



HORSE INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 30 MINUTES

23 May 2024 9:30am-12:00pm

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Mickleham Post-Entry Quarantine Facility

Participants

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Amy Little (Chair), Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Michelle Blowes, Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Kaylene Jones, Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Jessica Hoad, Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Emma Horan, Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Rochelle Prattley, Animal Biosecurity Branch
Tania Ware, Animal Biosecurity Branch
Caitlin Hore*, Animal Health Policy
Annette Dougall*, Animal Health Policy
Cindy Dudgeon*, Live Animal Exports Branch
Rick Hawe*, Biosecurity Operations Division
Paul Douglas*, Cost Recovery Biosecurity
Dave Chandler*, Cost Recovery Biosecurity
Leah Wells, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Jonathon Early, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
**denotes attendance during minimum agenda items only*

Mikala Welsh, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Nicole Heberle, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Tess Gunn, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Zhi Tan, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Catherine James, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Claire Dixon*, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Todd Naima*, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Bronwyn Murdoch, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Ben Wilson, Mickleham Quarantine Facility
Zi Lim*, Mickleham Quarantine Facility
Melissa Henson, Mickleham Quarantine Facility
Judie Wong, Mickleham Quarantine Facility
Connor Wilson, Mickleham Quarantine Facility
Jon Cupit*, Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce
Jeremy Moody*, Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce
Olivia Simms*, Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce

Industry members and guests

Andrew Small, Racing New South Wales
Anthony Keyburn*, Australian Centre for Disease
Preparedness
Chris Burke, International Racehorse Transport/First Point
Animal Services
James Gilkerson, Australian Veterinary Association
Jeffrey Wilkinson, Equine Veterinarians Australia
**denotes attendance during minimum agenda items only*

Kathleen Mullan, Harness Racing Australia
Paul Eriksson, Racing Australia
Cecelia O’Gorman, Thoroughbred Breeders Australia
Ross Kendell, Horse Industry Consultant/Canterbury
Park/Werribee International Horse Centres
Josh Murphy, New Zealand Bloodstock
Vireena Peacock, Equestrian NSW/Australia

Apologies

William Wong, Animal Health Policy
Peter Finnin, Animal Biosecurity Branch
Murli Baker-Gabb, Animal Biosecurity Branch
Kate Usher, Animal Biosecurity Branch
Danni Davis, Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Kym Russell, Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Emma McGrath, Animal and Biological Imports Branch
Morag Donaldson, Live Animal Exports Branch
Timothy Naylor, Live Animal Exports Branch
Lincoln Fishpool, Biosecurity Reporting Working Group
David Nicolls, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform
Sandeep Kaur, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Clare O’Shannessy, Veterinary and Export Meat Branch
Cameron Croucher, Equine International Airfreight
Graeme Cook, Agriculture Victoria
Josie Holmes, Agriculture Victoria

Cameron Bell, Agriculture Victoria
Fiona Thompson, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Queensland
Jane Bennett, Department of Primary Industries, New
South Wales
Diana Miller, Department of Primary Industries and
Regions, South Australia
Melanie Latter, Australian Veterinary Association
Kay Day, Racing Australia
Paul Bloodworth, Racing Victoria
Grace Forbes, Racing Victoria
Rachel Ratini, Equestrian Australia
Andrew Kelly, Harness Racing Australia
Amanda Bagnara, Australian Centre for Disease
Preparedness

Meeting commenced 9:34am.



1. Welcome and apologies

Michelle Blowes, Animal and Biological Imports Branch (ABIB), welcomed attendees, read apologies, provided an acknowledgement of country and reminded attendees of the Horse Industry Consultative Committee (HICC) terms of reference and confidentiality requirements.

Tribute to Nick Evans: Nick was a veterinary officer who sadly passed away last month. Nick was always warm and generous with his time, technically skilled and great with people. He will be missed greatly. The department acknowledged the condolences received from some of our HICC members who knew Nick and worked with him either at the Mickleham Post-Entry Quarantine Facility (MQF) or at the Approved Arrangement (AA) sites for the quarantine of racehorses.

It was noted that Agenda Item 8 had been changed from an update on the Biosecurity Protection Levy (BPL) to a discussion of the Sustainable Trade Funding Task Force (export). The bills that provide for BPL framework are currently before the Senate. The required legislation will not be passed in time for the levy to commence by 1 July 2024. Stakeholders are thanked for their engagement on the BPL thus far and will be kept apprised of developments.

