

5 September 2014

The Hon. Leon Bignell, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Government of South Australia
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

By Email: ministerleonbignell@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister

South Australian Horse Industry Advisory Group (SA HIAG)

As you would be aware, the former Chair of SA HIAG, Dr Peter Horridge, received a letter dated 8 July 2014 from the Premier advising of the proposed decision to reform South Australian Government boards and committees.

SA HIAG understands that as part of those reforms, it is proposed that every Government board and advisory committee including statutory, advisory, commercial, regulatory and decision-making boards and committees will be abolished unless it can be demonstrated it has an essential purpose that cannot be met through other means.

As you may be aware, SA HIAG was established as an independent Statutory body which is independent of all Horse Industry bodies for the purpose of liaising with, and providing advice directly to, Government through the Minister.

On learning of the Premier's proposal, SA HIAG held an urgent meeting on 8 August 2014 to discuss the proposed changes and commenced preliminary discussions as to possible alternatives in the event of SA HIAG being abolished.

SA HIAG's role as representative of the Horse Industry is complex since, unlike, for example, the sheep industry where their use is for meat and wool and the cattle industry where their use is for meat and milk, the Horse Industry is a multifaceted industry which covers the following equine pursuits including, but not limited to:

- Horse Racing, Arab Racing and Harness Racing;
- competitive equestrian sports including Eventing, Dressage, Show Jumping, Vaulting, Carriage Driving, Show Horse, Endurance and Para-Equestrian, all of which come under Equestrian SA which is the State representative body under the National body, Equestrian Australia;
- Pony Club SA which is the State representative body under the National body, Pony Club Australia;
- Horse Breed Societies, all of which are the State representatives of their respective National bodies including Thoroughbreds and all other Breeds;
- all leisure and recreational riders, some of which include Trail Riders, Endurance Riders, Hunt Clubs, Polo Clubs, Polocrosse Clubs and Tent Pegging Clubs;
- Riding for the Disabled (RDA SA) which is the State representative body under the National Riding for the Disabled body. This body has an additional level of importance to the community since it provides an important role of assisting with the improvement of the health and quality of life of disabled participants;

SA HIAG is also supportive of the Equine Veterinarians of Australia which currently has a representative member on the SA HIAG.

In addition, through the Horses-in-Action Section of The Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Inc. (RA&HS), SA HIAG supports the competitors who compete at the Royal Adelaide Show each year. This, of itself, is significant since the Horses-in-Action Section includes competitive classes for show horses, show jumping, riding classes, breed classes, carriage driving and section fours over hurdles, the latter of which are representative of the various Hunt Clubs in South Australia.

In addition to the above referenced organisations, there are also the supporting industries which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Professional equestrian coaches, trainers and judges;
- Equine Dentists;
- Equine Chiropractors, Bowen therapists and Equissage massage therapists;
- Farriers;
- Fodder merchants;
- Saddleries (which are also suppliers of all equine retail goods and off the shelf veterinary supplies, clothing, footwear and protective helmets); and
- Horse Float and Truck building businesses;
- Equine Transport industry,

all of which significantly impact on our State and the National economy.

Unfortunately, the very short timeframe with which SA HIAG has been provided, it has not been possible to follow due process by engaging in comprehensive consultation with all the Horse Industry bodies, many of whom are required to consult with their boards / committees. However, the members of the SA HIAG have reverted to some of the Horse Industry bodies they represent and I attach a copy of letters of support received from the following:

1. Equine Veterinarians Australia;
2. SA Thoroughbred Breeders Inc.;
3. Equestrian SA;
4. Riding for the Disabled SA;
5. Arabian Horse Society of Australia Limited (SA Representative);
6. Kay Boon (a member of SA HIAG) on behalf of horse owners who do not necessarily compete, breed or belong to a specific Horse Industry body;
7. Horses-in-Action Competitors Association Inc.;
8. Fleurieu Hunt Club;
9. Pony Club SA; and
10. Horse SA.

There are also a few other Horse Industry bodies who are currently arranging letters of support which I will forward upon receipt.

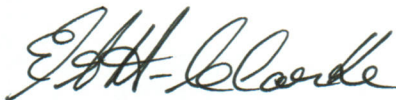
In addition, I am advised, that Thoroughbred Racing SA has already submitted a letter of support to the Minister directly for the continuation of SA HIAG.

SA HIAG submits that it would be administratively impracticable and inefficient for Government to liaise with all of the Horse Industry bodies and associated supporting industries on an individual basis.

The continuation of SA HIAG is therefore critical to the efficiency of communications and consultation between Government and the Horse Industry. It also allows the Horse Industry to provide advice directly to Government. This would be an advantage to the Minister by virtue of having one point of reference in the knowledge that SA HIAG is able to consult with the various Horse Industry bodies and revert to the Minister with feedback and advice.

Accordingly, we believe the essential purpose of SA HIAG cannot be met through any other means and strenuously urge you to refrain from abolishing SA HIAG.

Yours faithfully



Liz Holland-Clarke

LL.B., Registered Trade Mark Attorney, A.D.F.M.

Chair - South Australian Horse Industry Advisory Group (SA HIAG)
Representative - Horse Federation of SA Inc.