

Equine
Veterinarians
Australia

A Special Interest Group of the
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Monday 25 August, 2014

The Hon Mr Leon Bignall MP
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Government of South Australia
Parliament House
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Minister

Re: South Australian Horse Industry Advisory Group

Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA), with over 1,100 members is the peak equine veterinarian professional body in Australia. I am a committee member of the South Australian Horse Industry Advisory Group (SA HIAG) and the South Australian Representative of EVA. I am writing to you in support of the continuation of SA HIAG in an efficient, effective and tangible manner.

Under the terms of reference of the South Australian Horse Industry Advisory Group (SA HIAG), EVA has been provided with the privilege of nominating to you, a prospective member of SA HIAG. I say this is a privilege, because EVA takes the equine biosecurity agenda most seriously, and the SA HIAG has the responsibility of informing and advising you as Minister on this demanding agenda.

The equine biosecurity agenda includes, but is not limited to:

- Equine Influenza virus (EI), which cost the industry hundreds of millions of dollars in the 2007 outbreak.
- Hendra virus, a zoonotic disease which to date is 100% fatal in horses and 60% fatal in humans.
- Kunjin virus, another zoonotic disease, which is an extremely debilitating neurological disease spread by water birds and mosquitos, particularly in the Murray Valley including SA.
- Tetanus virus and Strangles virus.
- Education and extension in vaccination for the above viruses, with the exception of EI.
- Equine quarantine for Import and the interface with the racing and equine competition industries.
- Equine dentistry and the interaction between veterinarians and lay dental technicians.
- Equine health under various Acts of SA Parliament including The Livestock act, The Brands Act, The Impoundment Act and relevant regulations.

South Australia has a large and active equine industry and a proud history in equestrian achievements. It is an industry that is far too important to not have a direct advisory role to Government. EVA is sure that the members of SA HIAG, including EVA are ready and willing to explore efficiency measures in consultation with your staff at the earliest opportunity, but we do implore you please, that SA HIAG must continue as a formally constituted body and continue in its role in providing quality equine industry advice to you as the Minister.

Kind regards,

Dr Holly Lewis
Equine veterinarian
EVA Board Member representing South Australia
Partner; Morphettville Equine Clinic