

18/12/2015

Southwood Saddlery and SW Equestrian Wholesalers

[REDACTED]  
Tarampa, QLD, 4311

Effects of Hendra Vaccine Policies on our Business

The Honourable Peter Wellington

Speaker of the House

Firstly we would like to thank you for support and understanding regarding the current Hendra Vaccine crises. As small business owners we would like our voice heard as part of this process.

We believe the actions of the drug company and the veterinarians in promoting the Hendra vaccine as the only safe option is causing ongoing damage to our business and the industry at large. With so much uncertainty and fear, our small business is feeling the effects of a steady market decline. This is due to the fact that many people are simply walking away from horse sport and the horse industry altogether.

I would like to give you just one example of these effects to our business as follows:

In 2013 the Brisbane Royal Show (EKKA) put in place a policy for compulsory Hendra Vaccination for all horses competing at the show. We had a trade stand at this show in 2012 and in 2013 we decided to wait for the RNA to confirm final horse entry numbers before we committed to a trade stand. The horse entries for the 2013 show were down by around 50%. We went ahead with our trade stand at a heavily discounted rate however our turnover was down by around 40% on the previous year. We have seen some recovery in subsequent years however nothing like our 2012 numbers. We continue to see our market shrink as more and more people leave our sport and industry.

We are firm believers that there must be some middle ground in this whole argument that will not damage any parts of our sport and industry. At the moment it feels like the only beneficiaries are the drug company and the veterinarians in promoting the Hendra vaccine.

We thank you for your time and understanding

Yours Sincerely

Andrew and Vicki Matheson

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