

## **Contingency Policy- Locust Plague**

Whilst research has indicated that disturbance of a Greyhound Racing Victoria race meeting is extremely unlikely due to the current locust plague being experienced in Victoria, a contingency policy has nonetheless been developed to provide guidance in this area.

This policy consists of the following points:

### **Abandonment/Alteration of Program**

1. If a sufficient locust problem develops on the calendar day of a race meeting (or at the race meeting itself) the Stewards will firstly determine if the meeting will go ahead, and if so, the conditions under which it will operate. This method of decision-making replicates the processes currently used when a race meeting comes under threat for any reason (eg. fog, extreme weather, mechanical breakdown etc) and wherever possible the Stewards will make reasonable attempts to seek information from sources within the local area prior to reaching a decision.
2. No stake money/travel/ starter's payments will be made for meetings abandoned via this policy at or before scratching time.

### **Transfer of Meeting**

3. If it becomes apparent in the days leading up to a scheduled race meeting that the race meeting cannot go ahead due to locusts, GRV will endeavour to transfer the race meeting to another track if it is reasonable and practical to do so.
4. If a meeting is transferred to another track, the original fields, prizemoney allocations and box draws shall remain in place. GRV will reserve the right to determine the revised distances for each Event.
5. All Events conducted at a transferred meeting under this policy will be conducted on a 'Non Penalty' basis.
6. Trainers of greyhounds drawn at a transferred meeting under this policy will be granted the option of scratching without penalty if this is reasonably deemed necessary.

### **Communication**

7. Wherever possible, the decision to abandon a meeting under this policy will be made by scratching time of the relevant meeting if not earlier.
8. Any alterations to race meeting arrangements will be promptly advised on the GRV website ([www.grv.org.au](http://www.grv.org.au)). Sky Channel and Sport 927 will also be advised.
9. Additionally, GRV staff will endeavour to contact all trainers of greyhounds engaged at the relevant meeting via SMS message and/or telephone.

### **Useful Contacts**

- GRV Website: [www.grv.org.au](http://www.grv.org.au)
- Department of Primary Industries Locust Hotline: 1300 135 559 or [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts)