

Australian Endurance Riders Association



Biosecurity for Endurance Events

January 2019

Part 1	3
1. OPENING STATEMENT	3
2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE HORSE	4
(i). PREVENTING THE INTRODUCTION OF DISEASE ONTO THE RIDE VENUE.....	4
A. INFORMATION.....	4
B. HEALTH CHECKS.....	4
C. HYGIENE.....	5
(ii) PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE AT THE RIDE VENUE	5
A. INFORMATION.....	5
B. HYGIENE	5
C. HORSE HEALTH	5
D. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.....	6
(iii) BIOSECURITY INFORMATION FOR RIDE ORGANISERS	7
Workplace health and safety requirements	7
http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/model-whs-laws/guidance/volunteers/pages/resource-kit	7
Biosecurity management.....	7
B. EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST	11
C. BIOSECURITY POLICY	12
The Horse Health Declaration.....	12
The Temperature Log Duration	12
Veterinary Treatment Hospital and Isolation Zone	13
Equipment and Access	13
D. BIOSECURITY EQUIPMENT	15
Equipment required at event	15
Biosecurity field kit	15
E. COMMUNICATION PLAN.....	16
F. SITE MAP	16
G. BIOSECURITY INCIDENT CONTINGENCY PLAN.....	18
Sick horse.....	18
Vet attendance.....	18
Biosecurity issue Identified.....	18
Lockdown	18

Part 1

1. OPENING STATEMENT

The aim of the Biosecurity Plan is to provide a safe and secure environment for humans and horses within which to hold successful Endurance Events that comply with the AERA Rulebook.

Biosecurity is the management of infectious diseases to reduce the risk of transmission. Animal biosecurity is a comprehensive approach with the critical element being the control of disease agents and the prevention of the spread of any disease agents. This includes hygiene practices and the quarantine of and control of infectious diseases onto and within an endurance ride venue and surrounding roads and tracks. This information applies to management of infectious disease risk in general, which could include strangles, diarrhoea and respiratory illness, and includes information specifically relating to Hendra virus risk and its zoonotic potential.

While this document is not specifically related to Hendra virus and associated outbreaks, it is important to note that the ***vaccination of horses in relation to the Hendra virus is recognised as the most effective means of controlling the spread of this virus.*** In compiling this document the sub-committee recognises that in much of Queensland and the Northern coastal area of NSW, Hendra is very much a zoonotic threat with the potential to impact on horse and human health and this document reflects the risk that Hendra potentially exerts on endurance rides in these Hendra risk zones.

Relative to Hendra virus for the purposes of this document it is considered essential to identify zones where Hendra risk to Horses is higher. Broadly speaking the Hendra Risk Zones in Queensland are: the entire QLD east coast and the area contained within a line 200km due west of the coast. In addition, the 200 km line bulges out in an arc at Noosa, to go as far west as 20 km east of Chinchilla. The Hendra risk zone in NSW includes the north coast of NSW to as far south as 50 km south of Kempsey, and the area contained within a line 200km due west of the coast. Appendix 1 identifies local government areas where there has been a known Hendra incident. Recognizing that there should also be a buffer zone to allow for Hendra incident movement, the appendix also includes all government areas adjoining those listed. Hendra incidence areas and adjoining areas together form **the Hendra Risk Zone** referred to where necessary in this document.

All other states and territories at the time of the compilation of this document are considered low risk in terms of the Hendra virus.

The management of infectious diseases requires the fulfilment of certain obligations prior to the ride and at the ride by people in charge of a horse, on the one hand, and by ride organisers on the other.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE HORSE

(i). PREVENTING THE INTRODUCTION OF DISEASE ONTO THE RIDE VENUE

All people who bring horses or livestock onto the grounds are expected to be aware of their biosecurity obligation that they must take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.

All horses or livestock entering grounds must be from a property actively practicing good biosecurity principles within their management.

The following actions are required of the person responsible for each horse.

