

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Corrigendum

Inquiry into the Hendra virus EquiVac[®] vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland.

Report 24 tabled on 21 October 2016.

Correction to Statement of Reservations on page 26.

The following Statement of Reservations replaces the statement at page 26 of the report.



**Glenn Butcher MP
Chair
Agriculture and Environment Committee
October 2016**

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Robbie Katter MP **Member for Mount Isa**



Thursday October 20 2016

RE Statement of Reservation on Report No 24, Hendra virus EquiVacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland.

I write to lodge a Statement of Reservation to the Agriculture and Environment Committee on the Report No 24, Hendra virus EquiVacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland.

It is accepted that the committee was required to consider a number of factors in preparing its report, including (amongst other things);

- whether the guidelines/procedures required for veterinarians attending horses that are not vaccinated against HeV are proportionate to the consequences, and
- the impact of Workplace Health and Safety actions on the decision by veterinarians not to attend unvaccinated horses and results of previous Workplace Health and Safety HeV investigations where there have been human infections.

Although I'm generally supportive of the way in which the committee has conducted this inquiry and the recommendations it has made, I would like to express my concern at a number of factors related to the practical implications of these recommendations for veterinarians in regional and remote areas.

My concerns specifically relate to the application of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) guidelines on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the workplace health and safety requirements. A number of the committee's recommendations pertain to these issues, including;

Recommendation 6

That the Biosecurity Queensland guidelines for the treatment of horses be revised to: include information on high risk areas for Hendra virus; reflect the latest research into risks for Hendra virus, and how best to manage those risks; clarify the requirements for veterinarians to wear personal protective equipment while giving Hendra vaccine to horses; and clarify specific guidelines for horse care professionals other than veterinarians.¹

Recommendation 7

That as part of the revision, WH&S Queensland provide information for veterinarians and other horse care professions about Hendra virus risks and how to fulfil WH&S responsibilities while providing low risk as well as high risk treatments to horses.²

As noted in the report, "individual veterinarians raised concerns that the WH&S Queensland and BQ guidelines do not cover every possible scenario"³. It is reasonable to expect that scenarios which are not contemplated by the guidelines are more likely to arise in regional and remote areas. In such cases veterinarians, and other directly affected parties, will be required to exercise discretion in the actions they take to minimise risk to human and animal welfare.

¹ Report No. 24, 55th Parliament, Agriculture and Environment Committee, October 2016, p. 1

² Report No. 24, 55th Parliament, Agriculture and Environment Committee, October 2016, p. 1

³ Report No. 24, 55th Parliament, Agriculture and Environment Committee, October 2016, p. 14

I would urge the committee and the department to further explore the application of these guidelines in rural and remote areas, while recognising the varied circumstances that may arise in issues related to management and treatment of HeV. The veterinarian's ability to exercise discretion and judgment in relation to animal and human welfare concerns must be protected in the further development of these guidelines.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Katter', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Katter

Member for Mount Isa