

Janet Rose

19th September 2008

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my disapproval of the AHIC being representative of the wider recreational horse owners of this country.

A levy should be equitable for **ALL** horse owners which a levy on registered horses is not. A levy for a horse at time of registration will see many no longer register their horses. The population of horses that are not, nor ever will be registered, makes this suggested levy extremely unfair. The suggested levy fees, varying from \$10 to \$100 have seen people not breed or not renew their memberships with their breeds registries as they will not be able to afford an additional hike of fees at time of registration.

It is extremely unfair that the greater horse owning community has to pay a fee when the risk of another exotic disease outbreak within horses is linked to the importation of horses, especially horses coming to this country for competition and racing engagements. This is where the levy should be directed. The recreational horse owner should not have to cover the costs for the minority of owners who import horses.

As the racing industry is steered by **GREED** and gambling, and the shuttle stallions and horses that come to this country to race, are the highest risk to an exotic disease outbreak in Australia, the liability should be taken by this industry. A levy on all TAB bet would be a outstanding revenue maker. gamblers will not stop gambling because of a levy.

The outrageous levy suggestions for registered horses will kill the recreational horse. It will see families sell their horses and leave horse sports for good. Most breeders of non racing horses are just hobby breeders who attend a few shows for their own enjoyment. Their horses are an infinitesimal risk of exotic disease. Pony clubs will disappear, horse events at Agricultural Shows will cease. As horse owners give up their horses the range of businesses that rely on their purchases will also slowly disappear, putting countless people out of work. The livelihoods of farriers, veterinarians, horse dentist and other horse health providers, rural supply stores, produce stores, saddleries, farmers who produce the raw materials for horse feeds, and other suppliers of raw materials for all manner of horse related material will be affected. I could go on but it is obvious how disastrous the suggested levy will be.

The horse Associations I belong to do not receive or ask for any government grants like many sporting clubs. Recreational horse ownership is self funding. I do not believe it is right to expect people like myself to pay for a risk to which I am no threat. The levy should be paid for by the commercial side of the horse industry where the risk is.

Yours sincerely

Janet Rose