



**Hon Tim Mulherin MP**  
Member for Mackay

Reference: 07/22106

**21 JAN 2008**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr of Alice and George Streets  
**Brisbane Qld 4000**

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petition (930-07) to the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, lodged by Mr John English MP, Member for Redlands, on 15 November 2007 concerning cost sharing the financial assistance towards veterinary care of infected horses.

Attached is a copy of my response to Ms Diane Ager of Sheldon, the principal petitioner.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Brian Timms, Policy Advisor in my office on telephone 07 3239 3000.

Yours sincerely *AF*

**ANDREW FRASER**  
Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries

Att



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Primary Industries  
and Fisheries**

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**Hon Tim Mulherin MP**  
Member for Mackay

**COPY**



**Queensland  
Government**

Reference: 07/25732

**Minister for Primary Industries  
and Fisheries**

**Ms Diane Ager**  
749 Mt Cotton Road  
Sheldon Qld 4157

Dear Ms Ager

I refer to your petition to the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament concerning the cost sharing of financial assistance towards veterinary care of infected horses.

I appreciate your concern about the financial impacts of the equine influenza outbreak on all segments of the horse industry in Australia.

The Queensland Government's aim since the disease outbreak has been containment and eradication by following the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) through the National Management Group and the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases. The key strategies have involved vaccination of large accumulations of horses, vaccination in inner and outer buffer zones, strict control of horse movements and effective communication to all horse owners, carers and the general public to observe biosecurity measures to prevent spread of the disease.

Since equine influenza was detected in Australia in August 2007, the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, Honourable Tim Mulherin, MP, has campaigned for strong financial support from the Federal Government under the cost sharing arrangements and upgrading of quarantine standards and procedures in Australia. He has also advocated this in a recent meeting in Brisbane with the new federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Honourable Tony Burke, MP.

Minister Mulherin advocated strenuously to the then federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Honourable Peter McGauran, MP, and the National Management Group under the AUSVETPLAN for the extension and funding of the vaccination program in Queensland. So far over 110,000 doses of vaccine have been delivered in Queensland. The dispensing of the vaccines in the buffer zones has been critical in containing the equine influenza outbreak.

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In the current vaccination program for performance and pleasure horses the cost of all vaccinations and micro-chipping within Queensland's red zone and surrounding buffer zone is covered by national cost sharing arrangements under the AUSVETPLAN. This includes the \$35 paid to veterinarians to administer the vaccine and the vaccinations within the buffer zone which attract an additional \$100 per property visited from the start of the emergency.

The State Government is also providing a whole-of-government response managed through Department of Communities' One-Stop shops to assist people financially where possible. The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries also has five Community Resource Centres in south-east Queensland to assist horse owners.

The Australian and State governments are very optimistic that their aim to eradicate equine influenza is achievable and accordingly, veterinary care of infected horses and on-going vaccination of performance and pleasure horses will not be necessary. By eradicating the disease the horse industry will be able to return to normal activities. To this end the Performance and Pleasure Horse Industry Crisis Committee and Biosecurity Queensland have signed off on protocols for holding events early this year.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Allison Crook of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries on telephone 07 3239 3242 or email [allison.crook@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:allison.crook@dpi.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**ANDREW FRASER**

Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries