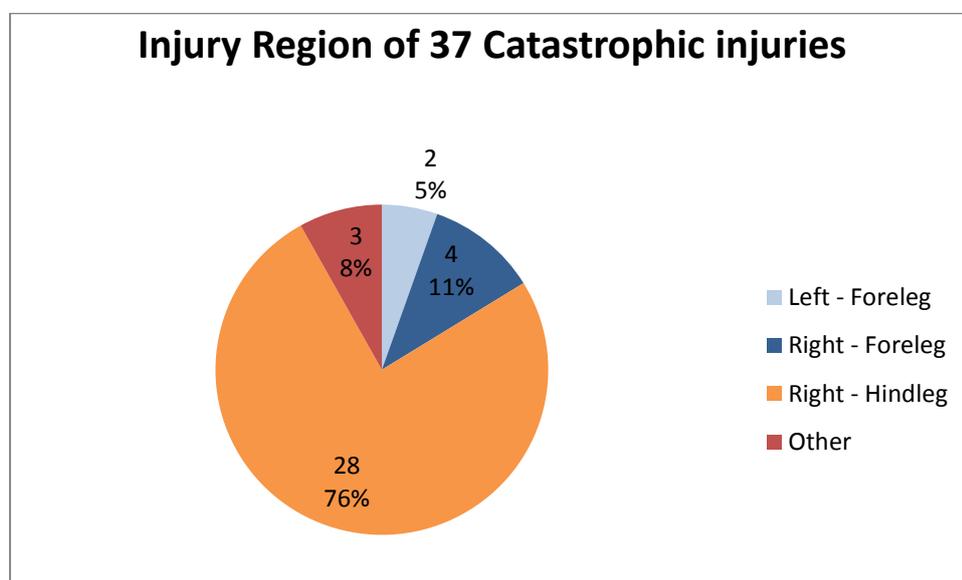
Part 2. Reported greyhound racing fatalities

GRNSW defines racing fatalities as all injuries and incidents occurring during or subsequent to a race resulting in death at the race meeting or requiring euthanasia at the race meeting.¹

There were a total of 37 reported greyhound racing fatalities from 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2018. Of the 37 reported greyhound racing fatalities, none died as a result of sudden death at track side following a race, with all fatalities involving euthanasia following catastrophic injury. The total number of reported greyhound racing fatalities during the period represents a fatality rate of 1.9 deaths per 1000 race starts.

The main sites of the injuries leading to euthanasia are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Injuries resulting in 37 greyhound racing fatalities from 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2018 at or immediately after race meetings in NSW.



Consequent outcomes of Q4 2017 Injured Greyhounds

Of the 612 greyhounds reported to have incurred a non-fatal injury in the Quarter 4 2017 Racing Injury Report (1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017), 20 were reported as deceased by 31 March 2018.

¹ This statistic does not include euthanasia that occurs subsequent to race meetings at private veterinary hospitals after further diagnostic or treatment advice is sought.

Part 3. Racing injury and fatality trend report

The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 31 March 2018** is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 31 March 2018**.

