



Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Member for Mackay

Reference: 08/10408

16 MAY 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr of Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr ^{Neil}~~Laurie~~

I refer to the petition (1019-08) to the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, lodged by Hon Kevin Lingard MP, Member for Beaudesert, on 31 March 2008 concerning the proposed federal horse levy.

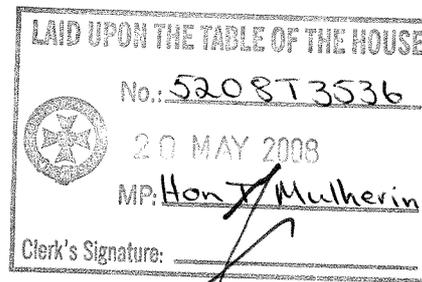
Attached is a copy of my response to Mr Mark Freemantle, the principal petitioner.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Brian Timms, Policy Advisor in my office on telephone 07 3239 3000.

Yours sincerely

TIM MULHERIN, MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries
Member for Mackay

Att



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Fisheries**

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Primary Industries Building
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Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Member for Mackay

COPY



**Queensland
Government**

Reference: 08/10950

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Fisheries**

16 MAY 2008

Mr Mark Freemantle
Email: markfree@bigpond.net.au

Dear Mr Freemantle

I refer to your petition to the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament concerning the proposed federal horse levy.

I understand the concern of yourself and your fellow petitioners about the proposed horse levy on owners registering horses as provided for under the three Horse Levy Bills introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament on 21 February 2008 by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Hon Tony Burke MP.

I appreciate that horse owners have endured an enormous impact on their lifestyle and incomes throughout the equine influenza (EI) outbreak in 2007 and the restrictions on movements. The Horse Level Bills are a Commonwealth government proposal for the horse industry to contribute its share of the whole cost of the response to the EI outbreak under the national Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement. This agreement was formulated by governments and livestock industries for the purpose of responding to disease outbreaks on a national scale. Through the levy industry would be able to repay the Commonwealth government for underwriting the whole industry's component of the response to the disease outbreak.

After lobbying by horse owners to the Australian government on the issue and through the Community Cabinet process, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced on 10 March 2008 that the Commonwealth government has decided to postpone debate on the three bills until after the Callinan Inquiry into the equine influenza outbreak has reported its findings. The Queensland government participated in the Callinan Inquiry and lodged a submission to it. Commissioner Callinan handed his report to the Minister on 24 April 2008 and the three bills have not yet been set down for the second reading debate.

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There has been no confirmed report of any EI disease in Queensland since Christmas. Normal procedures for movements of horses have resumed. This is an excellent achievement and a credit to everyone involved on both the industry and government sides.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Kerr of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries on telephone 07 3239 3032 or email Ruth.Kerr@dpi.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

ORIGINAL SIGNED

TIM MULHERIN, MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries
Member for Mackay