No Other Business items for Agenda Item 10 were raised by attendees.

2. Minutes and Action items from past meetings

Meeting 29 minutes: were finalised and circulated to members on 20 February 2024.

Michelle Blowes provided updates on the following action items.

Meeting 25 – 8 November 2021

ACTION ITEM 9: Dr Wong to update on progress of draft policy for laboratories performing official testing for animal diseases. The current draft reflects different requirements for testing imported animals, domestic animals and domestic animals intended for export and trade purposes. There is also a focus on the approval of laboratories for performing official testing. Work is ongoing through Animal Health Committee (AHC) with input from the department. **Ongoing** - The national policy for *Laboratories to test for nationally notifiable diseases of animals* (is high level and agreed subject to development of principles) and the laboratory testing principles (once developed) will be published simultaneously on the AHC's policies webpage.

Meeting 29 – 7 December 2023

ACTION ITEM 1: *Animal and Biological Imports Branch (ABIB) will provide industry with a list of pre-export quarantine (PEQ) approved disinfectants.* **Closed** - published as *Notice to Industry (NTI) 13* on the department's website early May 2024.

ACTION ITEM 2: *ABIB to investigate onshore alternatives to Virkon and advise if any new disinfectants can be used.* **Closed** – ABIB have advised via email to horse importers and AA site operators that Virocid is effective for use as a disinfectant for surfaces (including vehicles) and as an immersive disinfectant for equipment in post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) and clearance facilities. However, the department has decided to not allow use of this disinfectant at MQF due to work health and safety (WHS) concerns associated with the glutaraldehyde component of this product. We note that a WHS assessment would need to be done at each location for use of this product. WHS assessments would be done by DAFF at DAFF sites/DAFF controlled sites, AA site owners would be expected to do the WHS assessments at their own sites.

ACTION ITEM 3: *Animal Biosecurity Branch (ABB) will investigate suitability of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for equine viral arteritis (EVA) for horse imports/exports.* Update at Agenda Item 3 and at the HICC Subcommittee meeting.



ACTION ITEM 4: ABB to examine what would be required to be recognised as an EVA free country. Update and paper at Agenda Item 3.

ACTION ITEM 5: ABB will provide an update on Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness's (ACDP) piroplasmiosis testing milestone report when available in 2024. ACDP will provide an update at Agenda Item 4.

ACTION ITEM 6: ABB will provide an update on disease freedom declarations for imported New Zealand (NZ) horses en route to another destination. **Closed** – Live Animal Export Branch (LAEB) will accept a letter signed by a NZ Ministry for Primary Industries veterinary officer attesting to residency and disease freedom clauses for the time the horse was resident in NZ so to permit onward export certification by department regional vets.

ACTION ITEM 7: ABIB will provide assistance to transport agents to pursue a Minor Use Permit (MUP) for the Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine for export horses. **Closed** – one MUP application has been submitted to the Australian Veterinary and Pesticides Medicine Authority (AVPMA) by one importer. Other importers will need to submit separate MUP applications. ABIB will continue to provide support for these applications. After discussion with the AVPMA, Michelle's understanding is that if the three horse transport agents apply at the same time, applications are more likely to be processed more quickly. The remaining two horse importers are encouraged to submit their applications and contact Michelle Blowes if assistance is needed to complete this process.

ACTION ITEM 8: ABIB to investigate whether it is possible to provide information already collected for the Emergency Use Permit (EUP) application for the JE vaccine for horses to the AVPMA to support transport agents' AVPMA MUP application(s). **Ongoing** - ABIB is corresponding directly with the JE vaccine manufacturer and the AVPMA to support horse transport agents' applications and is engaging our post in Tokyo to support ongoing conversations with the JE vaccine manufacturer.

JE vaccination of domestic horses and the type of permit a local distributor would need was raised. ABIB advised that the distributor would need to apply to the AVPMA for registration of the vaccine. If the distributor applies for registration at the same time as the remaining two horse importers apply for their MUP, it may assist with processing all the applications more quickly. A horse importer advised that they have spoken to the JE vaccine manufacturer who has advised that they are primarily interested in supplying larger volumes than those that will be requested through horse importers' MUPs.

