

A greyhound racing track earmarked for suburban Slacks Creek should be “dead in the water”

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There is a call for the proposed Slacks Creek track not to go ahead.

A GREYHOUND racing track earmarked for suburban Slacks Creek is “dead in the water” according to the only Logan City Councillor supporting its development.

Deputy Mayor and greyhound owner Russell Luton (Div 2) said he couldn't see how the Cronulla Park track would go ahead after the findings of the MacSporran report into live baiting and animal cruelty was handed down and Tuesday's announcement by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk that the entire Queensland Racing board would be sacked.

State Member for Springwood Mick de Brenni said development of the Cronulla Park was on hold until the report was handed down.

Mayor Pam Parker said on Tuesday that she would be “very surprised” if the track went ahead after this week’s “sickening and barbaric” revelations.

Councillor Lisa Bradley (Div 1), who tabled another petition opposing the track, said she hoped the State Government would do the right thing by the city and its residents who did not want a greyhound racing track.

She said a variety of groups including AFL clubs, cycling clubs and a PCYC had already presented alternative proposals for the land on the corner of Kingston and Compton roads.

Premier Palaszczuk said the perception of the industry may have been dealt a terminal blow after the report criticised the Queensland Racing board and its executive for “systemic failures” and accused officials of turning a “blind eye” to the alleged use of live possums and pigs to blood greyhounds.

RSPCA Queensland spokesman Michael Beatty said if it was decided to shut the industry down “we would support that.” He said the actions of the Queensland Government needed to be commended.

“Our Government has acted decisively which is in stark contrast to the lack of meaningful action from other Governments,” Mr Beatty said.

Mr Beatty commended the Premier for sacking the racing boards.

“Hopefully (this) will allow the industry to start again with a clean slate and lead to the industry being infinitely more accountable than it has been in the past. She has also promised to look closely at some realistic recommendations that could help alleviate the appalling wastage of animals who either don’t make the grade or have retired.”

Animals Australia claims if Queenslanders were given a chance to vote on the future of greyhound racing they would shut it down.

Animals Australia’s Lisa Chalk said any support given by the State Government to the greyhound racing industry should be in the form of transitioning trainers, breeders and owners away from the industry, and shutting it down.

“We don’t believe these practices will end, they will just get better at hiding it. The Queensland Government needs to ask where is the societal benefit in an industry that fosters such human behaviours and that shows such a callous disregard for life,” she said.

Most Logan residents responding on the Albert and Logan News Facebook page did not want to see the track go ahead.

“Greyhound racing should be banned. Full stop,” Bec Shaw said.

Ant Berrill added: “It shouldn't go ahead because of mistreatment of animals, and the last thing Logan needs is another source of gambling.”

Toni Condon said: “The behaviour of the industry does not warrant government spending money to provide more opportunities to it.”