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Government Response

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport References
Committee

Inquiry Report: Australian Horse Industry and an
Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that, consistent with the outcome of the consultation process, the horse industry should sign the EADRA based on the establishment of the levy at a zero dollar amount.

Response: The Government notes this recommendation. Animal Health Australia has received applications from the four peak horse industry representative bodies to become Parties to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.

The Government has accepted a submission from the horse industry identifying two emergency animal disease levy options proposed to be set at a zero rate.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that, notwithstanding the informal review mechanism provided for in the *Levy Principles and Guidelines*, specific legislative provision be made for periodic review of the implementation of the levy.

Response: The Government accepts this recommendation. A periodic review requirement will be included in the supporting legislation.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the industry aspires to the compilation of more complete data on the size and scope of the Australian horse population.

Response: The Government notes this recommendation. Actions under this recommendation fall wholly within the responsibilities of representatives of the Australian horse industry. The Committee's report has been brought to the attention of the peak horse industry representative bodies.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the introduction of property identification codes be further explored by states and territories.

Response: The Government notes this recommendation. Actions under this recommendation fall wholly within the responsibilities of the states and territories. The Committee's report has been brought to the attention of appropriate state and territory agencies.