

Greyhound Racing New South Wales

# GRNSW Quarterly Greyhound Racing Injury Report

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1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017

## 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 July 2017 to 30 September 2017.

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 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 (inclusive) 287 race meetings were conducted across NSW at TAB and Non-TAB racing venues. During these race meetings a total of 5,254 individual greyhounds raced in a total of 23,208 race starts. There were an average number of 4.4 starts per greyhound throughout the reporting period.

There were a total of 639 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 606 individual greyhounds.

The total number of reported greyhound racing injury incidents during the period represents a rate of 27.5 injury incidents per 1000 race starts and 11.5%\* 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 April 2017 and 30 June 2017 (Q2) and 1 July 2017 and 30 September 2017 (Q3).

Injury Severity Rating	Incapacitation period	Total numbers of injury incidents		Injury rate (injury incidents/1000 starts)		Injury rate * (injury incidents/100 greyhounds)	
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Q	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q
Minor I	0 days	63	53	2.6	2.3	1.2	1
Minor II	1 to 10 days	160	225	6.5	9.7	3.0	4.3
Medium	11 to 21 days	189	237	7.7	10.2	3.5	4.5
Major	Greater than 21 days	82	103	3.3	4.4	1.5	2
Catastrophic	Deceased or euthanased immediately	39	21	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>533</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>27.5</b>		

\*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 11.5% statistic which reflects the percentage of individual greyhounds to incur at least one injury.

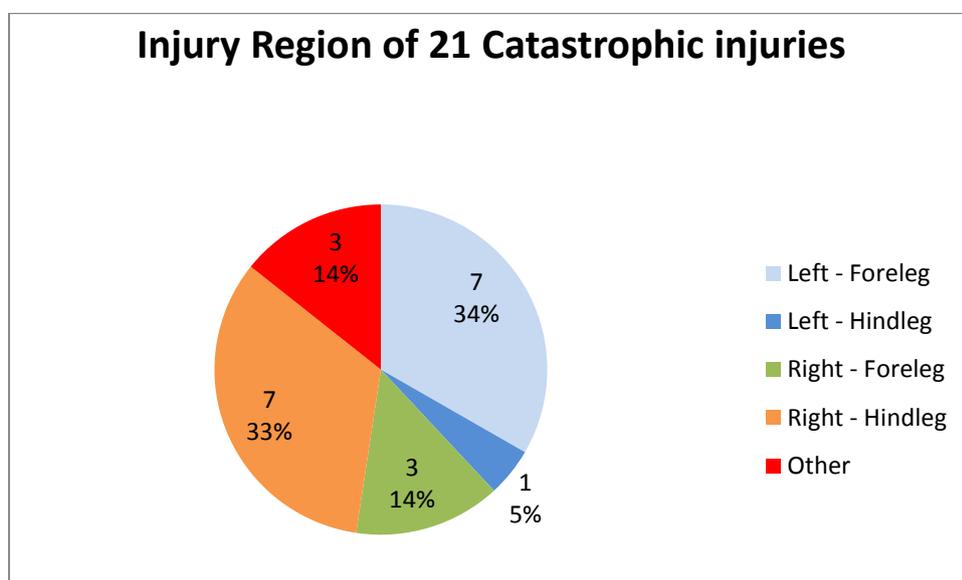
## Part 2. Reported greyhound racing fatalities

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.<sup>1</sup>

There were a total of 21 reported greyhound racing fatalities from 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017. Of the 21 reported greyhound racing fatalities, one died as a result of sudden death at track side following a race, not as a result of euthanasia. The total number of reported greyhound racing fatalities during the period represents a fatality rate of 0.9 deaths per 1000 race starts.

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

**Figure 1:** Injuries resulting in 21 greyhound racing fatalities from 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 at or immediately after race meetings in NSW.



### Consequent outcomes of Q1 2017 Injured Greyhounds

Of the 494 greyhounds reported to have incurred a non-fatal injury in the 2017 Second Quarter Racing Injury Report (1 January to 31 March 2017), 35 were reported as deceased by 19 September 2017.

