Mr Tony Mestrov  
Chief Executive Officer  
Greyhound Racing New South Wales  
Level 23, 1 Oxford St  
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

Dear Mr Mestrov

Thank you for your feedback on the draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022, in particular your concerns around Division 3 - Prohibited and restricted procedures, Section 22 (1)(e) of the Bill.

I am writing to advise that the draft provision will be removed and will not make up any part of the final legislation.

The draft Bill consolidates and replaces the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTAA), Animal Research Act 1985 (ARA), and Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 (EAPA) – focusing on promoting the welfare of animals and preventing animal cruelty.

The NSW Government published the draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 to provide stakeholders and the community with an opportunity to provide feedback before the Bill is finalised.

In response to some of the proposed changes, we have heard specific feedback from stakeholders expressing concerns about the draft provision that would prohibit surgical artificial insemination in dogs (Section 22 (1)(e)).

I am advised artificial insemination of racing greyhounds is already regulated under the Greyhound Racing Act 2017, Regulation, Code and Rules. A person performing artificial insemination on greyhounds is required to register with the Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission (GWIC) and is required to comply with the Code of Practice as a condition of registration. The Code requires that surgical artificial insemination can only be performed by a veterinarian using general anaesthetic, with appropriate pain relief during and post-surgery (section 4.14).

The GWIC estimates that over 80 per cent of greyhound breeding occurs as a result of surgical artificial insemination which is appropriately regulated under the Code of Practice.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the draft Bill is fit-for-purpose for everyone involved in working with animals. The draft provision does not meet that expectation and would create significant uncertainty for the industry.

Therefore, this draft provision will not form any part of the final Bill.

Thank you for your feedback and engagement in the development of this draft Bill.

Yours sincerely

Dugald Saunders  
MINISTER

CC. The Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Hospitality and Racing, Minister for Lands and Water