

**SUBMISSION TO THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT
PETROL PRICING SELECT COMMITTEE**

TERMS OF REFERENCE – Item 2(b)

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Equestrian Federation of
Australia (Qld Branch) Inc.



Queensland Government
Sport and Recreation Queensland

Equestrian Queensland Inc is the State Sporting Organisation recognised and supported by the Queensland Government for the management and development of horse sports in this State. These sports include but are not limited to the Olympic sports of Dressage, Eventing and Showjumping, as well as such other sports as Carriage Driving, Vaulting and Show Horse.

As the State representative body the organisation represents either directly or indirectly some 13,000 equestrian riders throughout regional & metropolitan Queensland.

Because of the added feature of the horse and the need to transport the same, petrol pricing can have a significant impact not only on the individual's ability to travel to events but on the sports infrastructure as well, from an organisational point of view.

Obviously, the need to transport horses requires a larger vehicle and as such, an increase in petrol consumption, therefore the impact of higher prices burdens the equestrian competitor more so than many other sporting pursuits. This is further exacerbated in regional Queensland where the competitor has a greater distance to travel to attend training days, shows or competition.

In addition to the above, flow on costs also affect the following aspects of the equestrian industry and at times an individuals ability to pursue their chosen sporting endeavours:

- ✓ Increases in the price of shoeing a horse (a horse in competition requires shoeing on average every 6 weeks) because of increased travel costs of the Farrier;
- ✓ Increased vet fees again resulting from increase travel costs;
- ✓ Increase cost of feed and feed production;
- ✓ Cost of officials transportation and the effect this can have on the volunteer official's ability to get to events – the ramifications of this in Australia and on Australian sport are obvious;
- ✓ Spectator travel.

These are only a few of the potential costs than can impact on a sport where transportation is a necessary element of participation.

A continued increase in petrol pricing would, it is envisaged, have a similar impact on the Sport as did the drought some 18 months ago. That being, a reduction in the number of horses being registered for competition and a subsequent reduction in the number of entries being made for competitions throughout the State. This decrease was estimated at the time of the drought to be somewhere in the vicinity of 5-7%. This in turn affects the viability of clubs and facilities and can ultimately lead to the closure in some communities of a vital recreational and sporting pursuit.

The potential ramifications the pricing of petrol can have on a sport such as equestrian and the greater industry are obvious. As such Equestrian Queensland would encourage the Committee to be mindful of the impact such policies can have on the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders and their desire to participate in sport as part of their everyday pursuits.

Equestrian Queensland thanks the Committee for the opportunity to have input into the petrol pricing situation in this State and looks forward to positive outcomes for all Queenslanders in terms of travel and the pursuit of ones sporting endeavours.

Rob Ferguson
General Manager