

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HORSE INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

Introduction

The Livestock Act 1997 was established to provide South Australia with a framework for dealing with matters affecting animal health, welfare and market access.

The Horse Industry Advisory Group (HIAG) was established in February 2003 under this Act for the purpose of providing advice to the Minister on the operation of the Act. Within the legislation, specific issues identified as requiring Advisory Group input include: property registration, industry codes of practice, vendor declarations and any regulations required for the horse industry. Further, the Minister may also seek HIAG input on other issues directly related to the horse industry such as feedback on draft national welfare codes of practice, emergency animal disease training opportunities, market access and livestock traceability etc.

Membership and Meetings

Industry representation on HIAG consists of:

- Five (5) members representing industry organisations:
 - The Horse Breeding Industry
 - The Racing Industry
 - The Recreation and Sport Industry (non racing)
 - The Equine Veterinarians Australia (SA Branch)
 - The Horse Federation of South Australia Inc.
- Two (2) member are nominated horse owners, representing the Northern and Southern Region (including KI)
- One (1) representative of the Minister (as required by the Act).

The position of Chairperson is selected from within the group.

Membership of the group between June 2007 and June 2008 included

Name:	Representing:	Membership expiry:
Mr Robert Haynes	Regional Horse Industry Representative (Southern)	30-Sep-09
Dr Peter Horridge	Racing Industry Representative	30-Sep-09
Ms Julie Fiedler (Chair)	Horse Federation of SA Inc. Representative	30-Sep-08
Dr Andrew Hunt	Recreation & Sport Industry (non racing) Representative	30-Sep-08
Mr Brian Toole	Horse Breeding Industry Representative	30-Sep-08
Dr Madalen Beltusin	Equine Veterinarians Australia (SA) Representative	30-Sep-09
Dr Celia Dickason	Ministers Representative	30-Sep-09
Ms Nina Arnott	Regional Horse Industry Representative	30-Sep-09

One face to face meeting (9 April 2008) and two teleconferences (22 October 2007 and 10 December 2007) were held during the reporting period.

Members receive sitting fees and mileage reimbursement at standard Government rates for face to face meetings.

PIRSA Animal Health provided Executive Officer support for the group.

2007/2008 Major Activities

Equine Influenza

The Equine Influenza (EI) outbreak in Queensland and New South Wales was a main topic for HIAG discussions over this past year. The group was provided with regular updates on the situation, as well as information on measures taking place to prevent entry of the disease into South Australia. Specific discussions held included horse industry biosecurity measures, EI vaccination, SA and interstate horse and equipment movement controls and permit systems, horse event registrations, EI surveillance in SA, EI reporting, possible quarantine facilities for repatriation of horses from infected states.

Due to its broad industry representation, HIAG was a useful group to assist in disseminating information back to the horse industry during SA's EI response. The inclusion of consultation with HIAG into the PIRSA Animal Health Emergency Response Operational Procedures will improve communication with the horse industry during any future emergency animal diseases affecting horses.

Mandatory Horse Property Registration

In December 2007, HIAG proposed the implementation of mandatory horse property registration. This registration will give a good indication of locations of horse properties, with areas of high horse density. This knowledge is critical for a rapid response during times of emergency, including both disease outbreaks and fires. As a result of the HIAG proposal a Cabinet submission requesting, amongst other things, mandatory horse property registration has been prepared and submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Consultation Forum on other Issues

HIAG provided information and updates to members on other horse-related issues, including

- Industry Liaison Officer Training (for during EAD responses)
- National Horse Identification discussions
- Quarantine and Biosecurity Review
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Stock
- Impounding Act review