

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Robert Hansen](#)
Subject: Hendra Inquiry submission
Date: Saturday, 16 April 2016 2:10:15 PM

Dear Mr Hansen

16th 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 Lloyd Varga, and I am a **veterinarian** located at Mittagong, NSW. I have been in **veterinary practice** for 6 years and work on all species including horses. 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.

I have vaccinated over 30 horses for Hendra **and even though I am not in a Hendra endemic zone I always express my gratitude to clients who have taken the responsibility to protect themselves and me by vaccinating their horse against Hendra. The most serious adverse reaction I have been told about by my clients is localised swelling at the injection site that has reduced in a few days. I have never been called out to recheck a horse and I have seen similar reactions at injection sites for tetanus and strangles, of which I have probably vaccinated in excess of 250 horses with.**

I am thankful that I do not work in a Hendra endemic zone but if I owned a veterinary business in an Hendra endemic area and had staff under my duty of care. I could not in good conscious, send them out to see sick horses day after day and potentially risk them to Hendra. If I was a business owner in a Hendra endemic zone, I would implement a clinic policy of not seeing horses that had not been vaccinated for Hendra. I though the Equestrian Australia showed some real leadership a few years ago by implementing a well thought out and, in my opinion, sensible Hendra vaccination policy. It is an absolute shame they did a complete backflip. I struggle to understand why people who have horses, and having horse is not a right, it is a privilege. **Would not vaccinate their horse and protect themselves and veterinarians against Hendra Virus.**

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd Varga | Veterinarian



Ironmines Veterinary Clinic

[REDACTED] | Mittagong NSW 2575

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