

21 October 2011

Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Inquiry into the Quarantine Amendment (Disallowing permits) Bill 2011.**

Harness Racing Australia (HRA) notes that the Senate has both invited public submissions and referred the above bill to the Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry and report.

As the peak body for an industry which is a signatory to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA), imports high risk materials (horses) and remains at the mercy of many exotic and endemic diseases, HRA takes a keen interest and advocates the need for constant vigilance at Australia's borders and effective quarantine measures to preserve Australia's current favourable equine health status.

In relation to the above bill, HRA makes the following remarks:

- Responsibility and accountability for decisions regarding permits should be made by technical experts
- The sheer volume of assessing over 400 permits per week across all commodities is a massive undertaking
- The time taken to make presentation and representations to both Houses of Parliament and parliamentary committees on these issues would be substantial

On balance, HRA therefore queries the efficacy of the bill – particularly with respect to horse imports.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Kelly  
Chief Executive