



# **HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA**

## **OBJECTIVE**

### **ERADICATION OF EQUINE INFLUENZA**

## DIMENSION



- The Equine industry has 900,000+ horses from the organized in Racing to the recreational horse and ferals. A significant contributor to the Australian Economy in every indicator.
- Harness Racing Australia, Australian Racing Board and Australian Horse Industry Council. Co-operation within the Australian Horse Industry displayed.

# KEY PLAYERS



- The Federal Ministers Peter McGauran (former) and Tony Burke (current)
- Full commitment of all Harness Racing Australia Members, particularly New South Wales & Queensland
- Federal & State Government assistance (\$250m+ for participants in affected States of Queensland & New South Wales) and not pursuing the recovery of cost of eradication (\$108m).
- Department of Agriculture (DAFF), Bio Security Australia, AQIS – the quarantine service and State Departments with Chief Veterinary Officers.

# KEY PLAYERS



- Animal Health Australia (Membership by Racing Industry as a Livestock industry). (Welfare Body).
  - Emergency Animal Disease Agreement.
  - Organized logistics and co-ordination with above.
  - National Management Group and CCEAD
    - State and Regional Response Teams
    - Industry Liaison Officers (Training)
    - AUSVETPLAN, Expert documentation

# KEY EAD RESPONSE ISSUES



- Equine Influenza
  - STATE SIZE/DIMENSION & Highly Contagious Spread in a naïve horse population.
  - Suspension of Horse Movement, Containment.
  - Horse Traceability and Location by Zones.
  - Mobilization of Resources, Government and Veterinary.
  - Key Role of Chief Veterinary Officers & Staff with 'Whole of Government' Capability.

# KEY EAD RESPONSE ISSUES



- Equine Influenza
  
- Communication, all facets & mediums.
  - Equine Influenza Forum by Harness Racing Australia.
  
- Testing Samples & Research (Laboratories).
  
- Vaccination to support containment & eradication.
  
- Artificial Insemination & Semen Transportation vital for Harness Racing Breeding Industry.

# ACHIEVEMENT



- ERADICATION succeeded, NOT declared ENDEMIC

- Regular Vaccination NOT REQUIRED.  
This costly alternative is not necessary.

Harness Racing Australia's Policy is that periodic vaccination into the future does not occur.

# COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENT



- Regular & Ongoing with Federal/State Governments and Ministers.
- Harness Racing Australia Chairman and Executive (Industry Liaison)
  - Strategic Positioning
- Crisis Management by jurisdictions with Government Assistance. (No Stakemoney equals No Revenue/Income in our industry).



# REVIEWS



- Callinan Inquiry (Harness Racing Australia & Australian Racing Board engaged legal representation to represent racing industry position & views)
- Beale Inquiry into the Quarantine area.
- Animal Health Australia, National post-EAD Reviews.
- Harness Racing Australia 'Economic Loss Review' with Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

# FUTURE FOCUS



- Emergency Disease Response notified by Federal Minister Tony Burke as from 30 June 2008, that Australia is “free of disease” status.
- Direction focussed on ‘Proof of Freedom’ under O.I.E. requirements by end of December 2008. Extensive testing undertaken for international purposes.
- Removal of all import/export restrictions on horse movement internationally, emphasizing New Zealand/Australia movement reinstatement.

# FUTURE FOCUS



- Finalization of Government Administrative and Contractual Agreement through Animal Health Australia.
- Total Review of Emergency Disease Response with Animal Health Australia for equine and all livestock industries.
- Sincere Congratulations to all industry stakeholders and participants for their co-operation in this significant achievement.