

National Horse Register

I understand that there are breed registers. They do not offer any protection for horse owners, horse buyers or horses in terms of welfare and traceability.

The benefits of a national register

A comprehensive way of verifying a horse's identity, ownership, health record including vaccinations and controlled drugs, food chain information, biosecurity as well as prevention of theft for horse slaughter

- Currently huge numbers of racehorses in Australia are slaughtered for pet meat at knackeries and for human consumption at abattoirs. There is no public record of numbers and there is a large amount of secrecy around it
- Abattoirs and knackeries slaughter stolen animals and do not verify ownership of the animals. There is considerable evidence of false Horse Vendor Declarations. A national register would make it less likely that horses could be stolen and sent to abattoirs and knackeries
- Horses can be purchased at auction without a HVD and killed the following week for human consumption after only been owned for several days. It is clear that the supplier HVD is false and somehow Australian and EU biosecurity requirements are being ignored. It is also clear that horses exported for human consumption are being sent to the EU in violation of biosecurity requirements.
- A National Register would mean drugs such as phenylbutazone, commonly used in racehorses would not enter the food chain with the consequent impact on human health. The huge amount of racehorses currently sent to slaughter for human consumption, would no longer be subjected to the inhumane long haul journeys across 3 states because they would have a health record making them ineligible for the EU.
- Overbreeding of horses, especially backyard breeders, would be curtailed by a national register that charged a higher registration fee for colts and stallions. There is too much anonymity for unscrupulous owners in the current system.
- Horse lovers are very distressed that the current system allows buyers, notably one Victorian buyer to purchase large numbers of horses (55 at last Echuca auction) and truck them across 3 states in grossly inhumane conditions with absolutely no regard for horse welfare. Some of these truck loads spend the last few days of their life without food, and water, and with catastrophic injuries incurred on a truck ride that can last up to 24 hours. I am hoping a National Horse Register will have an impact in this area.