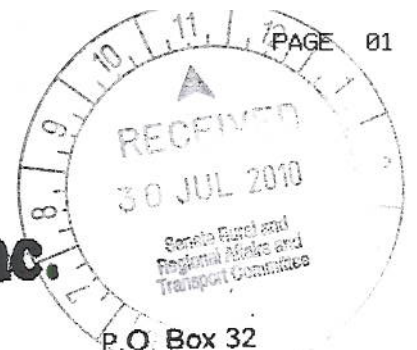


PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc.



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Pony Club Australia

Inquiry into the Australian horse industry and an emergency animal disease response agreement

Please accept our submission based on the Terms of Reference as outlined.

Terms of Reference

- a) **The implications to the Australian horse industry of committing to an Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA);**

Pony Club Australia supports the signing of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.

The implications of signing the agreement are understood. Implications on individual horse owners can be broadly described as

- Promotion of biosecurity good practice at the farm gate
- Agreement to share in cost recovery after a disease event through a pre-agreed levy mechanism, knowing that Pony Club Australia has been involved directly in decision making about the disease response and level of overall expenditure
- Expectation that the Australian Government will have in place best quarantine and border security practices

It has not been yet determined if Pony Club Australia will be a signatory in their own right, as part of a collaborative body or as a member of one of the four organisations (Australian Racing Board, Harness Racing Australia, Equestrian Australia, Australian Horse Industry Council)

It is an expectation that Pony Club Australia, as a leading national horse organisation, will contribute to consultative processes in collaboration with other national horse organisations, share the roles and responsibilities and seek to protect our member's interest within these forums whilst holding the overarching view of keeping Australia disease free.



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

b) Options for equitable contributions by horse owners to a levy scheme to meet their obligations under EADRA in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak in horses;
At a recent Pony Club Australia Council meeting (made up of all state delegates) this issue of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and requirement to work with other horse organisations to agree on a cost recovery levy mechanism was discussed.
It was resolved unanimously that Pony Club Australia is supportive of signing the EADRA and that the following principles should apply to the negotiations around a suitable levy mechanism:

- a. Zero based levy (That no levy is collected until after an emergency disease response has been concluded)
- b. Commercially collected (Pony Club is opposed to having volunteers responsible for the collection of a levy and thus being exposed to possible penalties for failure to comply with regulations)
- c. Broad based (meaning that a levy should apply to as many horse owners as possible. More than one levy mechanism may be required to achieve this.)

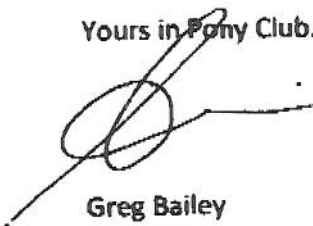
PCA is communicating regularly with Animal Health Australia and will participate in the broader national consultation centred on the Levy Options Paper.
Equity is an issue for our members, as was clearly outlined in the previous Senate Inquiry into the Horse Disease Response Levy Bill submission.

c) Criteria by which the cost burden of a levy would be shared between Commonwealth, state and territory governments, horse industry groups and owners; and

d) Quarantine and biosecurity threats to Australia's horse industry.
Pony Club Australia has no comment on this?

e) Any other matters

Yours in Pony Club.



Greg Bailey
President
28/7/2010