

Peter Haggarty

The Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2008

I refer to this Bill and the comments as outlined in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry's submission to the Senate Standing Committee on rural and Regional Affairs and Transport regarding the Inquiry into Horse disease Response levy 2008

I submit this as the owner of 2 horses that are registered with separate associations. The above department in its submission has indicated that 'peak industry organisation' decided to request the *horse Disease response Levy* to fund its share of its obligation in responding to any National emergency disease outbreaks affecting the horse industry.

The submission also states that any excess levies are to be used by 'relevant' horse Industry research and development activities for the promotion or health of horses. The submission also says that it will be transparent mechanism

On page 7 of this submission, section (d) reference is made that the government may decide to provide assistance to parts of the industry adversely affected by a disease outbreak, and sites the example of an' *income support payment* for individual's dependant for their livelihood. It also states in the same section that over \$260 Million was provided to individuals and organisation in the 2007 outbreak of EI. In NSW

The Peak Industry Bodies appears to be dominated to be the Thoroughbred and Harness racing Industries. I humbly submit that these peak bodies, although making a major contribution in the way of taxes, also make a great deal of money from their Industry.

Whether it is correct or not, these industries are perceived to be part of the major reason for the out break of EI, and yet received the majority of the \$260 million given by the federal government. The Pleasure Industry, including individual owners received nothing, apart from an initial Vet inspection and a digital rectal thermometer.

During the 2007 EI outbreak, my family spent time with 2 very sick horses. We were out of pocket over a \$1,500.00 and when I approached the DPI, I was informed that I was not entitled to any assistance.

If this levy is imposed and heaven forbid, there is another disease outbreak, will my family be entitled assistance or will it go to the Peak industry Body to distribute?

In conclusion, my family has taken the decision to own and enjoy our horses. We are also, in normal circumstances, committed to the health and maintenance of our horses with out seeking assistance from any government body. I object strongly to the idea that we would be supporting a racing Industry that has not the courage to accept Artificial insemination as a way of limiting the possible importation of disease into the country.

We as a country should be looking at preventing importing or in deed exporting horses into or out of Australia without the horses spending quarantine off shore before entering Australia.

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