



EQUINE INFLUENZA INQUIRY

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Should there be changes to policy on the status accorded by Australia to overseas pre-entry quarantine stations, and if so what?
2. Should there be changes to policy on the acceptance by Australia of certification by overseas countries, and if so what?
3. Should there be changes to policy on pre-arrival/arrival testing, and if so what?
4. Should any substantive testing or stabling of horses occur at an airport?
5. Should the facilities for livestock transfer at Sydney Kingsford Smith or Melbourne Airports be:
 - a. enhanced physically; or
 - b. enhanced in terms of AQIS' powers; and
 - c. should the Commonwealth seek to acquire a lease at either of those airports?
6. Should there be differential treatment of shuttle stallions and, if so, why and on what basis?
7. Should there be any changes to the management of transport of horses from airports to quarantine stations?
8. Should the facilities at Eastern Creek or a replacement for Eastern Creek be enhanced physically?
9. Should there be changes to the ownership of quarantine facilities; for example, ownership in private hands subject to AQIS' supervision?
10. Should there be changes to the system for charging for quarantine services? For example, where the proposed charges may not bear a reasonable relation to the cost of providing the necessary biosecurity services, should charges nevertheless be raised and, if so, by what legislative means and on whom should the charges be imposed?
11. Can notification of foreign outbreaks be improved, and if so how?
12. Can notification of Australian outbreaks be improved, and if so how?
13. Are there any areas in which the December 2007 SOP can be improved, and if so how?
14. Should there be changes to numbers and levels of staff and/or co-ordination of staffing:
 - a. at airports;
 - b. at quarantine stations?



15. How may quarantine measures either at airports or at quarantine stations best be enforced?
16. Should there be active continuous monitoring of the health of horses in quarantine by quarantine officers? In particular should protocols for notification of suspected illness be improved?
17. How should the responsibilities between importers/owners/AQIS be balanced or shared as between each of them? In particular how should the responsibilities of grooms, vets and farriers best be identified and enforced?
18. In relation to management issues, should there be changes to:
 - a. the number of personnel at AQIS facilities and their training;
 - b. the required qualifications of AQIS personnel;
 - c. the definition of responsibilities of individual AQIS officers;
 - d. the definition of responsibilities between the central office and the regions;
 - e. audit and review of AQIS functions.