

Hon Meka Whaitiri

MP for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti

Minister of Customs

Minister for Veterans

Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare)

Associate Minister of Statistics



MIN21-0004

Glenda Hughes
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Tēnā koe Glenda

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 December 2020 in response to my letter (MIN20-0909) regarding Greyhound Racing New Zealand's (GRNZ) progress report. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

As Minister responsible for Animal Welfare, I express my sincere disappointment at the events that took place at the Whanganui race track. I understand that my colleague Hon Grant Robertson, Minister for Racing has noted the situation as unacceptable. I support his request for an industry plan that identifies current animal welfare issues and the industry's proposed actions to address these.

In my previous letter to you, I noted that NAWAC has asked GRNZ to provide its Animal Welfare Committee with further detail on how each of the Hansen Report recommendations have been implemented. I understand that, to date, GRNZ's Animal Welfare Committee has not received this detail. I will follow up with NAWAC and ask them to contact you directly to discuss this further.

In regards to the Hansen report, I support Minister Robertson's decision to commission an independent review of the industry and implementation of the recommendations of the Hansen report. I will ensure my officials work closely with Minister Robertson's officials during this process.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meka Whaitiri'.

Hon Meka Whaitiri
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare)