

South Australian Horse Industry Advisory Group

Meeting Summary Tuesday 26th September 2006

NOTE: At the time of distribution, the Minister has not approved the outcomes listed in this document. Any misuse of information by individuals or associations will cause this service to be withdrawn.

The meeting commenced at 1:02 pm and concluded at 4:05 pm.

Attendance

<i>Julie Fiedler (Chair)</i>	<i>Horse SA Representative</i>
<i>Dr Darren Arnold</i>	<i>Australian Equine Veterinary Association Representative</i>
<i>Robert Haynes</i>	<i>Regional Horse Owner Representative - Southern</i>
<i>Dr Peter Horridge</i>	<i>Racing Industry Representative</i>
<i>Dr Andrew Hunt</i>	<i>Leisure Industry Representative</i>
<i>Dr Jane McNicholl</i>	<i>Regional Horse Owner Representative - Kangaroo Island and Central</i>
<i>Brian Toole</i>	<i>Breeding Industry Representative Elect</i>
<i>Dr Mark Groves</i>	<i>Ministerial Representative (PIRSA)</i>
<i>Trudi Goodwin</i>	<i>Executive Officer, Livestock Advisory Groups (PIRSA)</i>

Guests:

Robert Baker *Principal Policy Advisor (PIRSA)*

Confirmation of the 8th Meeting Minutes – 9 May 2006

The minutes from the SA HIAG meeting held on the 9th May 2006 were accepted as a true and accurate record subject to identified amendments.

Matters Arising from 8th Meeting Minutes/Actions – 9 May 2006

Meeting Summaries

Clarification was sought on the purpose of the meeting summaries. It was highlighted that members are expected to consult with their respective industry associations and colleagues on issues under discussion, and to table any feedback raised. Permission has been given to develop meeting summaries for general industry circulation and information. The Chair and Ministerial Representative must approve summaries before they can be distributed.

Correspondence

The correspondence was noted.

7. Business

7.1 HIAG Terms of Reference

HIAG was advised that PIRSA Animal Health would provide generic administrative guidelines after conducting an extensive review of the "Terms of Reference" for each Livestock Advisory Group in 2007. This will help to standardise the administrative procedures.

7.2 Emergency Animal Disease Response Exercise Update

Members were advised that the PIRSA Emergency Management Coordinator had been contacted to request support to hold an Emergency Animal Disease Response (EADR) training exercise for the horse industry. This training exercise for key industry personnel is scheduled for 16 November 2006.

7.3 Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement Update

Members were advised that the Australian Horse Industry Council (AHIC) was still developing the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) for the national Horse Industry.

AHA has produced a report recommending several alternative revenue sources for Industry to recover the cost of an EAD response. The main proposal is a zero based levy on new registrations

of horses (a copy can be obtained from the AHIC office). This proposed levy would only be activated if an when an exotic equine disease entered Australia (and be capped at \$10 per horse).

To ensure that the horse industry can demonstrate that the majority of potential levy payers would agree to the proposal, the Government sought feedback from industry stakeholders. Apparently, only 15 national responses were received (including 2 individuals). HIAG members received the EADRA funding proposal material from AHIC. The committee decided that at this stage it was more appropriate for individuals and their representative organisations to respond rather than HIAG. Members considered that the horse industry should be effectively consulted regarding the development of the EADRA. It was agreed that HIAG should comment on the next version of the AHIC proposal.

M. Groves advised that in the event of an EADR, compensation for livestock losses was provided through a State Government mechanism. Information on compensation and livestock disposal and can be found in the AHA AUSTVETPLAN document (www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au).

7.4 Animal Welfare Update

R. Baker (Principal Policy Officer, PIRSA Animal Health) addressed HIAG as a member of the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG). The AWWG is liaising with the livestock sectors to review, and where necessary, update the model welfare codes of practice. The purpose of the review is to develop minimum standards and recommended best practice, as well as standardise legislation across states. Currently, the majority of animal welfare prosecutions in South Australia are unsuccessful, mainly due to the current wording of 'should' and 'may' within the codes. The livestock transport code will be revised under separate legislation. Members supported that transport is a key welfare concern area within the horse industry that should be addressed by legislation.

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) has been undertaking a review the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985*. The industry feedback received from the review has been compiled and forwarded to the Minister of DEH for consideration, and a subsequent green paper is expected for further industry/community consultation.

8. Other Business

8.1 GIS Mapping Project

Members were advised that the GIS Mapping Project for the South Australian horse industry was completed. The aim of the project was to record public facilities, which have horse holding capabilities (showgrounds, racecourses, pony club grounds). Horse SA intended for the data to be made available to PIRSA.

- The GIS project related to a simulated disease outbreak has yet to commence.

8.2 Property Identification Code

M. Groves suggested that the horse racing industry could consider placing a Property Identification Code (PIC) on their 'Stable Return' forms to improve traceability within the industry. Members supported seeking advice and support from PIRSA and the racing industry, before a recommendation is forwarded to the Minister.

8.3 Endemic Notifiable Diseases

M. Groves advised PIRSA sought HIAG & Industry suggestions on the formulation of policy for assessing and managing endemic notifiable horse diseases of importance in South Australia. This could include recommendations on

- surveillance of specific conditions or prevalence investigations both statewide or within specific areas,
- preferred methods of disease management including government and industry roles and responsibilities,
- strategies for obtaining industry involvement in the formulation process
- strategies for ensuring industry awareness of survey reports or final policy outcomes incl. key targets
- policy review processes
- funding sources

After consideration whether the AEVA should consider this request, members supported a recommendation that AEVA could be consulted to determine the current data on SA diseases and recommendations for areas needing research or development of management policies.

8.4 Study of Drench Resistant Horses

M Groves raised that PIRSA has been advised of contradictory anecdotal stories re worm burdens in horses in pastoral areas (ie claims that worms are not a problem due to the environmental conditions vs. claims of high infestations during autopsy). PIRSA Animal Health is investigating the potential to conduct a survey on various stations to determine the worm status of horses, and assess drench resistance. It was believed that macrocyclic lactones have not developed significant resistance problems in horses. Members believe a literature search should precede a survey to determine if new survey work was necessary.

8.5 Trichinella

Members were advised that the EU still requires Australian horse abattoirs to test for *Trichinella spiralis*. This worm occurs in pig and horse meat overseas and causes Trichinosis in people. It was reported that there has never been a positive detection since testing was implemented decades ago although possums in Tasmania were found to have *T. pseudospiralis*. M Groves asked if HIAG was interested in making a submission to the Minister on behalf of the horse meat industry in SA requesting a challenge to the testing requirement which was a financial burden on industry and difficult to continue to justify after years of negative testing for this exotic parasite. Members believed that the export requirements for detecting this disease needed to be confirmed and suggested consulting AQIS. PIRSA will investigate the cost to the South Australian horse industry.

8.6 South Australian Veterinarians

It was raised that South Australia has an aging population of horse practitioners that will have an increasing impact on access to vet services to the Industry. Members supported correspondence be forwarded to the Minister on this matter of concern.

8.7 Animal Health Australia Venue Management Workshop

Members were advised that Animal Health Australia (with industry support) held a venue managers workshop at Morphettville on 22 June 2006. The purpose of the workshop was to develop national industry guidelines for risk management strategies and contingency plans for emergencies at horse venues (eg racetracks, equestrian facilities etc). It is expected that Horse SA will draft the resource management plan in conjunction with AHA in the near future.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March/April 2007.