



Equine Influenza Inquiry

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY HEARING

Under section 66AY of the *Quarantine Act 1908*, on 25 September 2007 the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry appointed the Honourable Ian Callinan AC to conduct a Commission of Inquiry into the August 2007 outbreak of equine influenza in Australia. Specifically, Commissioner Callinan is to inquire into and report to the Minister with respect to:

- (a) the circumstances that have contributed to the outbreak of equine influenza in Australia; and
- (b) the need for any strengthened biosecurity procedures for quarantine management of imported horses.

As he deems necessary during the course of the Commission of Inquiry, Commissioner Callinan may also inquire into such other matters incidental to those stated above as might assist the Minister in considering his report.

The report is to be provided no later than 25 April 2008.

A copy of the terms of reference may be obtained from the Inquiry website www.equineinfluenzainquiry.gov.au or on written application to:

**The Executive Officer
Equine Influenza Inquiry
PO Box 72
Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230**

**Facsimile: 02 8236 2775
Email: eii@ag.gov.au**

Any person who considers that he or she has information which may assist the Inquiry may forward that information in writing to the Executive Officer of the Inquiry, using the above post office box address, facsimile number or email address.

Applications for leave to appear before the Inquiry by persons claiming to have a legitimate interest in the subject matters in the terms of reference will be heard at **10.00 am, Wednesday 3 October 2007** in:

**Hearing Room 1
Level 5
55 Market Street
Sydney NSW**

All persons intending to seek leave to appear must provide written notice of that intention to the Inquiry using the above post office box address, facsimile number or email address. The notice must be received by the Inquiry no later than Tuesday 2 October 2007 and must include a brief outline of no more than 2 pages identifying:

- (i) the particular interest claimed;
- (ii) the basis upon which such claim is made; and
- (iii) the precise nature of the evidence which they can give or adduce.

The written notice must identify a specific means by which the person giving it can be contacted by the Inquiry.

The present expectation is that, in addition to the hearing of applications for leave on 3 October 2007, there may be a brief opening on the subject of the Inquiry and some preliminary evidence led relating to the nature of the equine influenza virus.

Inquiries: Phone 1800 604 604.

Graham Millar
Executive Officer