



THE WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC

(Approved by the Welsh Pony And Cob Society, Wales)

26/2/2019

Dr Jane Thomson
Secretary
Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Thomson

Inquiry into the feasibility of a national horse traceability register for all horses

Thank you for your email inviting the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc. (WPCSA) to comment on the feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses.

One of our Committee of Management members represents the WPCSA at Australian Horse Industry Council (AHIC) meetings and this proposal has also been discussed there.

As a breed society, the WPCSA maintains an accurate studbook / data base of Welsh Ponies and Cobs, and Part Welsh registered with our Society.

This data base does provide information on the number of animals registered, however, although our members are strongly encouraged to inform the Society of deceased horses to ensure accuracy as much as possible, we have always found that this does not occur so reports of live horses could only be provided based on estimates of horses average age at death.

There would be benefits in being able to track and estimate numbers of horses in the event of an outbreak of disease.

As far as funding such a register, the pleasure / breeding horse industry is suffering from low prices due to drought and other effects. The drought is already placing financial demands on horse owners and imposing a levy, other than in the instance of an actual disease outbreak as is already in place, would place more of a financial burden on horse breeders and owners, and any related horse industries.

The very large number of unregistered / unrecorded horses in Australia would also make it extremely difficult to collect accurate figures, and it does not seem equitable if a levy were only imposed on registered horse owners.

As noted above, there would be benefits to a register but how to ensure an accurate, and equitable record would be extremely difficult.

Yours sincerely

Michele Baker
Chairperson
WPCS Australia Inc.