

International Travel Report

New Zealand

Wellington Travel Report

Sunday 22 June 2025 – Thursday 26 June 2025

Electorate business

Georgie Purcell MP

(a) Reason for travel:

- Meetings with Members of the New Zealand Parliament regarding the recent national ban on greyhound racing.
- Discussions with animal protection advocacy organisations on policy and legislative mechanisms.
- Learning about the process, public engagement, reviews and implementation of the ban on greyhound racing.

(b) Dates and locations on which business was conducted (travel diary)

- 22 June 2025 – Departed Melbourne for Wellington
- 23 June 2025 – Meetings with advocacy groups
- 24 June 2025 – Meetings with MPs at The Beehive (NZ Parliament)
- 25 June 2025 – Meetings with advocacy groups and Animal Justice Party New Zealand
- 26 June 2025 – Departed Wellington for Melbourne

(c) The town, city or suburb in which the accommodation was located; and the value of the accommodation (if claiming the cost of accommodation)

- Airbnb in Te Aro, Wellington for 4 nights (Total: \$1094.01)

(d) The mode and value of commercial transport (if claiming the cost of commercial transport)

- Ubers to accommodation, meetings and airports (total: \$104.87)

(e) Member's objectives:

The purpose of this travel was to engage with New Zealand political leaders and advocacy groups who played a role in the national ban on greyhound racing.

Victoria, particularly regional areas within Northern Victoria, continues to face growing community pressure around animal welfare issues in racing. Rising deaths and injuries on tracks, particularly those located within Northern Victoria, is an issue I receive regular constituent correspondence about.

This trip allowed me to gather insights into how New Zealand successfully transitioned away from greyhound racing, what political and legislative levers were used, and how public and industry consultation was managed.

I also used this opportunity to better understand cross-party support strategies and how to build coalition support for similar legislative movements in the Victorian Parliament.

(f) Parliaments and other organisations visited (if any)

- New Zealand Parliament (Te Whare Pāremata) – Meetings with MPs and staff across multiple parties on the greyhound racing ban process.
- SPCA Headquarters – Meetings with Chief Scientific Officers.
- SAFE New Zealand – Meeting about shared animal welfare objectives and advocacy to ban greyhound racing.
- Animal Justice Party New Zealand – Meeting about shared animal welfare objectives and advocacy to ban greyhound racing.

(g) Persons met in relation to the reason for the travel and the assistance or information obtained from such persons

- Rachel Boyack MP – Provided background on the legislative journey of the greyhound racing ban, political and public challenges faced, and the multiple reviews into the industry.
- Chlöe Swarbrick MP – Discussed the role of the Greens in pushing animal welfare policy and mobilising public support for the ban on greyhound racing.
- Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke MP – Shared insights into Māori community perspectives and lived-experience of being youngest female MP in NZ parliament.
- Tangi Utikere MP – Provided background as the Labour racing spokesperson and Labour's support for the greyhound racing ban.
- Dr Alison Vaughan, Scientific Officer SPCA – Advocacy measures used to secure greyhound racing ban; updates on animal welfare issues including wildlife control and live exports. Discussed relationships with Victorian counterparts.
- Dr Arnja Dale, Chief Scientific Officer SPCA – Advocacy measures used to secure greyhound racing ban; updates on animal welfare issues including wildlife control and live exports. Discussed relationships with Victorian counterparts.
- Debra Ashton, CEO SAFE NZ – Campaigning efforts to secure the ban on greyhound racing, including consistent highlight of individual dog injuries and deaths, as well as demonstrating to politicians the growing public support for a ban on greyhound racing.
- Rob McNeil, AJP NZ Executive President – Shared animal welfare objectives across political parties, maintaining pressure to keep the ban on greyhound racing as the phase out period is in place.
- Danette Wereta, AJP NZ Secretary – Shared animal welfare objectives across political parties, maintaining pressure to keep the ban on greyhound racing as the phase out period is in place.
- Sandra Kyle, AJP NZ Volunteer – Shared animal welfare objectives across political parties, maintaining pressure to keep the ban on greyhound racing as the phase out period is in place.
- Lynn Charlton, No More Broken Hocks – Provided detailed advocacy strategies, public campaigning methods and key messages that shifted public and political opinion.
- Deno Stock, Anti-Greyhound Racing Advocate – Shared insights into the importance of documenting and recording at tracks to ensure transparency from the industry on dog deaths and injuries.
- Jen Stone, Anti-Greyhound Racing Advocate – Shared insights into the importance of documenting and recording at tracks to ensure transparency from the industry on dog deaths and injuries.

(h) Reference to documents or publications obtained or considered to be of interest in a Parliamentary sense

- N/A.

(h) Summaries of the study areas pursued in the countries visited

- Legislative approaches to banning greyhound racing.
- Coalition building and cross-party support for animal protection legislation.
- Public advocacy and community engagement on animal welfare issues.
- Implementation frameworks for banning high-risk animal racing industries.

(i) Summary of the results achieved and any recommendations arising

This trip successfully deepened my understanding of the mechanisms New Zealand used to implement a national ban on greyhound racing including:

- Clear examples of public and political pressure campaigns.
- Successful use of parliamentary petitions and parliamentary inquiries in achieving an outcome.
- Successful models of community engagement and messaging that swayed public opinion.
- Evidence of broad-based political support through cross-party alliances that could inform Victorian strategy.
- Lessons learned from logistical and transitional challenges that NZ faced, helping shape any recommendations for a similar approach in Australia.
- A deepened understanding on the importance of an independent inquiry into greyhound welfare standards and injuries.
- The importance of integrating insights from into greyhound community advocacy strategy across Northern Victoria.