

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 797**  
**Asked on 15 November 2012**

**MR WELLINGTON** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR McVEIGH)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Hendra virus vaccine now available—

Will the Minister discuss with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, the availability of the vaccine and the calls for government support to subsidise the cost to horse owners?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government has welcomed the release of a Hendra virus vaccine as another option for the horse industry in the fight against Hendra virus.

The vaccine has been released under a Minor Use Permit with specific conditions for its use. One condition is that only registered, accredited veterinarians can administer the vaccine. There are currently nearly 500 veterinarians accredited to administer the vaccine in Queensland and I am advised that vaccinations are being rolled out across the horse population of Queensland.

After an initial staged release to recognised high risk areas in Queensland and northern New South Wales, I can advise that the vaccine was made available to all accredited veterinarians Australia wide from 22 November 2012.

While the vaccine provides another option for the horse industry in the fight against Hendra virus, it is important that people in contact with horses continue to practise good biosecurity and personal hygiene measures even with vaccinated horses.

In response to the question about whether I will discuss calls for government support to subsidise the cost the vaccine to horse owners with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, I advise that I will write to the Minister and seek his views on the potential for Commonwealth subsidy for the Hendra virus vaccine.