



Request for Research Proposals

Statement of Project Requirements

Contract Name:	Identifying optimal greyhound race track design for canine safety and welfare.
RFQ Number:	GRNSW110116
Location:	Rhodes, NSW

1. Project Title

Identifying optimal greyhound race track design for canine safety and welfare.

2. Project Manager

Name: Mr D. Thomas

Position: Senior Policy Advisor

Address: Building B, 1 Homebush Bay Drive Rhodes NSW 2138

Tel: (02) 8767 0533

Email: grnswpolicy@grnsw.com.au

3. Project Context

Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**) is a body corporate established by the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009* as the independent controlling body for greyhound racing in this State. GRNSW is charged with providing strategic direction and leadership in the development, integrity and welfare of greyhound racing in NSW. It is the peak body of the sport and is responsible for ensuring the competitiveness and long-term commercial viability of greyhound racing for the benefit of participants, business partners and the community.

Several research priorities have been identified to better inform evidence based animal welfare policy, direct best practice greyhound training and management and address the health and longevity of racing greyhounds. An important factor in greyhound career longevity is the risk and rate of injury.

To prevent incidents and injuries during training and racing, track design and surface must be investigated to establish an optimal model. GRNSW is seeking research proposals to explore these important issues.

4. Project Objectives

GRNSW is seeking proposals from suitably qualified organisations and individuals to investigate factors influencing greyhound race track safety (as defined by incident and injury risk) and develop best-practice recommendations.

The specific work required will:

1. acquire the necessary ethics approval
2. consult with a greyhound industry advisory committee (consisting of the GRNSW track maintenance manager, head veterinarian and two racing industry participants) to establish the most significant variables to be tested and identify the specific research questions.

3. review and critically analyse Australian and international literature and GRNSW injury and track data to establish:
 - (a) the current evidence for the track related factors contributing to injury and incident risks for racing greyhounds
 - (b) knowledge gaps in the current evidence for optimal track design and surface;
 - (c) hypotheses related to the safety impact of:
 - track shape and layout
 - turn radii
 - transitions
 - banking and cross-fall
 - surface grades and camber
 - starting box position and angle
 - lure position, speed and consistency
 - track surface and preparation
4. design and implement robust methods for testing these hypotheses including the measurement of force on the canine body and canine racing interference and injury,
5. identify and recommend optimal race track design with respect to each of the factors listed in 3(c) and other important areas as identified by the industry advisory committee and literature review.
6. consider the use of technologies such as moisture meters, penetrometers, GPS and ground penetrating radar to develop evidence – based, objective guidelines for track surface management relating to (but not limited to):
 - moisture content
 - hardness
 - compaction
 - sand structure and composition
7. detail implementation considerations for each of the recommendations
8. create actionable insights for policy makers

5. Deliverables

The work should be in the form of a written report (including any peer reviewed publications generated during the project) and involve a presentation of project findings to GRNSW, senior managers of interstate partner controlling bodies and Greyhounds Australasia.

6. Resources & Collaboration

- An industry advisory committee will be available for consultation;
- Racing clubs will be enlisted to provide access to tracks for data collection;
- GRNSW will assist with background information, data access, reports and other materials as required.

As this project will require a multidisciplinary approach, a proposal involving collaboration between research providers is acceptable.

7. Submission Process

Submission timeline (indicative):

Task	Date
Submissions close	5 February 2016 at 5pm (AEST)
Project awarded	11 February 2016
Contracts entered into and inception meeting	Week commencing 15 February 2016

Submissions should:

- align with the objectives of this request for research proposals, addressing each of the eight requirements in Part 4 (Project Objectives) ;
- outline the planned approach to investigating the effects of the variables listed in objectives 3(c) and 6.
- demonstrate the capability to address the project scope;
- demonstrate methodological rigor;
- provide an overview of previous experience;
- outline the expertise of personnel to be involved in the project;
- include a timeline with milestones;
- outline a budget and breakdown of costs required to complete the project which may undergo revision after literature review and committee consultation;
- include any details pertaining to the ability to access or attract co-funding; and
- be submitted by email or delivered by hand to:

Name: Mr D. Thomas
Position: Senior Policy Advisor
Content Address: Building B, 1 Homebush Bay Drive
Rhodes NSW 2138
Tel: 02 8767 0533
Email: grnswpolicy@grnsw.com.au

The deadline for submissions is 5 February 2016 at 5pm (AEDST)