

## Question on Notice

No. 1764

Asked on 13 November 2008

MR HORAN ASKED THE TREASURER (MR FRASER)—

With reference to the Queensland Treasury Annual Report 2007-08, which refers to the Office of Racing's annual Control Body Assessment (CBA) program which identifies and reviews racing bodies' compliance on key issues—

- (1) How is the decision made on which reviews to conduct?
- (2) What reviews were conducted under the CBA program in 2007-08?
- (3) What were the parameters set for each review, the key findings and any suggested responses?

ANSWER:

- (1) Section 46 of the *Racing Act 2002* (the Racing Act) requires that each year, the Chief Executive must prepare and provide to the Minister a program for assessing the suitability of control bodies to manage their relevant code of racing. The program may focus on a particular control body or on a particular criterion relating to all control bodies.
- (2) In 2007, the Control Body Assessment program focused on the preparedness of the three racing control bodies – Queensland Racing Limited (QRL), Queensland Harness Racing Board (QHRB) and the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) to assist in the management of an emergency animal disease outbreak.

The 2008 Control Body Assessment program is to assess:

- the suitability of each control body's policy under section 81(g) and (o) of the Racing Act;
- how effectively these policies have been implemented; and
- each control body's compliance with section 37(b) of the Racing Act.

### **2007 Control Body Assessment Program**

I approved a program on 19 July 2007 with an aim to determine each control body's level of preparedness for an emergency animal disease outbreak and to highlight areas which could be further improved or developed. On 25 August 2008, equine influenza was detected in the general horse population.

The Office of Racing staff conducted an assessment of the actions and measures taken by QRL and the QHRB during the EI response. A number of different parameters relating to each control body's participation in the EI response were considered. Documentary evidence, such as published material, any records collected by the control body, as well as any other relevant information provided by QRL, the QHRB

and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) was used as part of the assessment.

The assessment of the GRA involved the participation of the GRA management in a scenario which involved a possible emergency animal disease outbreak at a race meeting. The intent of the exercise was to create a realistic situation of increasing seriousness and tempo that required control body staff to initiate responses in an attempt to ensure the situation was handled in an appropriate manner.

The exercise was divided up into five (5) parts and officers of the GRA were required to answer a number of questions associated with each part of the exercise scenario. The officers were able to refer to any emergency animal disease reference materials which may have assisted them in answering the questions.

The answers given were used to assess the level of awareness, knowledge and preparedness to assist in the management of a suspected emergency animal disease incident.

### **2007 Control Body Assessment Recommendations**

#### **Queensland Racing Limited**

It was recommended that a review of QRL's biosecurity preparedness for its industry and an outline of future planning be undertaken by QRL. It was advised that further assistance could be obtained from Animal Health Australia (AHA), the DPI&F and the Racing Science Centre (RSC). It was recommended that the review should consider the following issues:

- The development of a meaningful control body policy/sub-policy and procedures regarding biosecurity, including emergency animal disease preparedness;
- The contact details contained within the Queensland Racing Industry Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan (QRIEADPP) document be updated regularly to maintain its currency and that an electronic database containing the contact details of key people and organisations that would be able to assist in the response to an emergency animal disease outbreak be developed;
- A review of QRL's licensee training program to ensure that the content covers all aspects of biosecurity, including emergency animal disease awareness and preparedness;
- Ongoing training for existing and new QRL staff with regard to emergency animal disease preparedness, for example, industry liaison officer training and emergency animal disease awareness training; and
- Support and promotion by QRL of Animal Health Australia's 'Protect Australian Livestock Campaign' called 'Farm Biosecurity', which is designed to encourage persons who use animals in their businesses to implement appropriate biosecurity as part of normal business and enterprise practice, to minimise the risk of an emergency animal disease.

### Queensland Harness Racing Board

It was recommended that a review of the QHRB's biosecurity preparedness for its industry and an outline of future planning be undertaken by the QHRB. It was advised that further assistance could be obtained from AHA, the DPI&F and the RSC. It was recommended that the review should consider the following issues:

- The development of a meaningful control body policy/sub-policy and procedures regarding biosecurity, including emergency animal disease preparedness;
- The contact details contained within the QRIEADPP document be updated regularly to maintain its currency and that an electronic database containing the contact details of key people and organisations that would be able to assist in the response to an emergency animal disease outbreak be developed;
- A review of QHRB's licensee training program to ensure that the content covers all aspects of biosecurity including emergency animal disease awareness and preparedness;
- Ongoing training for existing and new QHRB staff with regard to emergency animal disease preparedness, for example, industry liaison officer training and emergency animal disease awareness training; and
- Support and promotion by the QHRB of Animal Health Australia's 'Protect Australian Livestock Campaign' called 'Farm Biosecurity', which is designed to encourage persons who use animals in their businesses to implement appropriate biosecurity as part of normal business and enterprise practice, to minimise the risk of an emergency animal disease.

### Greyhound Racing Authority

It was recommended:

- That arrangements be made with Biosecurity Queensland to provide emergency animal disease and biosecurity training to GRA stewards and other GRA personnel.
- That the GRA develop a meaningful control body policy/sub-policy and procedures relevant to responding to an emergency animal disease situation.
- That a review be conducted of the adequacy of the training provided to persons wishing to become licensed and existing licensed persons in relation to emergency animal disease awareness and biosecurity content. If the level of training is inadequate then a plan to incorporate emergency animal disease awareness and biosecurity training into the existing training framework should be developed.
- That the GRA (with the assistance of the RSC), consider the establishment of an electronic database which has the contact details of groups, companies or organisations which can be contacted to provide various resources, services or goods such as food, bedding, veterinary chemicals, quarantine waste removal and veterinary care in an emergency quarantine situation.

- That the GRA (with the assistance of the RSC) investigate the development of industry based emergency animal disease and biosecurity plans.

### **2008 Control Body Assessment Program**

The 2008 Assessment Program is currently being conducted. The Office of Racing is assessing:

- The suitability of each control body's policy under section 81(g) of the Act regarding the control body's website and the information to be accessible through its website, including its policies and rules required to be published on the website under sections 84 and 94;
- The suitability of each control body's policy under section 81(o) of the Act regarding the control body's record keeping, including keeping records about decisions.
- How effectively the policies under section 81(g) and (o) have been implemented; and
- Each control body's compliance with the requirement in section 37(b) of the Act to have an information system that records all of the control body's actions under its licensing scheme relating to animals, clubs, participants and venues.