

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Hendra vaccination enquiry
Date: Friday, 22 April 2016 10:19:07 AM

Dear Sirs,

We believe that vaccination against the Hendra virus should be mandatory in all horses living in or travelling to Hendra-endemic areas in Australia.

As veterinary surgeons, our professional priority is animal welfare and there is no question whatsoever that the Hendra virus causes untreatable suffering and death in horses.

We have seen no adverse reactions to the vaccine in the horses we have vaccinated in our practice.

It is an excellent vaccine and the workers who have produced it deserve only the very highest commendation for a truly brilliant job, done with the utmost professional conduct and standards.

We certainly do not advocate unnecessary vaccination procedures.

The risk to in-contact humans is death.

It is completely unreasonable and untenable to avoid vaccinating at-risk horses for this reason alone.

In the practical coal-face day of a horse vet, it is not possible to go through the full protective clothing and decontamination procedures for every horse seen. The veterinary business could not survive as a business.

The vet would follow these procedures if any risk were detected, but the cost to client and vet practice is large. The disease caused by Hendra presents in many ways, which could not initially be distinguished from other innocuous and common daily ailments suffered by horses. In most cases the Hendra-precautionary procedures would prove unnecessary.

This would be eliminated in the majority of cases if vaccination were mandatory.

Consider MP's undergoing a nuclear protection procedure every time they enter their workplace: full protective clothing, restriction on eating and drinking and personal health procedures, and full decontamination including showers and new clothing before they are allowed out onto the street again. How much time, money, and work efficiency would be saved if the building were protected against nuclear contamination and proved to be so, to start with!

Equestrian sport of all disciplines involves large numbers of horses and people coming together. Every person at that location should have the right to the personal safety of knowing that no horse is present carrying the risk of a Hendra infection which has not yet become evident.

It is an enormous additional administrative and professional burden on the vet involved, to encompass all risks if the vaccination policy is not in place.

From the WHS aspect, we would refuse to allow any of our vets to attend unvaccinated horses from Hendra- endemic areas. As most call-outs would be for non-Hendra

problems, this would be a major welfare issue.

We trust you will give full and due consideration to the health and lives of all concerned.
Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
Drs Mark and Janet Buckerfield
Veterinary Surgeons,
Hobart Equine Practice
[REDACTED]
Mount Stuart 7000
Tasmania

[REDACTED]