

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND
TRANSPORT**

SUBMISSION

**NATIONAL CAMPDRAFT COUNCIL OF
AUSTRALIA**



**NATIONAL CAMPDRAFT COUNCIL
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**Inquiry into the Australian Horse Industry and an Emergency Animal Disease
Response Agreement (EADRA)**

I write on behalf of the National Campdraft Council of Australia with comment to your Committee's inquiry into the above agreement.

The National Campdraft Council of Australia is the peak body representing Campdrafting in Australia and comprises four Campdraft Associations that operate throughout Australia with a total membership of over 10,000 members and those members conservatively own 50,000 to 60,000 horses.

Campdrafting is a uniquely Australian Horse Sport that is part of rural Australia's heritage and dates back to the late 1800's. In rural Australia it is part of the fragment that binds the country together and allows country people to get together to discuss the issues affecting their day to day lives including the long lasting drought and many other relevant issues.

Campdrafting is now recognized as a National Sport in Australia through the Australian Sports Commission.

Campdrafts are run to raise much needed funds for charities and Community Organizations across Australia and with over 300 Campdrafts run throughout Australia over a year, a large amount of funds are donated to many needy and worthwhile causes.

We make the following comment on the terms of reference as outlined.

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

Following meetings convened by Animal Health Australia in Sydney on 9TH June 2010 and Melbourne on 20th August of all the major Leisure and performance Horse groups The National Campdraft Council together with others unanimously agreed that EADRA should be signed.

The National Campdraft Council of Australia (NCCA) fully supports the signing of the EADRA.

The implications of signing the agreement are understood by all Associations in the NCCA and their members. Information has been forwarded to individual members via News magazines and Web sites.

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;

The NCCA is one of a group of nine (9) National horse bodies that have given full support for a combination of levies to be introduced following an exotic disease outbreak. After recent cross industry consultation the following two methods have been given full support; either in a standalone capacity or as a combination: Manufactured Feed Levy &/or Horse Wormer Levy.

The Individual Member's understand that the levy is:-

- 1) A zero based levy until after the eradication of any exotic disease.
- 2) A broad based levy (applies to as many horse owners as possible) and
- 3) The levy will be commercially collected at the Wholesale point and not rely on volunteer members of small community groups to do the collecting.

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

Under the terms of an EADRA, the signatories to the Agreement become members of the National Management Group when an Exotic disease is detected and oversee expenditure on any outbreak based on increments of 1% of the Gross Value of Production (GVP) for the Industry.

The NCCA would like to redress the issue of categorisation of E.I. but understands this can not be addressed until after the Horse Industry becomes a signatory to EADRA.

d) Quarantine and biosecurity threats to Australia's horse industry.

The NCCA is resolute in its long held belief that the first line of defense for any exotic disease should be a strong National Quarantine led by our existing quarantine Stations
o o st ge Security and backed up by rigorous audits by AQIS.

If this is found to be inadequate as was recently found by the Callinan inquiry then the owner/ operators of these facilities should be held accountable.

I would like to have the opportunity to fully discuss with the members of your Committee the issues we have raised above together with other matters that will affect this purely Australian Sport of Campdrafting.

Yours sincerely

Tony Bowden
Secretary
National Campdraft Council of Australia