ACTION ITEM 9: LAEB will investigate and provide guidance to horse transport agents about vaccinating horses being prepared for export against JE, while transport agents' AVPMA MUP application(s) may be pending. **Closed** - We understand horse transport agent/s are progressing applications with the AVPMA. LAEB sent guidance to horse transport agents on 16 May 2024 via email, regarding use of vaccine for export of horses, in the interim before an AVPMA permit is in place. If transporters have specific questions about the email guidance, please contact LAEB out of session.

ACTION ITEM 10: Finance Division to meet with horse importers out of session to discuss horse importation charges in detail. **Closed** - Finance Division met with the horse importer who requested the meeting after the last meeting, on 26 March 2024. The increase to charges associated with horse imports was discussed, particularly the charges for quarantine at MQF. A second meeting was scheduled for May 2024 but has been delayed due to illness. There will be further opportunity to discuss finance at Item 6.

ACTION ITEM 11: Finance Division to consult with industry on the first annual Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) cycle, due around March 2024. **Closed** - Have Your Say on CRIS was circulated to HICC members on 17 April 2024. The platform closed on 7 May 2024.

ACTION ITEM 12: Horse transport agents to provide input on their next priority market for development of further horse export checklists to the Veterinary and Export Meat Branch (VEMB). **Closed** - industry provided the following export market priorities to VEMB: Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates.

ACTION ITEM 13: ABIB to notify industry when updates to NTI 17: Sampling requirements for Equine Influenza testing are published. **Closed** – updated NTI 17 was published on department's website April 2024.



3. Animal Biosecurity Branch updates

Self-declared country freedom to EVA

ABIB acknowledged that at recent HICC meetings, horse transport agents expressed frustration with EVA testing requirements for both import and export. Horse transporters previously queried whether Australia could pursue recognition of EVA country freedom status, as NZ has done. ABIB and ABB's Paper *Requirements to be recognised as an EVA free country*, presented for this meeting, draws together information and clarifies issues that need to be addressed to pursue country freedom.

Australia appears to have serological presence of EVA without clinical disease. We do not have the virulent strains that cause clinical disease that are present overseas due to our robust import conditions which are consistent with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#) (the Code). [Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly](#) reports results of onshore serological testing for EVA, to which Australia's trading partners have access. Most testing is undertaken for horses for export; however, some testing might also be for routine health monitoring. Serological testing results are caveated with note that Australia does not have clinical disease of EVA. Positive serological results may or may not be investigated and resolved by the state/territory jurisdictions. There has been limited research in Australia and active surveillance for EVA in the last 10 years. Absence of evidence of EVA using passive surveillance data from horses tested for export does not meet WOAH recommendations to confirm absence of disease in Australia and is not equivalent to the measures used by NZ to demonstrate country freedom.

Outbreaks of EVA have been reported in countries that have significant breeding and performance horse industries. In 2006, an outbreak of EVA was confirmed in the United States. Detections and outbreaks occurred in Europe between 1997 and 2019, including France, Denmark, Poland, Spain and Ireland. The United Kingdom notified of detections in 2010, 2012, 2019 and 2024. Seroprevalence of antibodies to EVA has been reported in the Netherlands and Germany as 14% and 20% respectively.

NZ self-declared freedom from EVA in 2014 by submitting a report to WOAH. NZ undertook analysis of 7,157 test records for EVA from 465 stallions over a 10-year period as part of their EVA control scheme. Horses were tested prior to being imported and exported. Testing was part of the Transboundary Animal Disease investigation for exclusion of EVA. This scheme involved serological testing of breeding stallions within follow up semen testing where stallions were serologically positive. The scheme included controlled use of carrier stallions and quarantine of inseminated mares.

For Australia to declare country freedom, a collaborative effort between industry, federal and state/territory governments is required. The project would need to be developed by industry in consultation with the governments, most likely through the [Animal Health Committee](#), in addition to any funding organisations that would be supporting the project. WOAH recommendations for self-declared disease freedom include, but are not limited to:

- Testing a representative sample of the population to demonstrate freedom in accordance with testing and vaccination requirements in the WOAH Terrestrial Manual [Chapter 3.5.10](#). Note that this might include different subpopulations such as feral horses, thoroughbreds, standardbreds, sport horses and other groups. Statistically representative sample numbers may need to be referenced for each group.
- All positive results obtained in Australia would need to be followed up with subsequent testing to determine if the horse was a true positive, an infected carrier or a false positive.
- Surveillance aimed at demonstrating ongoing absence of infection per [Chapter 1.4](#) of the Code.
- Australian import conditions would need to be consistent with WOAH recommendations as per the Code [Chapter 12.9](#).
- Each importing country would also need to accept our program for establishing country freedom and maintaining ongoing freedom from EVA.

The [Thoroughbred horses levy](#) is for the purpose of research and development for the Thoroughbred industry. Industry may wish to discuss this country freedom project with [AgriFutures Australia](#) who are responsible for the



expenditure of the levy. The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) has previously offered stored serum samples for EVA testing.

The department will not take further action on this matter unless industry puts forward a proposal for this project that addresses the items in this paper and is equivalent to the successful project carried out in NZ.

EVA vaccine shortage overseas

The Chair noted there has been ongoing issues for many years with respect to EVA vaccine availability and movement of shuttle stallions. The department has previously provided permit variations for horses that have had four consecutive Artevac vaccinations and when it has been no more than 400 days since their last vaccination to be eligible for import. The department is continuing to engage with Ireland on the vaccine shortage issue. The department has also agreed with Ireland that PCR testing will be an acceptable alternative to virus isolation - for semen only - in line with the WOAHP Code recommendations. The department notes that despite the vaccine shortage, the import of stallions is able to be managed under existing import conditions.

Australia to China import protocol

The import conditions for equine herpes virus (EHV) and equine influenza (EI) for horses exporting from Australia to China are more restrictive than those imposed by China on horses entering from the US and the UK (countries where EI is endemic). A horse transport agent explained they are having to remove 25% of horses from a China export consignment because of non-negative EHV titre results.

ACTION ITEM 1: ABB will pursue improved import conditions for equine herpes virus and equine influenza with China via Post.

4. ADCP update on equine piroplasmiasis testing capability development

Anthony Keyburn gave an update on ADCP's equine piroplasmiasis (EP) diagnostic capability development project. The project aims to develop and implement serological capability for equine piroplasmiasis at ADCP. A main driver for this project is the upcoming 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Anthony informed that EP is a blood borne *Babesia caballi* and/or *Theileria equi* protozoal infection transmitted by ticks. EP can have a high mortality rate in acute cases of up to 50% and horses can develop a prolonged carrier state. EP is endemic in many temperate and tropical countries including Asia, South and Central America, Africa, the Middle East and eastern southern Europe. EP is exotic and notifiable in Australia.

The objectives of ADCP's project were to test commercially available (VRMD) competitive ELISAs (cELISA), to develop and optimise the Indirect Fluorescence Antibody Test (IFAT), to compare the cELISA to the IFAT and to assess the sensitivity and specificity of both tests. The experimental design involved testing of Australian horse samples (88) across Victoria and Queensland in addition to testing previously received samples from a single overseas country (19), proficiency testing (8) and other countries (12), totalling 127 samples. For *T. equi*, the IFAT proved 100% sensitive (more able to correctly detect the disease e.g., there were no false positives) compared to the cELISA at detecting EP. Both test types had equal specificity (negative results were true negatives). *B. caballi* comparison results are yet to be finalised and ADCP is working on NATA accreditation for both the IFAT and cELISA.

One horse transport agent asked if PCR evaluation will be part of the project. ADCP advised that PCR is not part of the project but could be run concurrently. The agent suggested that PCR is investigated as they are aware that the Japanese laboratory also runs PCR on all EP samples, in addition to cELISA and IFAT.

The chair noted that the department is funding this project and indicated that we could discuss the PCR testing project with ADCP.

ACTION ITEM 2: The department will discuss the evaluation of PCR as part of the equine piroplasmiasis testing capability project with ADCP.



5. Western Sydney Airport update

Rick Hawe, from Biosecurity Operations Division (BOD) advised that the construction and fit out of the internals of the passenger terminal is on track. The builder expects to hand over the keys to Western Sydney Airport (WSA) in March 2025. The department will work with the airport authority and with other Commonwealth agencies to test systems, processes and procedures leading up to commencement of operations in late 2026. The department is also engaging with the New South Wales government regarding their vision for an 'Agri Hub' around WSA.

The department is in the process of commencing the design phase of the three standalone facilities at WSA that the Commonwealth government will occupy. These areas include the cargo facility that the department will share with Australian Border Force, a shared kennelling facility for the detector dog fleet and an administration building that will be used by the department and three other Commonwealth agencies that will co-occupy the facility.

