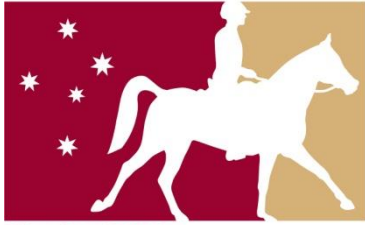


Queensland Endurance



Riders Association Inc

ABN 24 129 929 883

QERA Secretary
Susan Sutcliffe

secretary@qldendurance.asn.au

Dear Terry

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the QRIC inquiry into animal cruelty in the management of retired racehorses in Queensland.

The Queensland Endurance Riders Association is a small but active equestrian association, with approximately 520 members and about 1200 active horses participating currently. We have about 24 active clubs from the far north to the south east, and hold between 30 and 40 events each year.

We cater for a wide demographic, with riders from as young as 4 or 5 years old, to some who are up to 80 years old. Similarly, the horses that participate range in age from 4 years old to 20+, in some case, although the majority of endurance horses are in the 7 -17 years age bracket.

The culture of our sport has a primary focus on horse welfare, and as a result we have a suite of rules which protect our equine athletes. Also, because of the nature of our sport (no prize money and emphasis on completion of distance rather than speed) endurance horses tend to be owned by the one person or the one family for many years, or they are moved from one owner to another within the sport, similar to horses in other recreational equine disciplines.

In response to the specific points that you raise, the points about the racehorse industry are best answered by the many stakeholders in that industry.

The commercial slaughter of horses probably still fills a need in the horse-owning community given that not all horses are found suitable for the discipline that their owner requires, and there is a need to dispose of unwanted horses purely from an economic perspective. Our members, like the vast majority of Australian citizens, would expect that any slaughter of any animal was done appropriately, humanely and in accordance with all relevant animal welfare legislation.

We would like to point out that horses are not the same animal as cattle, and so the transport, yarding and slaughter of horses should be carried out in a way which takes into consideration the many unique behavioural characteristics of horses. As a simple example of this, horses with their single hoof require much better footing in trucks than cattle.

We are familiar with the National Horse Traceability proposal and we believe it is unlikely to do anything practical to improve the welfare of horses and would really be duplication considering that most horses are already registered in either a breed or performance registry (and sometimes in both and in several).

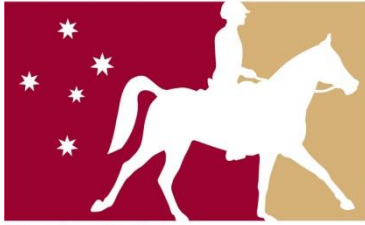
Kind regards,
Dick Collyer
(President)



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ABN 24 129 929 883

QERA Secretary
Susan Sutcliffe

secretary@qldendurance.asn.au

Regards,

SUSAN SUTCLIFFE

QERA Secretary

On behalf of the Queensland State Management Committee

secretary@qldendurance.asn.au

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