



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Horse owners – keep your receipts

Horse owners and those impacted on by the equine influenza outbreak are being urged by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor to keep all receipts for expenses and documentation relating to their circumstances.

Mr Windsor is taking this action as a result of the possibility that assistance available to people impacted on by the equine influenza may yet be extended from the current assistance packages.

“The situation at the moment is quite fluid with assistance and compensation packages being announced for different sectors of the horse industry affected by the equine influenza outbreak.

As a result of this evolving process, people impacted on should be keeping their receipts for expenses incurred for their horses and themselves in case the government packages are extended to cover these types of things,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that the Government inquiry into the equine influenza outbreak could sheet home responsibility to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and if so the Government could well face having to foot the bill for the losses not just to the racing industry but to the broader horse industry.

“The Australian Government must recognise the economic and human cost as well as the cost to regional business and community groups even to the proceeds from some events that are then donated to the community halls and other organisations.

I don't think that the Government is fully aware of the size of the total horse industry and how many people derive a living from servicing the industry.

On completion of the Inquiry, I can envisage the announcement of a package that will cover out-of-pocket expenses that people have been forced to incur through no fault of their own.

To be able to prove these out-of-pocket expenses, people may need to be able to produce original receipts so if people haven't been doing this already, I would urge people to start now,” Mr Windsor said.

Current assistance packages are available on the Centrelink website, www.centrelink.gov.au or by calling the Equine Influenza Hotline on 1800 234 002.

Packages currently accessible include Equine Workers Hardship Wage Supplement Payment, Equine Influenza Business Assistance Grant, Commercial Horse Assistance Payment and Grants for non-government, not-for-profit equestrian organisations.

Further a meeting will be held by Centrelink next Tuesday (September 18) at 10am at the Tamworth Services Club – 199 Marius Street Tamworth.

Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868