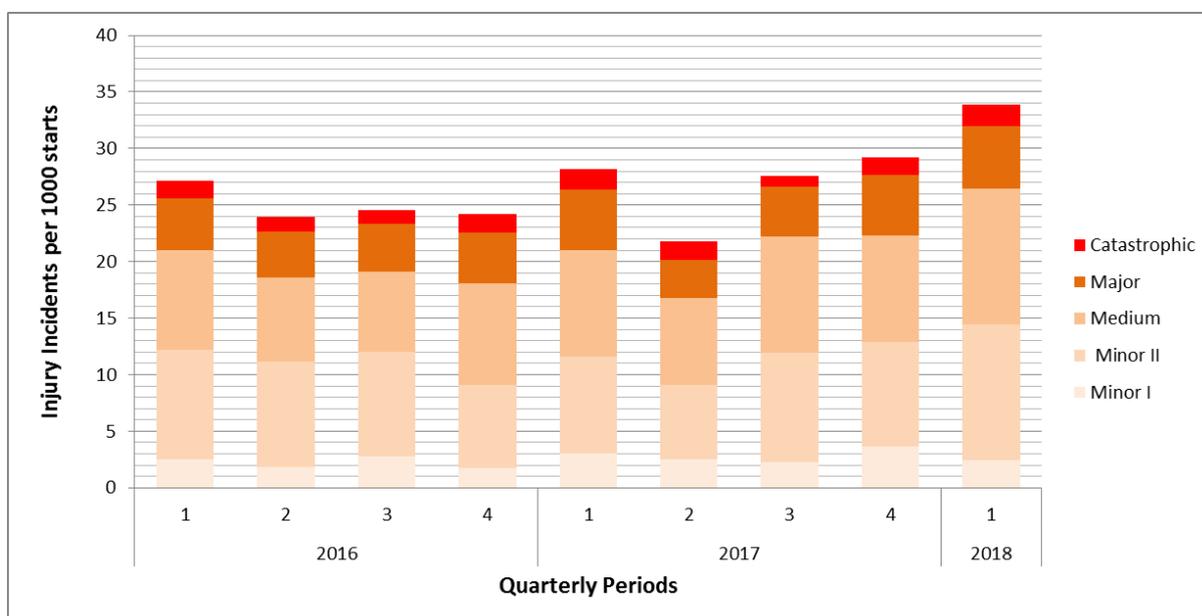
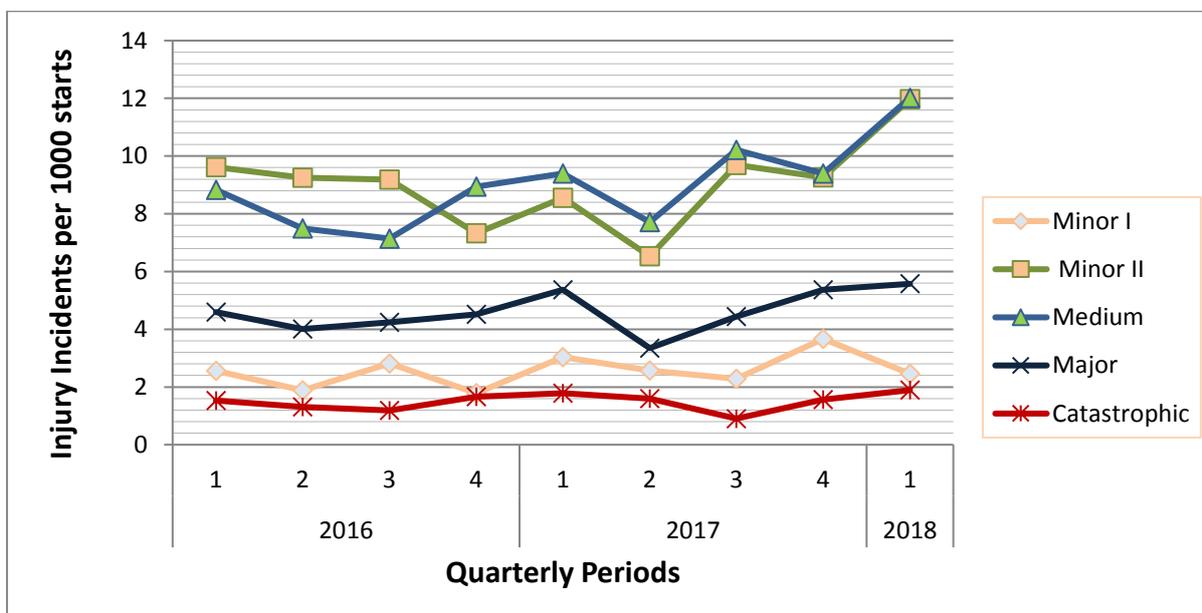


