

Properties of sand tracks for greyhound racing

Mr Declan McDonald¹, Mr Simon Leake²

¹SESL Australia, ²SESL Australia

Greyhound racing in Victoria, Australia is carried out on sand tracks. The selection of sands for racing has evolved over time and has been based on racing performance, maintenance requirements, and animal welfare. The immediate demand for higher standards for greyhound racing has led to investigations of sand properties that will optimise animal welfare, racing performance and maintenance requirements. The development of specifications for suitable sands and track construction require a sound understanding of the properties of sands and their management. Key sand properties have been investigated and include particle size distribution, saturated hydraulic conductivity, sand stability to applied force, moisture retention and porosities, moisture release curves, wet strength, dry density and field moisture content. Additionally, depth of sand profiles and design of perched water tables are critical to the performance of the track. This paper discusses relevant sand properties and track construction principles with a view to development of optimal specifications to meet the needs of the industry.