



AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING COUNCIL Inc.

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November 24, 2005.

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport Committee, SG62
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

The Australian Harness Racing Council Incorporated is the peak national body for the Australian Standardbred Industry. Council's Members are both State Controlling Bodies and Principal Clubs. As such our industry is an equine livestock primary industry covering breeding to racing operations with care and custody of the standardbred herd. It holds membership of Animal Health Australia and participates in both Federal and State Government programs either by itself and/or in association with its Members. They co-operate significantly with the Department of Agriculture and Offices of the Chief Veterinary Officer in each jurisdiction.

Council has been made aware of the development of the National Animal Welfare Bill in conjunction with the Australian Racing Board, however given the Government's commitment and funding to the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy Framework developed with Animal Health Australia. We believe that this recognised National Body and its existing framework is an existing and superior approach. In addition, we have recently requested further advice from the Australian Equine Veterinary Association on the legislation from this professional Equine Service provider.

We have considered the submission provided by the Australian Racing Board and generally support their conclusions given the alternate development and progress by Animal Health Australia within its Charter from the Federal Government. This course is our preferred choice of action rather than the proposed National Animal Welfare Bill 2005.

Yours faithfully,

Rod Pollock
Chief Executive

