

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](mailto:robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hansen,

**RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry**

My name is Dr Doug English, and I am an equine veterinarian located at Tallebudgera, Queensland. I have only recently relocated to here from Cairns where I have been actively involved with 5 positive Hendra cases, either my own or colleagues closely associated. I have been in veterinary practice for 41 years. I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

I have now given close to 1,000 shots of vaccine with not one horse having to be physically rechecked, and only a handful who reported mild soreness and swelling which dissipated in days

The technology behind the vaccine I consider to be excellent and the testing procedures and absence of cases in any vaccinated horse proves this. I am willing to use the vaccine on myself.

Handling vaccinated horses makes the work environment completely safe with any worries. The opposite applies to when an unvaccinated sick horse emerges.

Risk management at equestrian events is so simple when only unvaccinated horses are allowed. I eagerly await the fall out when a positive horse is picked up at a large public event that allows unvaccinated horses.

I think it is grossly unfair that a vet has to take all the blame and consequences when an unvaccinated horse gets the disease and the vet at first misdiagnoses the case. Symptoms initially are vague and reflective of many syndromes and it will be impossible to pick up. To run an exclusion test first up into the consultation on an unvaccinated horses is onerous and expensive to the owner. Even considering the rebate paid to vets. It is expedient for a fast result for me to actually drive the samples to Coopers Plains but in Cairns it was taking 3 days to get results. My last case at Koah took 3 days for result and since I was fairly sure I had an Hendra case, I insisted that the establishment close down and that meant big \$ for owner and pressure on me. Tourism riding establishment with 50 odd horses and daily bookings 150/300 x \$150 and idle staff. I am in the shit if I make a wrong call both ways!

I also think it is about time somebody in the APVMA had the balls to make the call to increase the interval to 1 year! and then quickly increase it to three years just like Rabies vaccine which is actually a less technically effective vaccine. Also Distemper Hepatitis vaccines are viral vaccines that go out past 3 years. Another viral vaccine for Yellow fever in humans is now recognised as one shot in mature person being good for lifetime

Yours sincerely,

Doug English BVSc  
Doug English Large Animal Veterinarian

