

**From:** [Horse SA](#)  
**To:** [RRAT, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry into the feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses  
**Date:** Saturday, 28 September 2019 11:31:04 AM

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Mr. Joshua Wrest  
Senior Research Officer  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs  
and Transport Committee  
[RRAT.Sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:RRAT.Sen@aph.gov.au)

**Re: Inquiry into the feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses**

Dear Joshua,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear at the public hearing on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 in Canberra in relation to the above inquiry. There are two topics we would like to make further comment on of a general nature, as these were not Questions on Notice to Horse SA as part of the formal hearings.

1. **Wild horses:** Horse SA does not cover wild horses within our general business, however we would like to make note that the difficulty of uniquely identifying wild horses should not be a valid reason for not establishing a register.  
If the skills and knowledge associated with wild horse identification, for the purposes of traceability, can be drawn from wildlife management, then a wider range of solutions to this challenge will open up.  
Drones, biometric technologies, geofencing and related technologies will give each herd or cluster of horses a unique identifier against a geographic ID for a rangeland.  
For further discussion: Initially, it is proposed that it is only if wild horses are yarded for removal from a geofence-location, that a temporary identifier is applied (if going to a meat processing location) or full ID if transporting to a rehoming venue.
2. **National Horse Welfare Standards & Guidelines:** In reference to Transcript page 44 (Day 2, 20 Sept 2019) where Senator Faruqi highlighted the point raised by Thoroughbred Breeders Australia (Submission no. 39), referring to national welfare standards and guidelines for horses.

Horse SA is supportive of linking evidence-based information about horse care, welfare and related topics within a future horse register. The same approach is being taken by the UK horse industry and the Central Equine Database.  
The Australian Animal Welfare Standard and Guidelines website page for horses (<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/horses/>) displays the 'Horse welfare and well-being toolkit'. Horse SA was the project coordinator and primary writer for the for the Australian Horse Industry Council, funded at the time through the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/welfare/aaws/australian-animal-welfare-strategy-aaws-and-national-implementation-plan-2010-14>).

In February this year, Horse SA introduced the Five Domains Animal Welfare Assessment Model to Australian horse industry representatives through the Sport

Horse Welfare and Social Licence to Operate professional development event. More information about the Five Domains model is available here: 'Operational Details of the Five Domains Model and Its Key Applications to the Assessment and Management of Animal Welfare'.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5575572/>. The event has led to further discussions amongst industry experts about adapting the domains to give greater recognition to human-horse interactions. This is a development which is welcomed.

Therefore, Horse SA supports a project to reinvigorate the stalled horse welfare standard and guidelines and link to a future register. However, there is now more science available, and globally there is a shift to evidence-based recognition of animal agency and sentience, which is unlikely to have been incorporated within historical state-based Codes of Practice that informed the early drafting of the national guidelines. The establishment of a register is an opportunity to initiate a parallel project to achieve horse sector national guidelines and standards.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry.

Regards,  
Julie Fiedler  
Executive Officer  
[Horse SA](#)

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