WSA have appointed a builder to commence design of the cargo precinct and the department will be engaged regarding infrastructure required for the port operator to comply with First Point of Entry (FPoE) biosecurity standards. As part of this consultation, the department will consider design issues at other international airports that are inherently problematic, with the goal to optimise biosecurity risk management principles and increase efficiency and productivity through better design of the WSA cargo precinct.

Informal discussions with WSA indicate that livestock handling capabilities may not be available when the airport commences operations. The department intends to send a letter to WSA to seek formal advice about whether the livestock handling facility build is in phase one of the cargo precinct development. This letter will also reiterate the FPoE standards with which the airport will need to comply. The department has strongly advocated that if there will be livestock handling capability at WSA, it would be wise to build that infrastructure now, rather than retrofit.

The department is aware that there are several industry participants who would like to have direct conversations with WSA. The department is determining who the best point of contact at WSA is and will provide this to horse transport agents.

A horse transport agent explained that their understanding is that design of WSA was based on current FPoE standards. FPoE standards have since been updated and are currently in draft. Construction is underway and while WSA is cognisant of the new draft FPoE standards, they are a long way behind meeting new standards. The agent is unable to provide advice on horse throughput to WSA because much of the design is uncertain. The department advised that they have engaged with livestock (sheep, goats etc) export participants, which make up a large volume of animals that are exported from Sydney, so that this industry can have direct discussions with WSA as well.

ACTION ITEM 3: BOD will provide the best point of contact at WSA livestock handling facility to horse transport agents.

ACTION ITEM 4: BOD will advise whether the livestock handling facility will be part of Phase One of the WSA cargo precinct design, if/when they receive formal advice on this.

6. Mickleham Post-Entry Quarantine Facility horse import data

ABIB provided Paper: *Horse import numbers (Mickleham)* to meeting invitees to assist with discussions about finance, capacity and other matters. Data is reported according to consignment arrival date, collected by ABIB and MQF officers and cross-checked monthly. Thoroughbred Breeders Australia enquired if data is also captured by breed. ABIB advised that breed information is recorded in individual import permits however breed-specific data is not maintained by the department as horses pose the same biosecurity risk regardless of their breed. One of the transport agents offered to provide Thoroughbred Breeders Australia with this information.



7. Cost Recovery update

MQF horse stream revenue 2023/2024 FY

The Biosecurity Cost Recovery section provided Paper: *Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement for Horses (Mickleham)* to HICC members. Financial information in the paper is presented according to either invoices raised date period for MQF, or as horse import numbers according to MQF arrival date. Cost recovery modelling is based on invoice date, so there will be discrepancy between the two figures.

Financial year (FY) to date (to April 2024), the MQF horse stream budget is tracking to budget, however, it is not ideal with a current operating deficit of \$666,000 and a forecast of over \$1,000,000 annual deficit. The Biosecurity Cost Recovery section is working with MQF to ensure that none of the increased husbandry costs associated with cats and dogs is transferred to horses. At 30 June 2024, any costs that have flowed through drivers to the wrong stream will be realigned to the correct stream, which is likely to be allocated to cats and dogs from horses, thus reducing horse stream costs.

A question was raised about why there is a current deficit of \$666,000 for 2023/2024 April year to date (YTD) when anticipated total horse numbers may reach 728 head this FY. If the price was increased by 24% in July 2023, then revenue should have increased by a similar amount as costs would not have increased 24% YTD. This would improve the YTD deficit compared to a total deficit of \$587,000 last FY, however, it does not appear to have happened. The department explained that figures are reported according to FY invoice date, not number of horses that arrived. Some consignments that arrive during one FY may be invoiced in another FY. However, increased revenue should be covering increased costs and there needs to be further investigation and realignment done which can be discussed out of session, if required.

The horse transport agent advised that they are receiving additional charges that have not been invoiced in previous FYs, such as for nasal swabbing, couriering, eskies, officer time for surgery supervision. The agent queried if the revenue from these additional charges is captured in the 2023/2024 April YTD horse stream revenue figure. MQF leadership explained that the horse compounds have their own cost centre in ELSA (Electronically Lodged Service Advice), which is where revenue associated with the 20% importation charge and 80% difference is associated. Other charges such as those mentioned by the agent above come in under the MQF cost centre. MQF are exploring options to change this from 1 July 2024.