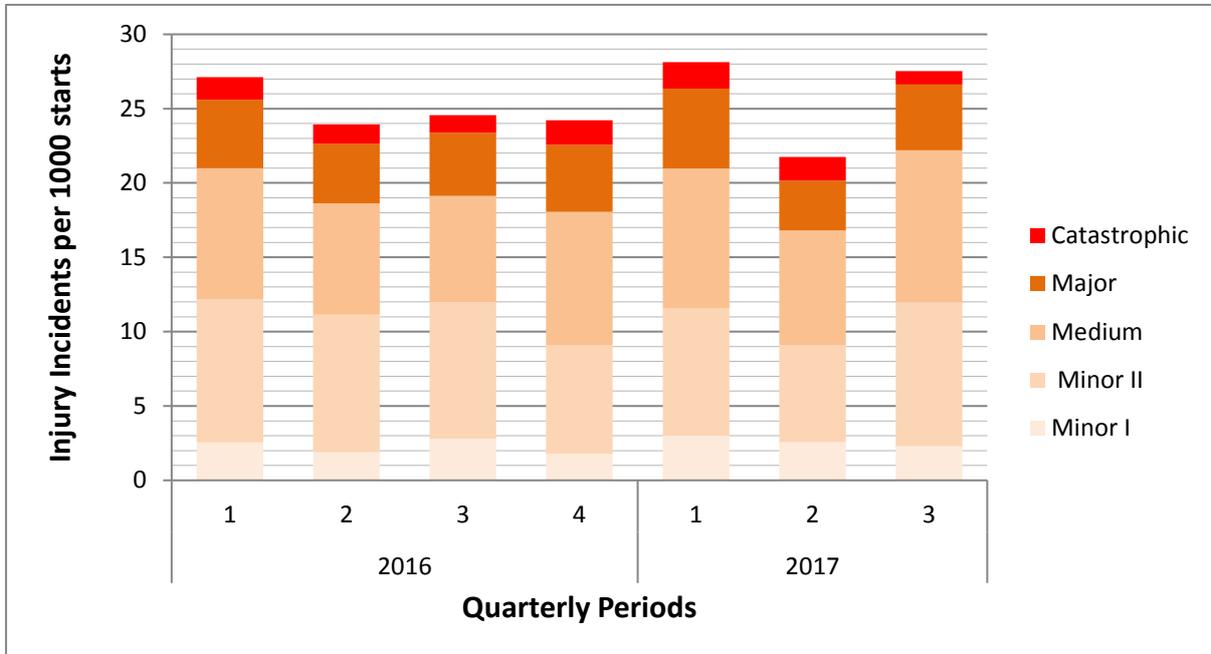
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<sup>1</sup> This statistic does not include euthanasia that occurs subsequent to race meetings at private veterinary hospitals after further diagnostic or treatment advice is sought.

## Part 3. Racing injury and fatality trend report

The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 30 September 2017** is shown in Figure 2.

