

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021

Question No: IQ23-000259

Hearing Date: 15 September 2023

Division/Agency: Traceability Plant and Live Exports Division (TPLED) G2

Topic: Inquiry Hearing Question 1

Hansard Page: 31

Question Date: 15 September 2023

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Dr Mehreen Faruqi asked:

Senator Faruqi: Just for the department: the government publicly releases the number and destination of greyhounds exported, because that notice of intention comes through the department. Could you explain just a little bit the background of how and when that public reporting came about?

Ms Hinder: I'm sorry. We might need to take that on notice. I'm not certain that any of us has got that history.

Senator FARUQI: If you could take that on notice?

Answer:

The data relating to greyhound exports (as a subset of non-livestock export statistics already published on the department's website) was first published on Friday, 4 March 2016. The information published through 2016 and later can be viewed using the National Library of Australia's 'Trove'¹ tool,

The data was initially published in a table format for the period January to March 2016. Greyhound export data for 2014 and 2015 was also published at the time.

The publication of greyhound export statistics as a subset of non-livestock export statistics on the department's website followed enquiries made by Greyhound Racing NSW in relation to their inquiry into the export of greyhounds from Australia in early 2016.

There are also records on the department's Freedom of Information (FOI) disclosure log in 2016 of documents being released under FOI in early and late 2015 relating to greyhound exports. FOI requests related to data of live animal exports statistics can take significant time and resources to prepare.

Whilst a specific reason for the publication of the data is not immediately ascertainable by the department at this time, it is reasonable to conclude that the FOIs and the query from Greyhound Racing NSW were considered by the decision maker to demonstrate there was

¹ Trove is a research tool provided by National Library of Australia (NLA). Trove provides access to over 6 billion records about Australia or of interest to the Australian community. Trove focuses on freely available digital content created by Australians and held in the collections of Australian Libraries, Archives, Museums, Galleries, University, Research and community organisations. Trove includes access to the NLA's web archiving service.

sufficient public interest to warrant information being published on the department’s website on a regular basis and that efficiencies would be achieved by not having to report data in response to individual queries.

A screenshot of the search result using Trove is provided for reference:

The screenshot shows a web page with a sidebar on the left containing navigation links: 'Live Animal Export Statistics', 'Livestock Exports by Air', 'Livestock Exports by Market', 'Non-livestock Exports' (highlighted), and 'Reports to Parliament'. The main content area is titled 'Non-livestock Exports' and includes a sub-section for '2016' with a link to 'Non-livestock Exports - January to March 2016' (PDF 160 KB, Word 88 KB). Below this is a 'Previous Years' section with links for 2015 (PDF 164 KB, Word 86 KB) and 2014 (PDF 164 KB, Word 87 KB). The 'Greyhound Exports' section follows, with a table for 'Greyhound exports - January to March 2016'.

Country	January	February	March	Total
Hong Kong			1	1
New Zealand	16	13	26	55
South Korea		1		1
United States Of America			1	1
Total	16	14	28	58

A green 'webpage snapshot' overlay is positioned on the right side of the page, displaying the date '16 JUN 2016 03:29' and navigation icons. The URL at the bottom of the page is 'http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/live-animal-exp'.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021
Question No: IQ23-000260
Hearing Date: 15 September 2023
Division/Agency: Traceability Plant and Live Exports Division (TPLED) G2
Topic: Inquiry Hearing Question 2
Hansard Page: 31
Question Date: 15 September 2023
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Mehreen Faruqi asked:

Senator Faruqi: Has the department investigated the issue of greyhound export internally previously at any time, for example, under other agriculture ministers? I know that the 2016 scathing special commission of inquiry report from Justice McHugh did make recommendations that the federal government step up and regulate this export trade. Have there been any conversations since that time between agriculture ministers and the department?

Ms Hinder: Again, I'd need to take that one on notice.

Senator Faruqi: If you could take that on notice and please provide if there were any, and if there were any findings from those investigations that you could provide the committee?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, through Commonwealth officials, took a proposal to regulate greyhound exports to the meeting of state and territory agriculture ministers in May 2016.

The proposal recommended the states and territories legislate to recognise a greyhound passport scheme which would then become a requirement of the federal legislation in place at that time (the *Export Control (Animals) Orders 2004* (the order)).

Jurisdictions did not support the proposal and it did not proceed.