



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021



The Australian Senate is seeking public comments on a Bill that proposes to ban the export of greyhounds to any overseas country for commercial purposes such as racing or breeding. Exporting a pet greyhound would still be allowed.

Have your say!

Submissions due
Wed 16 August 2023

You can write a submission.
Find out more [here](https://tinyurl.com/35e3uwhu):
<https://tinyurl.com/35e3uwhu>

In this fact sheet we set out our recommendation and some information as a guide to making a submission to the Senate inquiry into the **Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021**.

Recommendation: *The ADO recommends that the Bill be passed in full.*

Key Issues



- Despite growing concerns, greyhounds continue to be exported live from Australia. 1,216 dogs were exported between January 2018 and May 2023.[1]
- According to the RSPCA there are significant animal welfare issues associated with exporting greyhounds for commercial purposes, including stress and injuries from long journeys in cramped conditions.[2]
- Once overseas, industry greyhounds cannot be tracked, rendering their final destination and living conditions unknown.
- The industry's own restrictions on exports are allegedly breached even by prominent industry figures exporting to 'banned' destinations such as China.[3]
- The exemption for pet greyhounds may need guidelines on how to determine when a greyhound is a pet rather than a dog used for racing, to ensure the exemption is not exploited as a way to export greyhounds for commercial (ie racing) purposes. Independent greyhound-rescue organisations should be consulted as part of this process.



Background

The Bill was introduced to the Senate by the Australian Greens. It proposes to amend two sets of regulations (legislative rules) dealing with prohibited exports and imports of goods.[4] It proposes to ban the export or import of greyhounds to or from **any overseas country** (not just some countries such as China) for racing, breeding, or any other commercial purpose. The ban applies to greyhounds and any **reproductive material** of a greyhound. A person who wants to export or import their **pet** greyhound would have to apply to the Minister (or their delegate) for an **exemption** to the ban. The Minister's decision to refuse or grant the exemption could be **reviewed** by a Tribunal.

Q & A about the Bill

Q - Why is this a Commonwealth Bill – isn't animal welfare regulated at the State level?

A - The Bill deals with exporting and importing which are activities regulated by the Australian Government.

Q - Is there a precedent for this proposed ban on exporting greyhounds for commercial purposes?

A - Yes. The proposed ban follows the current ban on exporting and importing dog and cat fur. The greyhound ban is therefore not a radical proposal.

Q - Who could grant the exemption for 'pets'?

A - The Minister for Home Affairs or a public servant.

Q - What is 'reproductive material of a greyhound'?

A - Any part of a greyhound from which another greyhound can be produced eg semen.

Q - Who is the 'Collector'?

A - The "Comptroller-General of Customs" who enforces customs laws and collects border-related revenue. Currently it is the Australian Border Force Commissioner.

[1] <https://tinyurl.com/nau3etrr>

[2] <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/why-does-the-rspca-oppose-the-export-of-racing-greyhounds/>

[3] <https://tinyurl.com/5areswah>

[4] *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958* (Cth) and *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (Cth)