

15 April 2016

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry
C/- Mr Rob Hansen
Parliament House
Brisbane
Queensland 4000
Phone: 07 3553 6660

By email: robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry

My name is Dr Serena Sabourin, and I am an equine veterinarian located in Sarina, Queensland. I have been in veterinary practice for less than a year. And already I have experienced the fear which comes with attending a potential Hendra case. The very real fear of contracting the Hendra virus is sadly less of a concern than the possibility of being prosecuted by QLD WHS. This fear of both disease and prosecution would not be an issue if the horses I treated were Hendra vaccinated and this one of the main reasons I feel so strongly about this issue.

I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

- The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the Hendra vaccine.
- The development, trials and approval processes of the vaccine
- Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option.

Of the 30 plus horses I have vaccinated in just 3 months of working as a vet I have had no adverse reactions. I am confident that the vaccine is effective and safe for use in all healthy horses.

The duty of care which will be placed on event organisers in the case of a Hendra virus outbreak at an event places the future of equine events in jeopardy. No one wants to be responsible for spreading Hendra virus but the people who refuse to vaccinate their horses will at some point be responsible for an outbreak.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Serena Sabourin BVSc

Sarina Veterinary Surgery

[REDACTED] Sarina 4737
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