

18 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


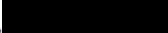
My name is Dr Leanne Begg, and I am an equine veterinarian located at Randwick, New South Wales. I have been in veterinary practice for 29 years. I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

- 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.

When the vaccination was first released I personally vaccinated approximately 500 horses, about half being racehorses in training at Mrs Gai Waterhouse's stable. We had no reactions to the vaccine at all. This initial group of horse have continued to be vaccinated without incident. In my opinion, the Hendra vaccine is safe, efficacious and reliable. We recommend vaccination of all horses in our area, as although we have had no Hendra positive horses, we have a large bat population. Serological studies tell us that many of these bats are seropositive to Hendra virus, which means that they have had contact with the virus and could potentially excrete the virus.

In my opinion, the vaccination of horses against Hendra virus is the single most important way we can contribute to the health and safety of our staff in the Workplace. It is also the best way to reduce the risk to all people at Equestrian Events.

Yours sincerely,


Dr Leanne Begg BVSc DipVetClinStud MS MANZCVS DipACVIM
Randwick Equine Centre,  Randwick NSW 2031