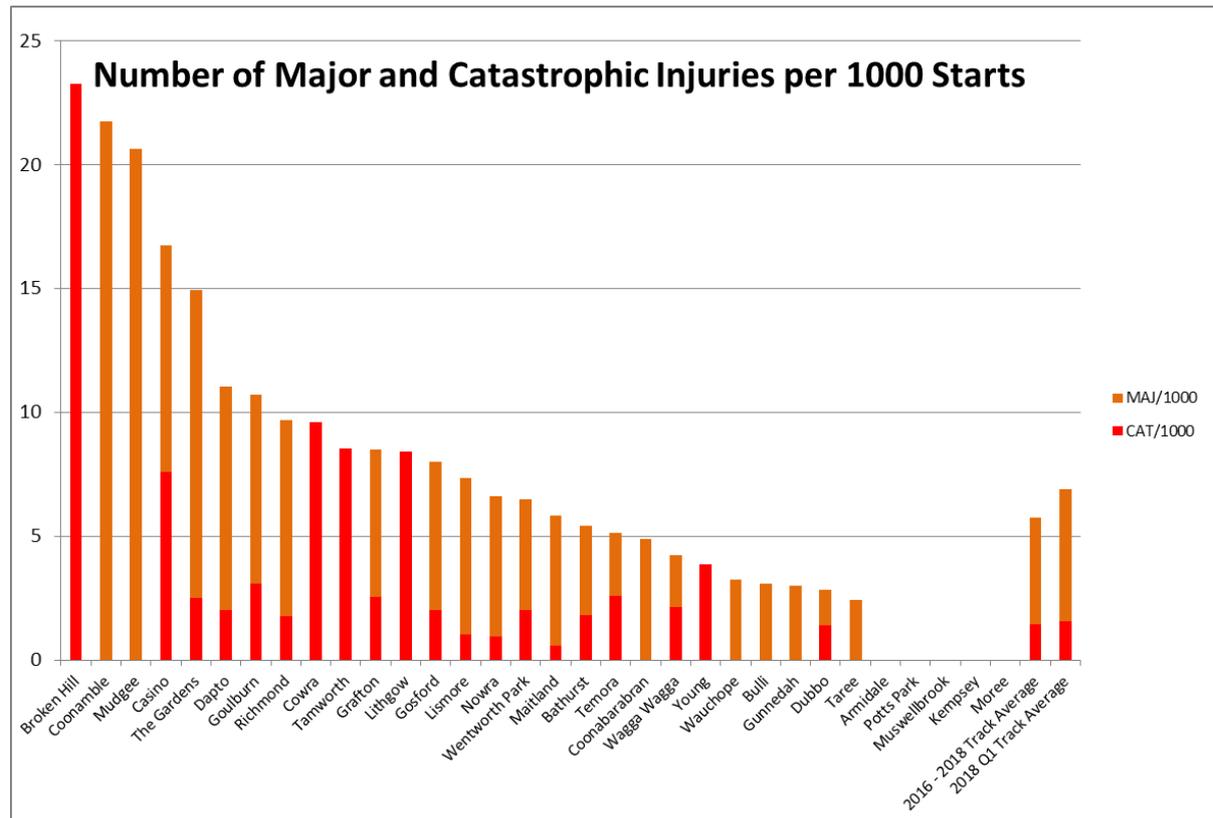
Figure 2a: Breakdown of injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 31 March 2018**.



Part 4. Major and catastrophic injuries by track

The column graph in **Figure 3** below outlines the combined rates of Major (incapacitation period greater than 21 days) and Catastrophic (incident resulting in death or euthanasia at the meeting) per 1000 starts for greyhound racing venues in NSW for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2018.

Figure 3: Major and Catastrophic injury incidents per 1000 starts at NSW race venues from 1 January to 31 March 2018.



Analysis and Comment

There has been a general increase in the total number of injury incidents over the reporting period, with the overall injury rate of 33.9 injuries per 1000 starts greater than the injury rate of 29.3 per 1000 starts for the previous quarter.

While there was a significant decrease in the overall rates for Minor Class I injuries, there were increases in the rates for all other categories of injury. The largest increases were in Minor Class II and Medium category injuries.

With regard to the venues that recorded the highest Catastrophic and Major injury rates per 1000 starts during the reporting period (Figure 3):

- **Casino, The Gardens** and **Dapto** experienced significant increases and the **Goulburn** rate remains high.
- The number of starts during the period for **Broken Hill** (43), **Coonamble** (92) and **Mudgee** (97) are relatively low which means that the injury rates per 1000 starts need to be treated with caution, as random factors can distort the numbers.

A number of tracks recorded decreases in their combined rates for Major and Catastrophic injuries.

- **Maitland** experienced a significant increase in racing activity over the reporting period – with 1722 starts for Quarter 1 2018 representing a substantial increase over the 1144 starts recorded for Quarter 4 2017 – but also reported a significant decrease in injury rates for all categories during the reporting period. The rate for Catastrophic and Major injuries decreased from 9.6 per 1000 starts to 5.8.
- **Dubbo** also reported a decrease in its overall injury rate, which dropped from 31.1 injuries per 1000 to 23.9. The rate for Catastrophic and Major injuries decreased from 10.8 per 1000 starts to 2.8.

It is noted that there is a trend in quarter 1 in each calendar year (i.e. the summer months) where there is a higher number of injuries per thousand starts compared to other quarters. As part of GRNSW's track safety reform work this trend is being investigated. Dryness of the track or temperature and humidity at the time of racing are possible causal factors. GRNSW is in the process of acquiring equipment to monitor track dryness and compare the results for tracks throughout the year. Bureau of Meteorology data will be examined to review temperature and humidity data at the time of racing.