

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of policy proposal:	ACT Greyhound Racing Transition Package – help to care for and re-home greyhounds.
Person requesting costing:	Shane Rattenbury MLA
Date of request:	6 October 2016
Summary of proposal:	The creation of a transition package that provides funding for the caring of and temporary re-homing of greyhounds involved in the greyhound racing industry in the ACT.
Issue the proposal will address:	The orderly transition away from a greyhound racing industry in the ACT.

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

Note: The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

The current number of greyhounds involved in the ACT Greyhound Racing Industry that may require care and re-homing total approximately 50 (as per the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee’s Submission in 2015).

Assumptions that dog owners would either choose to keep the dogs as pets, or transport the dogs to surrender to Registered Animal Welfare organisations, with the expectation that any dogs surrendered dogs would be housed at any one of a number of Registered Animal Welfare Organisations in the ACT.

Once-off costs include:

- Approximately \$500 in vet assistance each (health checks, micro-chips, de-sexing etc) per dog;
- A one off administration fee of \$40 per dog;
- A ‘green collar’ (safety) assessment to determine each dog is safe/not aggressive, at a rate of up to \$250 per dog; and
- Muzzles and special greyhound collars (required by legislation until the green collar test has been passed) at a rate of \$60 per dog.

The proposal assumes that up to 20% of the total number of dogs (10) may need to be euthanized due to poor health and/or safety reasons, at a commercial rate of approximately \$260 per dog.

Ongoing costs include:

- Each dog would likely be housed for up to 60 days, and that each dog would require food, water and general ongoing care at a rate of approximately \$30 per day.

A capped allowance of \$500 per greyhound has also been allocated on the assumption that greyhound kennels/cages could be purchased (or bought-back) from greyhound owners to assist with any additional housing for greyhounds above and beyond the available number of vacant kennels in welfare organisations at any one time (noting that not all greyhounds are likely to be passed over to welfare organisations at once).

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses^(a)	-0	-160	-0	-0	-160
Capital	-0	-0	-0	-0	-0
Depreciation					

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses. The expenses row does not include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal?

Submission from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee confirming the number of greyhounds currently involved in the ACT Greyhound Industry (2015, p.3)

Information received from an animal welfare organisation on the likely costs associated with the general caring for the affected greyhounds (vet treatment, general ongoing costs).

Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?

Funding is capped.

Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements (for example, does an education proposal add to or redirect NERA funding).

No.

Will funding/the cost require indexation?

No.

Who will administer the proposal?

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development

How will the proposal be administered?

Administered by the ACT Government through the creation of a transition package to greyhound care and transition costs prior to re-homing. Likely to be administered through a grant-type arrangement with one or more suitable animal welfare providers.

Is the proposal part of a broader package?

Yes. There is an additional proposal to support workers affected by the winding down of the ACT Greyhound Industry with re-skilling.

Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?

- If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal?
- If yes, please specify the key assumptions.

No. A staffing cost of 1 x ASO 6 has been allocated to the other proposal (re-skill workers) with an expectation that this role would also cover any administration required for this proposal also.

Will the proposal generate savings or offsets?

No.

Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? Will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?

Not in full. Some information was received from an animal welfare organisation on the likely costs associated with the general caring for the affected greyhounds (vet treatment, general ongoing costs). This information has been provided to Treasury.

What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?

The termination of the subsidy, and the related wind down of the greyhound racing industry, will have an impact on those currently employed in the industry, and a number of greyhounds (approximately 50) in the ACT.

Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?

Considerations to be assessed in the lead up to the termination of the MoU in July 2017, as part of the related proposal to re-skill workers.

What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?

2017-18

When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc?

2017-18

Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?

2017-18

Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?

N/A