4.1% MQF cost increase 2024/2025 FY

The department recently engaged with industry through the Have Your Say platform and made available online the draft 2024/2025 FY Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) for review. Indexation (as per legislation) at 4.1% per Consumer Price Index (CPI) December 2023 was applied in the 2024/2025 CRIS. There will be separate pricing tables available on the department's website which explain how indexation is calculated.

ACTION ITEM 5: The Biosecurity Cost Recovery section to meet with International Racehorse Transport, HLB and MQF teams to discuss MQF horse cost recovery in more detail.

ACTION ITEM 6: The Biosecurity Cost Recovery section to provide MQF horse stream cost recovery data once realignment is complete after 30 June 2024.

ACTION ITEM 7: The Biosecurity Cost Recovery section to list the individual expenses that make up the MQF horse revenue stream.

8. Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce

In December 2023, the Commonwealth government announced a funding measure to enable the department to continue to meet the demands of exporters, and the demands of trading partners. Most of this funding under [Enabling agricultural exports into the future](#) was to supplement predicted deficits in our cost recovery and areas of the department as they relate to export trade and our regulatory functions. A further \$3.7 million was put aside to



develop a new funding model, which has eventuated in the Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce (STFT). The STFT is developing a funding model that will be implemented on 1 July 2025, following the end of the current CRIS.

Increasingly we are seeing that the department's funding model is not operating as envisaged and has not kept pace with the cost of delivering export regulatory and non-regulatory services. The international trade landscape Australia operates in, has been experiencing an accelerated rate of change with market access requirements increasing in complexity and export demand for Australian products rising. Unforeseen economic disturbances including inflation have also stretched existing department resourcing.

The STFT will deliver the sustainable funding model and review its implementation over four phases. Currently the STFT is in the Discovery phase which involves an in-depth assessment of the cost base in our cost recovery space and appropriation space as it relates to exports and trade. We will then explore the key policy issues and seek feedback from industry. A fundamental process of the STFT is stakeholder engagement as detailed in the stakeholder engagement plan which will be circulated after this meeting. As HICC meetings are now held annually, the STFT will provide the majority of updates to HICC members out of session. A Have Your Say will be held in approximately two weeks. As papers are developed by the STFT, they will be shared and discussed with industry. The STFT can be directly contacted at exportsfunding@aff.gov.au if members wish to discuss issues earlier. The STFT will be holding an out-of-session meeting soon with industry. A horse transport agent suggested that the STFT holds a meeting directly with the three horse transport agents which would be preferable rather than via a Have Your Say platform.

9. Other business

Brisbane Olympics 2032

Equestrian Australia queried the plan for bringing horses into Australia for the 2032 Olympics. Two HICC industry members advised that they have attempted to engage with the Brisbane Olympics management team but have not had a response. There are concerns regarding lack of plans for management of horses during the event, including logistics for post-arrival quarantine in Australia and post-event pre-export quarantine to return horses home overseas. ABIB has held discussions with ABB around demands associated with the Olympics. Informal discussions with various interests in the Olympics have occurred, but a coordinated response has not been forthcoming. EA will touch base with the CEO of Equestrian Queensland regarding need for planning. The department will continue to progress the issue as appropriate.

10. Close meeting

The next meeting is planned for April/early May 2025 in Canberra with both in-person and teleconference options.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting, advising that minutes would be circulated to HICC for comment in the coming weeks.

A tour of the empty horse compound was offered after the conclusion of the subcommittee meeting at 1:30pm.

Meeting finished at 11:45am.



SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM 1: ABB will pursue improved import conditions for equine herpes virus and equine influenza with China via Post.

ACTION ITEM 2: The department will discuss the evaluation of PCR as part of the equine piroplasmiasis testing capability project with ACDP.

ACTION ITEM 3: BOD will provide the best point of contact at WSA livestock handling facility to horse transport agents.

ACTION ITEM 4: BOD will advise whether the livestock handling facility will be part of Phase One of the WSA cargo precinct design, if/when they receive formal advice on this.

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ACTION ITEM 6: The Biosecurity Cost Recovery section to provide MQF horse stream cost recovery data once realignment is complete after 30 June 2024.

ACTION ITEM 7: The Biosecurity Cost Recovery section to list the individual expenses that make up the MQF horse revenue stream.