



HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA INC

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Ref:qbrp28-4

April 28, 2008.

Mr R Beale AO
Chairman
Quarantine & Biosecurity Review Panel
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Beale,

Harness Racing Australia acknowledges correspondence dated 24 March 2008 provided by Mr Andrew Harding, Chief Executive, Australian Racing Board on the joint submission provided to the Callinan Review Panel and supports your consideration of this submission. The investigation of Equine Influenza by the Hon Ian Callinan AC has been completed and presented to the Minister. It is anticipated that it will be released shortly.

The National Harness Racing Industry is and has contributed as a member of Animal Health Australia to the governance and processes on an ongoing basis for the equine industry on animal welfare, and, in particular on the "control and eradication" resolution of the current Emergency Animal Disease Response. Additionally, the consequences of current biosecurity arrangements have constrained our Industry's 2007/08 Trans Tasman Grand Circuit & Feature Race Program together with stallion importation and semen transportation in the now completed breeding season. Importantly, the relevant international authorities have also implemented uniformly consistent and conservative measures in these areas which have impacted on these international transactions. DAFF and AQIS have worked to minimise the current and future impacts of these international trade measures. We are unable to comment on the structural effectiveness of their co-ordinated and integrated approach.

Importantly, HRA believes that these administrative and organisational approaches essential to international and Trans Tasman trade through importation and exports be remedied as soon as possible to return our racing and breeding facilitation action to the position which was in place prior to the Equine Influenza Outbreak.

Further, our organisation believes that the indemnity provided by the Quarantine Act 1908 should be commercially reviewed so that accountability and responsibility in clearly defined circumstances occurs for the competitiveness of industry in the National interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these brief comments to your Review.

Yours faithfully,

Rod Pollock
Chief Executive