



PULSE TASMANIA

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Independents unite to call for end to greyhound racing subsidies



The trio are demanding an end to subsidies for the greyhound racing industry

Three Tasmanian political names have joined forces to demand an end to taxpayer funding for greyhound racing.

Independent candidate for Franklin Peter George, Clark member Kristie Johnston and recently re-elected Nelson MLC Meg Webb gathered with community members and their dogs at Kingston Beach's 'Salty Dog' on Sunday to make their announcement.

The event included a symbolic foreshore walk demonstrating public opposition to the millions in taxpayer subsidies provided to the greyhound industry annually.

The trio are advocating for a phase-out of the industry, ahead of the current funding deed expiring in 2028-29.

"I've actually been a reporter way back in the 70s on greyhound racing. Back then I knew what an awful industry it was," George said.

“Back then there were so many welfare issues and gambling issues. And the truth of the matter is that things haven’t got much better in all those years since then.”

“There is absolutely no excuse for this government to be subsidising an industry that most Tasmanians are not interested in, actually don’t want, and would be quite happy to see the back of.”

Kristie Johnston, who has been a vocal critic of greyhound racing since she was elected to parliament in 2021, echoed the calls against the industry.

“We know that Tasmanians do not want their precious taxpayers’ money going into this industry,” she said.

Both the premier and TasRacing have defended the industry’s contribution to the state.

TasRacing claims greyhound wagering has increased by 6% compared to last year, while the Liberals say they will not ban greyhound racing.

Johnston urged voters to consider candidates’ positions on greyhound racing funding when casting their ballots in the July 19 state election.

“Look for candidates who don’t support the cruel greyhound racing industry,” she said.