



Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: The feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses

Dear Committee,

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. TFGA members are responsible for generating approximately 80% of the value created by the Tasmanian agricultural sector.

The TFGA is grateful for the opportunity to provide a submission on the feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses.

The TFGA supports the implementation of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses due to the significant benefits of animal traceability, particularly during a disease outbreak. The ability to quickly and correctly identify an animal and their past movements is a vital during a disease outbreak.

The 2007/08 outbreak of Equine Influenza highlighted the seriousness of contagious disease spread in horses. With a National Register for all horses, diseases such as Equine Influenza can be identified and infected animals traced, allowing for the prevention of disease spread.

The TFGA believes that with the constant movement of horses for sport and recreation to shows, races and events, it is vital that all horses must be registered. Horses are moved quickly and constantly throughout the country and this makes traceability of these animals just as important as the traceability of livestock.

For the register to be effective, it needs to be adhered to by all horse owners and updated constantly and this would need to be regulated and enforced. Penalties for those not updating their animals on the register should reflect the importance of the register to biosecurity, disease prevention and animal welfare.

To ensure the register is effective and can be used when needed to communicate with horse owners during an outbreak, the register needs to be up to date. If the register is implemented, constant education about its importance is needed and surveillance to ensure it is being used correctly to ensure that it is as accurate as possible.

The TFGA believes that biosecurity, disease prevention and animal welfare are vital across all animal industries. The National Horse Traceability Register is an important step in protecting Australian horses and industries from the impacts of serious diseases such as Equine Influenza.

Please contact the TFGA if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Skillern

Chief Executive Officer

April 2019