

Date & Time	6:00pm Thursday 26 February 2015
Location	Mandavilla Function Centre, Horsley Park
Attendees	75 Equestrian NSW members eligible to vote, holding 231 proxies Judy Fasher (Chair) and the Equestrian NSW Board Bruce Farrar (Secretary)

### 1.1 Open Meeting

Judy Fasher, as Chair, opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

### 1.2 Introduction

Judy Fasher welcomed the members and provided a brief history of the Equestrian Australia Hendra By-Law:

- Early development of the By-Law was done in an environment where the number of Hendra incidents had increased.
- There was an expectation, based on advice from Zoetis, that the vaccine would get 12 months duration of immunity and full registration from the APVMA by mid-2014. Also, that the level of adverse reactions would be accurately recorded, reported and investigated. None of which happened.
- The Equestrian NSW Board felt that it had a duty to protect its members, their horses and particularly competition organising committees.
- In August 2014, in response to concerns raised by members, Equestrian NSW lobbied hard to get Equestrian Australia to revoke the Hendra By-Law.
- With hindsight, Equestrian NSW would have done things differently, but made decisions in good faith based on the information available at the time.

Judy Fasher then detailed the motions which were to be put to the General Meeting:

#### Motion 1

That the Board of Equestrian NSW be directed to join with Equestrian Queensland in requisitioning in writing, pursuant to Rule 15.2 of the Constitution of Equestrian Australia Limited, the convening of a Special General Meeting of Equestrian Australia Limited, specifying the object of the Special General Meeting as being to discuss and vote on the following motion to be put to the Special General Meeting: -

That Equestrian Australia Limited immediately cease all action in relation to the introduction of any mandatory Hendra Vaccination Policy in respect of horses competing, or involved, in any event, competition or activity in Australia over which Equestrian Australia Limited or any of its Branches has jurisdiction and the Board of Equestrian Australia Limited be directed to cease all considerations relating to the introduction of a mandatory Hendra Vaccination Policy and to withdraw/repeal the Hendra Vaccination By-Law made by the Board of Equestrian Australia Limited.

## **Motion 2**

That the delegate appointed by the Board of Equestrian NSW to represent it at general meetings of Equestrian Australia Limited be directed by the Board of Equestrian NSW to put to the Special General Meeting of Equestrian Australia Limited, referred to in the foregoing motion, and vote in favour of, the following motion:-

That Equestrian Australia Limited immediately cease all action in relation to the introduction of any mandatory Hendra Vaccination Policy in respect of horses competing or involved, in any event, competition or activity in Australia over which Equestrian Australia Limited or any of its Branches has jurisdiction and the Board of Equestrian Australia Limited be directed to cease all considerations relating to the introduction of a mandatory Hendra Vaccination Policy and to withdraw/repeal the Hendra Vaccination By-Law made by the Board of Equestrian Australia Limited.

### **1.3 Members Discussion**

The following provides a summary of the member discussion:

Krissy Harris:

- Asked who the people were on the EA Hendra expert panel and were they being paid.
- Vicki Burgess, Grant Baldock and Bruce Farrar responded:
  - Professor James Gilkerson - Director of the Centre for Equine Infectious Disease at Melbourne Uni.
  - Dr Deb Middleton – CSIRO, who originally developed the vaccine.
  - Vicki Burgess – Eventing NSW
  - Sue McDermott – Chair, Equestrian Tasmania and NCAS Coach.
  - Dr Cameron Osborne – President, Queensland International Three Day Event.
- Grant Baldock advised that none of the panel were being paid.

Sue Middleton:

- Stated that Professor Gilkerson had been on the Zoetis Veterinary Advisory Board and that Warwick Vales was paid by Zoetis to do the original Hendra Vaccine road show.

Simon Kale:

- He didn't want to vaccinate and only did so because he had to.

Dr Erin Brown:

- Has no problems with the vaccine itself.
- Based on comments from Dr Deb Middleton, immunity against Hendra should be effective after three shots.
- PPE is generally an effective measure to prevent catching any virus.
- Virus vaccine approvals generally take years, after extensive testing.
- Testing of the Zoetis vaccine was too limited (four horses) and too quick.

Dr Derek Major:

- Initially, did not support vaccination, but changed his mind as more incidents occurred down the north coast of NSW.
- As an employer, has a duty of care to his employees under law, to provide a safe work place.

- Was on the EA Hendra Working Party and was trying to protect organising committees, members and horses.

Dr Mathew Walker:

- Not concerned about Hendra where he practices.
- Vaccination should be a choice.
- Hendra is a disease of vets.
- As vets have become more aware of Hendra, the use of PPE has increased, so that the incidence of vets getting Hendra has decreased whereas horse incidents have increased.

Simon Kale:

- EA has not consulted its members about choice.

Vicki Roycroft:

- She pays taxes and EA fees so that Grant Baldock and Bruce Farrar work for her.
- Along with Sue Middleton and De'Arn Packett, demanded that EA release the Risk Assessment that was used to justify the Hendra By-Law.
- Bruce Farrar said that the Risk Assessment did exist and that he had written it.
- Grant Baldock said that the Risk Assessment was being considered by the expert panel under its due diligence process and would not be released at this stage.

Dr Brett Jones:

- As a vet, sells the vaccine, so has a commercial interest.
- Reminded people that 12 months ago, the frequency of Hendra incidents had increased significantly.
- There was an expectation, based on advice from Zoetis, that 12 month duration of immunity would be approved, along with full registration. This hadn't happened and that the adverse reactions were still not properly recorded nor understood.
- Suggested that it was not a good idea to prevent mandatory vaccination forever, as the environment, the number of incidents and understanding may change.

Sue Middleton and De'Arn Packett

- If the incidence of Hendra increased, it was up to the NSW DPI or the Federal authorities to assess the situation and introduce any response measures, including vaccination.

Sue-Ellen Saals:

- As a qualified medical professional, breeder of high level dressage horses and owner of an FEI stallion, was an informed purchaser, so was more than capable of making her own decision as to whether to vaccinate or not.
- EA has no right to mandate vaccination.

Vicki Burgess:

- Suggested that the expert panel, which she is on, should be allowed to run its course.
- Wanted the members to consider an alternate motion that didn't include not being able to ever consider a By-Law which had any element of mandatory vaccination. This was rejected by the members.

#### 1.4 Voting

Judy Fasher thanked the members for their feedback and formally submitted the motions to the members:

Bruce Farrar asked for assistance to count the votes. Dr Erin Brown obliged.

Motion 1 - proposed by Simon Kale, seconded by Sue Ruff. For – 220. Against – 75.

Motion carried.

Motion 2 – proposed by De'Arn Packett, seconded by Jody Millward.

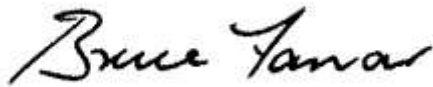
Motion carried. Votes were not counted.

#### 1.5 Conclusion

Judy Fasher committed that the Equestrian NSW Board will move quickly to execute the outcome of the General Meeting and keep members updated about progress.

Meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

**Minutes Submitted:**



**BRUCE FARRAR**  
Chief Executive Office  
Secretary

**Minutes Approved:**



**JUDY FASHER**  
President and Chair