

Equine
Veterinarians
Australia

A Special Interest Group of the
Australian Veterinary
Association Ltd.
ABN 63 008 522 852

Unit 40 Level 1
6 Herbert Street
St Leonards NSW
Australia 2065

Phone 02 9431 5080
Facsimile 02 9437 9068
Email admin@eva.org.au
Web www.eva.org.au



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The Hon. Niall Blair, MLC Minister for Primary Industries
Parliament House
Sydney 2000 NSW
By email: office@blair.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Veterinarian Licensing by Racing NSW

Equine Veterinarians Australia, a special interest group of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) was disturbed to read in both the Sydney Morning Herald and the Australia-New Zealand Bloodstock News, that the CEO of Racing NSW, Mr Peter V'Landys has been quoted as saying that Racing NSW will be introducing veterinarian licensing from 1 July 2015. This is just two weeks away. Our position on this subject is that it is a completely unnecessary step, as veterinarians are currently very well regulated by the NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board. A licence will seriously increase veterinary costs to racehorse owners and will unnecessarily increase red tape for veterinarians.

We met previously with your predecessor, Katrina Hodgkinson MP to discuss the matter, and Ms Hodgkinson saw our point of view. The AVA has not received any correspondence on the subject from Racing NSW. This is a serious matter, as the issue has large ramifications for the racing industry, particularly in regional New South Wales.

Under 'Consultation and Planning' in the *Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996 No 3714B*, Racing NSW is obligated to carry out formal consultation with industry stakeholders, viz:

'(2) Racing NSW is to undertake formal consultation on a regular basis with RICG and other horse racing industry stakeholders in connection with the initiation, development and implementation of policies for the promotion, strategic development and welfare of the horse racing industry.'

As you would appreciate, our members are extremely concerned by the announcements in the press. A large number of the membership are located throughout regional NSW and many are involved in country racing.

Could we please request a meeting to discuss the issue with you, as a matter of urgency? We have also written to your Parliamentary colleague, The Hon. Troy Grant MP, Minister for Racing and The Deputy Premier.

Yours sincerely,

Jeffrey Wilkinson
Executive Officer
EVA

Mobile: 0418 638 231