

Call to end greyhound racing in Tasmania

Kristie Johnston and the Greens call for greyhound racing ban

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Independent Clark MP Kristie Johnston with GREY2K USA executive director Carey Theil and president Christine Dorchak.
Picture: Nikki Davis-Jones

Tasmania's greyhound racing industry is likely to end within the next decade, according to a world-leading animal protection campaigner.

Carey Theil, the executive director of GREY2K USA, which is the largest greyhound protection organisation in the world, said the debate over the future of greyhound racing in Tasmania was "one of the most important ... in the world".

"After spending the last couple of days meeting with the lawmakers who are fighting this courageous fight and also all of the grassroots activists, we are convinced that greyhound racing will soon end in Tasmania," he said.

"The question is how long will it take and how many dogs will suffer and die in the meantime."

Since GREY2K USA formed in 2001, greyhound racing has been made illegal in 42 states and 46 dog tracks have closed, with just two left in a single state.

"If you look across the world, the places we believe where greyhound racing is most likely to end within the next, say, 5-10 years, I would put Tasmania, Western Australia, Wales, and Scotland on that list. We do view this as a key fight for the global movement to help these gentle dogs," Mr Theil said.

Independent Clark MHA Kristie Johnston said the politicians and campaigners who had met with Mr

Theil and GREY2K USA president Christine Dorchak on Wednesday had learnt that "people power speaks volumes".

"Christine and Carey both talked about how where greyhound tracks have been removed, housing pops up. So there is a win-win here for the entire community when we end this cruel industry because we can also provide opportunities for housing and employment elsewhere," she said.

Greens leader Rosalie Woodruff said it was "one minute to midnight" for greyhound racing in Tasmania and that the party hoped to secure the balance of power at the state election so it could push the new government to outlaw the industry.

"Tasmanians would be shocked to know that we are the last bastion, really, in the world [for greyhound racing], where the majority of cruelty occurs on a daily basis to greyhounds through this ... industry, which is propped up by Tasmanian taxpayers," she said.

Just six countries still have legal dog tracks and Australia has the greatest number at 64.

According to the Tasracing website, the welfare of all racing animals is a "core priority" for the governing body."



Dr Rosalie Woodruff leader of the Greens. Call for the end to greyhound racing in Tasmania. Picture: Nikki Davis-Jones