

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to Hendra Virus Parliamentary Inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, 21 March 2016 9:48:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)

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Dear Research Director,

I write to make a submission to this inquiry.

I own and operate a long –standing, high quality horse riding business in the Sunshine Coast/South Burnett and Noosa areas. Our business is called Equathon and we have been operating now for over a decade. We conduct horse riding tours, instruction and horse training to a broad range of domestic and international customers. We are a previous winner at the Queensland Tourism Awards and the Australian Tourism Awards as we operate in the areas of tourism, sport and recreation. We also hold commercial permits with the QPWS for horse riding on Teewah Beach on the Noosa North Shore.

All of our 30 horses are Hendra vaccinated and have been since the inception of the vaccination program. We support the vaccination process with the following observations and comments: -

1. For the program to be really successful we believe vaccination of all horses should be mandatory and all horse associations should require this of horses to attend competitions and events. The current situation of not every horse being vaccinated we believe is risky and penalises those people who have taken responsibility to vaccinate.
2. In our horse stock we have seen the occurrence of side effects in horses receiving their 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> booster. Effects have been large swellings on the neck at the site of the injection in 1 in 3 horses. Swelling of the lymph glands under the jaw and possible skin outbreaks or irritations. These have been re[ported to our vet and to the head veterinarian for the Zoetis company who manufacture the drugs.
3. We believe the 6monthly vaccinations may be too often (based on side effects above) and we would like to see the vaccination program made 12monthly or longer to protect horses from over-dosing and possible harmful side effects.
4. The cost of vaccinating is a major cost of business for us and the initial program cost us over \$6000 and then another \$3000 approx every six months. We believe there should be compensation for businesses such as ours in helping allay this large financial burden.
5. We would like to see more data, research and transparency about the effects of the vaccinations on horses as to date there has been a lot of misinformation, rumour and hearsay about the effects etc...

I would be happy to be contacted should you require any more information or comment. As stated, we believe it is important that the program is universally adopted in affected areas by all horse owners and horse organisations and associations for the members.

Your sincerely,

Alex Watson  
Triple Olympian  
Managing Director  
EQUATHON Holdings

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