



14 August, 2015

Mr Richard Chadwick  
General Manager of Adjudication  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

C/- email address: adjudication@acc.gov.au

Dear Mr Chadwick

SUBMISSION AGAINST EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA (EA) NOTIFICATION APPLICATION NO: N98410 AS NOT BEING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

I refer to the above mentioned EA application and wish to strongly make the following submissions against the granting of Notification to EA which, if granted, would confer immunity on EA to engage in exclusive dealing third line forcing by permitting mandatory Hendra (Hev) vaccination to be prescribed at equestrian events.

I wish to strongly state that having regard to the following reasons, I do not believe that mandatory HeV vaccination is in the public interest and that the likely benefit to the public from the notified conduct would not outweigh the likely detriment to the public resulting from EA engaging in the conduct

- HeV vaccination product registration (on 4/8/15) registered label states that it cannot be guaranteed that the vaccine will not mask the Hendra virus symptoms and/or it cannot be guaranteed that a vaccinated horse may not pass on the virus anyway, in which case, what is the purpose of mandating vaccination without such certainties?
- the low risks of Hendra being caught at an event (and the fact that it has never happened in the history of equestrian events ever) as opposed to the increasingly growing higher risks of a horse having an adverse reaction to the vaccine
- The Government medicine licensing authority, the APVMA, itself states that mandatory HeV vaccination is not an APVMA requirement which supports the argument that if the Government licensing authority does not believe the HeV vaccine should be mandatory, it is inappropriate for a non-government private membership equestrian organisation such as EA to dictate that it should be and bind its members to such as a condition of participating in equine competitions

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**Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc**  
**National Secretary: Barb Voysey**  
**PO Box 42, Hackham, SA 5163**  
**Email: [tygerbar@internode.on.net](mailto:tygerbar@internode.on.net)**  
**Mobile: 0418 821100**



ARBN 096 500 346  
ABN 22 921 298 546

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SUBMISSION AGAINST EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA (EA) NOTIFICATION APPLICATION NO: N98410 AS NOT BEING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST: Page 2

- No Australian Government regulatory body has required or recommended mandatory HeV vaccination (e.g.: the Department of Primary Industries, Workplace Health and Safety etc) therefore it is inappropriate for a non-government private membership equestrian organisation such as EA to dictate that it should be and bind its members to such as a condition of participating in equine competitions.

- We believe mandatory Hendra vaccination is not being in the public interest.

It would have a devastating effect on our Association and may even mean we would not be able to continue giving our members the opportunity to promote the Miniature Horse as cost would prevent the average member difficulty in justifying the extra costs involved.

On Behalf of the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc

Barb Voysey  
National Secretary

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