

Logan greyhound track plan could be axed



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Queensland's Racing Minister says he will consider a proposal to scrap a proposed greyhound track at Logan in the wake of the industry's live baiting scandal.

Bill Byrne last month declared the track was still going ahead, however the minister has softened his stance since ordering an inquiry into Queensland's greyhound industry.



Doubt has been cast over whether a proposed greyhound racing track at Logan will proceed. Photo: Peter Stoop

The Logan City Council opposes the track, but has little control over whether it will be built due to the state government owning the site at Cronulla Park in Slacks Creek.

On Tuesday, the council voted to write to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Mr Byrne to declare its opposition to the \$12 million racing facility.





About 200 people gathered in Slacks Creek to protest the development of the track in October 2014. Photo: Glenn Hunt

In a statement to Fairfax Media Mr Byrne said: "I await the letter and will actively consider its contents".

Last month Mr Byrne told Fairfax Media that the *Four Corners* program, which revealed the extent of live baiting in the greyhound industry, would not prompt him to call off the controversial development.

"It would be a quantum leap to suggest that an entire industry - a working people's industry in many ways - should be curtailed because of these dreadful revelations," Mr Byrne said on February 17.



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Logan formally approved the track because it met local planning requirements, but Mayor Pam Parker said it was not "the right image for Logan".

Logan's letter to the government will call on all work to be placed on hold and for the state to consider turning Cronulla Park into "a much needed multi use sporting venue which will benefit a greater majority of the city".

The city's deputy mayor Russell Lutton supports the track, but is open about having a conflict of interest because he owns a greyhound pup and has been involved in the racing industry.

"I was appalled by what I saw on television and I think [rogue trainers] let the industry down," Cr Lutton said this week.

"It's going to take a long time for the industry to recover but it's the same as Lance Armstrong and his doping. They didn't ban cycling - you clean out those people [involved] and you continue on with an industry that keeps a lot of people in jobs."

Queensland Police have so far charged two men with serious animal cruelty.