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Ms Jeanette Radcliffe  
 Committee Secretary  
 Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee  
 Department of the Senate  
 PO Box 6100  
 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600  
 21/09/2008

Dear Ms. Jeanette Radcliffe;

**Re: Inquiry into Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2008, Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Bill 2008, and Horse Disease Response Levy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008**

Horse SA is a not-for-profit industry advocacy body based in South Australia. The organisation, has a focus on key issues of horse health & welfare, horse keeping & the environment, trails & public land, road safety, community, industry and workforce development.

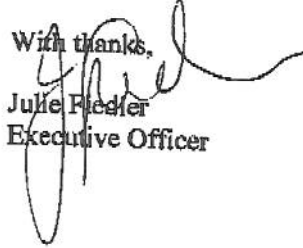
**The Bills in their current format cannot be supported.**

Our reasons for this include:

1. Lack of a sound, fully documented adequate consultation process
2. Lack of an adequate communication strategy about critical points around the Levy, EADRA and related aspects required to gain broad industry support.
3. Lack of an independent evaluation around equity issues (Social Justice)
4. No apparent study on the capacity of horse organisations to collect the tax
5. No apparent study on a person's ability to pay the tax
6. No apparent discussion around the lowering of any potential tax by spreading a smaller fee across all horses in Australia rather than penalize those who "do the right thing" and register their horse with an organisation. Most horses in Australia would not be registered with any organisation.

Please note, that due to the nature of how this Bill "appeared" and lack of processes noted above, we have not been able to undertake our normal advocacy/ industry information role or been able to interface between government and the industry to gain general support. Subsequently, this submission is from the Executive Officer only. There is a corporate understanding of EADRA and its requirement within the organisation, but this does not extend to general membership. It is hoped that the Senate will consider these matters carefully in their deliberations, and can satisfy themselves that all is in order before proceeding.

With thanks,

  
 Julie Fiedler  
 Executive Officer