

# The Sydney Morning Herald

## Call for cradle to the grave tracking of greyhounds to prevent mass killings

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Christine Dorchak from Grey2K has called for greyhound racing to be banned.

The world's peak protection group for greyhounds has called on the NSW Premier Mike Baird to urgently establish a system to track all dogs from the cradle to grave to prevent any more mass killings of dogs.

The group Grey2K USA Worldwide wrote to Mr Baird last week saying although they want the greyhound racing industry banned, the government must act immediately to make sure the welfare of dogs currently in the industry are protected.

The Australian Director Jeroen van Kernebeek wrote "on behalf of our more than 100,000 supporters worldwide, we urge you to immediately institute a system to track the fate of every greyhound currently participating in the racing industry in New South Wales and to ensure that the disposal of further greyhounds by greyhound racing industry participants is prevented".

Mr van Kernebeek said that acute humane problems in the greyhound industry had already been documented in evidence and testimony given to the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing in NSW.

The Special Commission was set up in the wake of the live baiting scandal which was exposed by a *Four Corners* program in February.

Stephen Rushton SC, counsel for the Inquiry, has already told the commission that thousands of dogs are being killed every year.

Grey2K's US director Christine Dorchak has previously called on the NSW government to ban the \$144 million a year greyhound racing industry and follow the lead of 39 states in the US in banning dog racing.

But last week Mr van Kernebeek and NSW Greens MP Dr John Kaye said that while the government considers the future of the industry it also must act to safeguard the health and welfare of the animals currently in the industry.

Dr Kaye said "cradle to the grave" monitoring must be brought in to stop any more killings of greyhounds.

Mr Van Kernebeek argued it is not a complicated policy and has already been adopted in several American states.

"This reform cannot wait. It is absolutely essential that it occur now to end the disposal of greyhounds by the industry," he said.

"The prompt creation of a state greyhound disposition reporting system will not impact on the adoption of other reforms being considered at a later date."