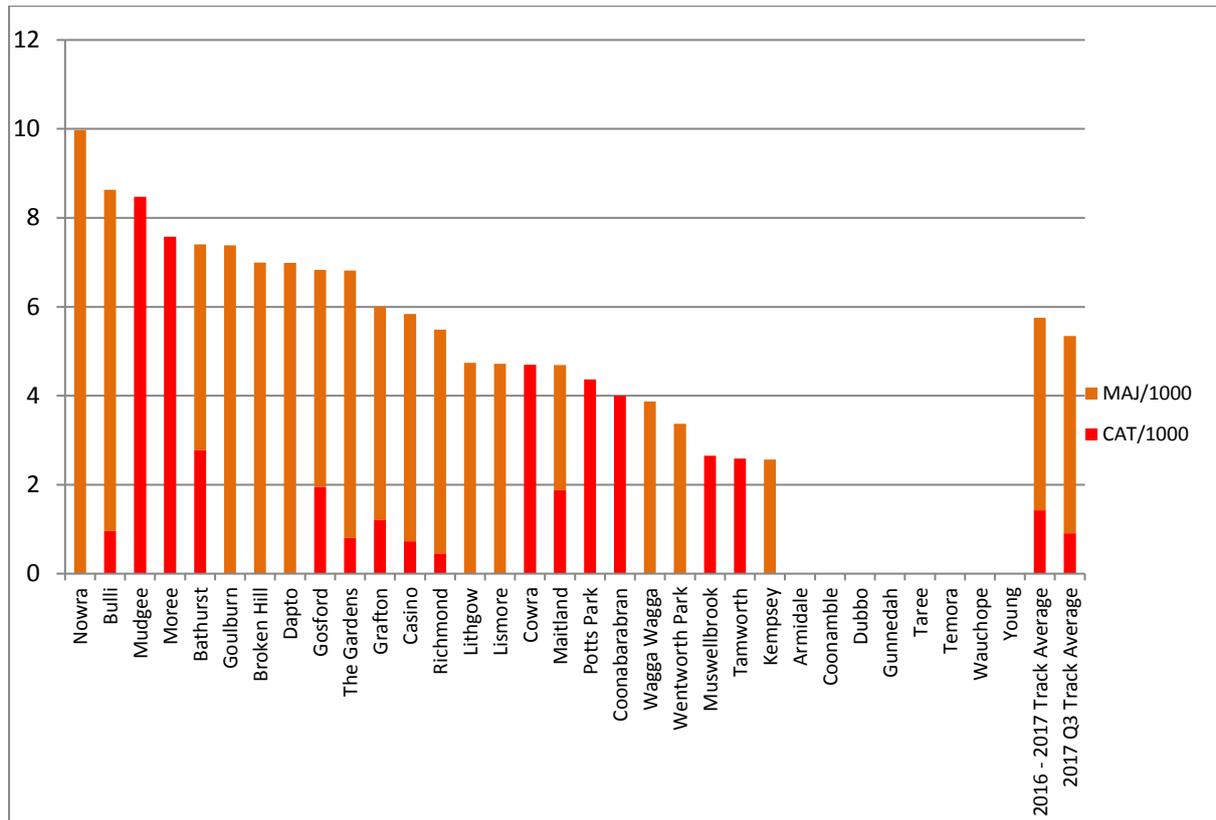
**Figure 2:** The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 30 September 2017**.



## 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 July 2017 to 30 September 2017.

**Figure 3: Major and Catastrophic injury incidents per 1000 starts at NSW race venues from 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017.**



## Analysis and Comment

Catastrophic injuries have decreased from 39 in the June quarter to 21 this quarter. However, there has been an increase in the total number of injury incidents over the reporting period; the overall injury rate of 27.5 injuries per 1,000 starts is higher than the 21.7 of the previous quarter.

With regard to three venues that had significantly increased injury rates during the quarter:

- **Nowra** experienced decreased Catastrophic injuries compared to the previous quarter from 1.97 to zero per 1,000 starts but the Major and Medium categories increased from 3.94 and 8.86 to 9.97 and 15.95 respectively. GRNSW worked closely with the club to resolve track maintenance and preparation issues and completed a track renovation on 1 November 2017
- **The Gardens** also experienced decreased Catastrophic injuries compared to the previous quarter from 1.03 to 0.8 per 1,000 starts but the Major and Medium categories increased from 2.74 and 7.87 to 6.01 and 18.04 respectively. In October 2017 GRNSW commissioned significant work at The Gardens to rectify a number of legacy issues which had begun to hinder proper track maintenance and preparation. The redevelopment project involved the removal of the existing track sand, the repair and consolidation of the track base, installation of sub surface drainage, increased height of the 400m starting boxes to allow for improved cambers and grades on the turn, replacement of grass matting and the placement of new track sand. This project was co funded by GRNSW and The Gardens GRC.
- **Bulli** also experienced decreased Catastrophic injuries compared to the previous quarter from 3.16 to 0.96 per 1,000 starts but the Major and Medium categories increased from 4.21 and 8.43 to 7.67 and 13.42 respectively. GRNSW worked closely with the club on track maintenance and preparation issues throughout the quarter and will complete a scheduled track renovation in mid-November 2017
- **Mudgee** had one catastrophic injury and no major injuries in the quarter. The low number of starts for the quarter (118) make the rate per 1,000 starts high but this is not statistically significant.

There have also been a number of tracks at which improvements in injury rates were notable.

- **Dapto** also experienced a decrease in all categories of injury except Minor Class II, with a total injury rate reduced from 36.76 to 26.95 per 1,000 starts.