

Equine Veterinarians Australia Submission to the Horse Disease Response Levy Review

29 August 2016

Equine Veterinarians Australia Position

Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA) has over 1,100 members Australia-wide. EVA is the peak professional body representing the veterinarians who care for the health and welfare of Australia's horses. EVA is the Equine Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association.

Background

It is imperative that in Australia, exotic animal disease emergencies are coordinated nationally by government and affected industries, and the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) is the most appropriate process to oversee that need. In addition, *The Horse Disease Response Levy Act 2011* and the *Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Act 2011* are suitable pieces of legislation to ensure that an emergency disease response is adequately funded. EVA respects that a five yearly review of the Acts is required. However, when the status quo continues to meet current and expected equine needs in an EADRA, then there should not be any momentum, or requirement for a legislative change.

EVA supports the current two nil-rated, simultaneous levy collection points of manufactured feed and worm treatments as they provide the most equitable options with limited leakage points. As the current response levy has not been tested, a case to change the current collection points is difficult to make.

Recommendation

EVA recommends that no changes be made to *The Horse Disease Response Levy Act 2011* and the *Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Act 2011*.

Further contact

If the review panel have any questions, or require further information I can be contacted via EVA Executive Officer, Jeffrey Wilkinson, at eo@eva.org.au or by phone at 02 9431 5080.

Yours sincerely,

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EVA President

