

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Hendra  
**Date:** Friday, 22 April 2016 3:27:32 PM

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Sirs

My wife and I have two horse related business. We breed and sell horses for the show industry - we have 30 breeders and young stock. We also have a riding apparel manufacturing business located on the Sunshine Coast established 42 year ago. We are the last Australian based manufactures of jodhpurs left in this country!

Our farm is located in a low Hendra risk area 27 kms west of Gympie. We do not vaccinate our horses for that reason and because we are rigorous in the implementation of our horse management procedures which are fully in accord with the Bio Security Qld guidelines.

We feel compelled to write to express our views on the intolerable Hendra policies being applied by the Queensland veterinary profession and Zoetis.

1. We consider it to be disgraceful that a vaccine can be released onto the market without full testing and sold to the horse owning public who effectively become guinea pigs for a large multinational. This business practice would not be tolerated for a human vaccine and should not be tolerated for animal vaccines either! It is a business practice that should be left where it started...the computer software industry where 'cliches' in the product just pissed you off not threatened the welfare of your animals and your livelihood!
2. We have recently suffered the loss of a young mare from colic while waiting for a weekend exclusion test result. The result was negative, which given the risk levels was totally expected. Her death was the result of the no vaccine no treatment policy being actively and forcefully promoted by both the AVA and EVA and as a result has been adopted by our vets and a large numbers of other vets in this state. We consider this to be unconscionable behaviour by a profession who have deliberately set out to 'cherry pick' the science to suit their own agenda! This type of behaviour is entirely unwarranted given the actual risks and the fragility of this virus and represents a significantly disproportionate reaction to the Hendra virus threat.
3. In this regard we believe the AVA and EVA are using their exclusive market powers in the treatment of animals to coerce owners, through a campaign of fear, to comply with their unreasonable Hendra vaccination agenda. This is a practice that I cannot believe should be tolerated by any population or their political representatives and must be stopped now before it does irreparable damage to the Queensland pleasure horse industry and becomes an established part of business practice in this state!
4. Finally there appears to be anecdotal evidence of double standards being applied by vets with the race horse industry seemingly left largely untouched by this action. It would be good if the Commission could test validity of this anecdotal evidence because the race

horse industry itself seems reluctant to talk publically on the issue.

If this matter is not resolved to bring common sense back into veterinary practice in this state we will be relocating both businesses to a state where sanity remains.

Yours

Stuart & Cindy Ross

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