

AUSTRALIAN HORSE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

The Role of the AHIC in EI 2007

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How the AHIC operates

- Represents the interests of all Australian horse owners and their horses, particularly non racing sectors
- AHIC Board members, all voluntary positions, come from all States and represent all sectors
- Subcommittees on Quarantine, Health and **HorseSafe**
- AHIC funds come from voluntary membership subscriptions from individuals, organisations and businesses



Horse Emergency Contact Database

- Established in 2003 with Federal and NSW DPI funding
- Natural disasters and disease emergencies
- Records horse location and owner contact details
- Contact by email or SMS
- Owner resistance to giving details



Communication

- The first email and SMS on the EI National Standstill was sent via the HECD on Saturday 25 August 2007
- SMS messages delayed by up to 12 hours
- Over 1 million emails sent to HECD registrants during the EI outbreak
- HECD used for NSW Daily Updates



Getting Industry Viewpoints

- Prior to EI, AHIC received 140 emails per month
- Between August 2007 and June 2008, AHIC received an average of 7,000 per month (up to 18,000), all answered
- AHIC sent out 4 surveys via HECD seeking opinions and information
 - High response rate and 90% support for eradication
 - Large number of personal verbatim comments
 - Resentment towards perceived favouritism to racing



Representing Industry

- 56 meetings of Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD)
- 25 meetings of National Management Group (NMG)
- Numerous industry committees
- Submissions to Callinan and re-categorisation panel.



Policy Development

- AHIC appreciates the close working relationship with NSW DPI
- NSW DPI consulted with ILOs and involved them in decision making
- Focus on reducing impacts on industry and associated businesses
- Industry consultation on extent of purple zone
- No point in controlling a disease if businesses go broke.



Our Thanks

On behalf of the Australian Horse Industry, the AHIC wishes to thank all who helped to contain, control and eradicate Equine Influenza from Australia

