



28 April 2016

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Research Director  
Inquiry into Hendra virus (HeV) EquiVacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Queensland Parliamentary Committee's *Inquiry into Hendra virus (HeV) EquiVacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland*.

Since 1875, the RNA has been celebrating and championing agriculture and the critical role it plays in the everyday lives of Queenslanders. As the organiser of this premiere Queensland event, the highest priority is placed on the health and safety of our patrons, competitors, staff and animals at the Show.

In May of 2013, subsequent to extensive consultation with *Biosecurity Qld* and experienced veterinarians, the RNA announced a mandatory Hendra virus vaccination requirement for all horses attending or competing at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka).

2015 marked the third year of mandatory vaccinations in accordance with the following protocol:

1. All competitors must submit their horses microchip numbers
2. These are then checked through the national immunisation database
3. All competitors must also sign a waybill stating their horses are vaccinated.

Consistent with our common law duty of care and prescribed statutory obligations under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011* (Qld) and *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld), it is the RNA's position that mandatory vaccination is the single most important way to prevent infection in horses and therefore in human handlers and patrons of the show.

In addition, a single case of Hendra virus infection on the Showgrounds during Ekka would pose a significant risk to the viability of the 10 day event, with the quarantine protocol and community response severely impacting the course of the Show.

The RNA will continue in our efforts to pursue the fundamental protection of staff who may be exposed to the risk of Hendra virus and welcomes the current inquiry as an opportunity to instruct best practice.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office should further information be required.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Brendan Christou  
Chief Executive



RNA Showgrounds  
Bowen Hills Brisbane  
Queensland Australia

Locked Bag 1010  
Albion Queensland  
Australia 4010

T +61 7 3852 1831  
F +61 7 3257 1428

www.rna.org.au  
ABN 41 417 513 728