A. INFORMATION

Provide the ride secretary with:

- Name and contact details of the person who is responsible for each horse when finalising entries
- Details of any changes to the responsible person before the horse arrives at the ride base
- Full details of your horse/s identity and property of origin, including PIC. If any horse is returning to a location other than its property of origin, provide the details of this property prior to departure from the event venue
- Proof of current vaccination if your horse/s is/are vaccinated against Hendra virus, Equine Herpes, Strangles, or similar. Accepted proof is:
 - i) a vaccination certificate or notation in the horse/s' logbook completed by the vet who administered the vaccine, or
 - ii) a microchip number scanned by the Chief Steward, Biosecurity Manager, or Head Vet that shows compliance when queried against the Hendra Vaccine registry <https://health4horses.com.au/About/Hendra-Vaccination-Lookup/>
- A properly completed Horse Health Declaration for every horse entering the ride base and their travelling companions, on arrival at the ride venue. The declaration states that the horse/s is/are healthy to the best of the responsible person's knowledge and includes a temperature log for the stipulated number of days prior to arrival at the ride venue and subsequently, until the pre-ride veterinary check. **DO NOT** bring an unwell horse onto the ride base.
- If a horse is brought to the ride base **WITHOUT** a horse health declaration it **will not** be permitted to enter the ride base.

B. HEALTH CHECKS

- Regularly and carefully check the health of each horse before leaving home, while travelling, and after arrival at the ride venue. Health checks should include: normal eating and drinking habits, temperatures between 37.5 and 38.5C. Any nasal discharge, coughing, fever (temperature greater than 38.5), swelling, lameness or off food or water should be noted, and a veterinarian contacted to conduct an examination.
- If a horse becomes unwell while travelling, contact a vet and the ride organiser, before arrival at the ride base.

C. HYGIENE

Ensure that the horse/s you bring to the ride venue are from properties actively practicing effective biosecurity principles. As part of your responsibility not to create a biosecurity risk, the measures you take may include -

- Wash your horse/s before leaving home so that soil and organic matter are removed from their coats and hooves
- Check for any evidence of ticks and abide by all government regulations for spraying
- Wash your vehicles and floats before leaving home to remove visible dirt
- Clean all horse gear of visible dirt before leaving home
- Bring sufficient tack, feed and water containers with you, to avoid sharing these at the event
- Adhere to all regulations regarding the transport of plants (including horse feed) and animals. Interstate participants must inform themselves and abide by, the regulations which apply to your point of origin. International competitors must comply with Australian quarantine regulations.
- Keep horse feed and water under cover and away from fruit trees to prevent contamination from birds/flying foxes while travelling and at the event.

(ii) PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE AT THE RIDE VENUE

The following actions are required of the person responsible for each horse.

A. INFORMATION

- At the Arrival gate or the pre-ride vet check, the person responsible for the horse will be asked to provide a duly completed temperature log for each horse entered in the ride and its travelling companions. In some events your horse(s) may be required to be identified for the duration of the event by a number written in crayon on the rump. Numbers can be rewritten if they become illegible. The RO/Chief Steward is responsible for this.
- At some events horses which have proven current vaccination against Hendra virus are identified by a green ribbon in their mane or tail for the duration of the event. The event organisers will provide the green ribbon

B. HYGIENE

- As much as possible, minimise contact with other people's horses, and restrict access to your horse/s by others
- Avoid sharing feed containers or equipment. If this must happen, gear must be cleaned and disinfected between horses.
- Clean your horse yards of manure and feed scraps on a regular basis
- Collect manure so it can be easily removed from your camp by the event organisers

C. HORSE HEALTH

- Provide a thermometer and take your horse/s temperature twice daily from arrival at the ride venue until the pre-ride vet check, and during ride vet checks if required
- Immediately notify the Chief Steward/Head Vet /or Treatment vet if your horse becomes unwell during the event

D. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Please note that the person responsible for any horse requiring treatment, including sampling and laboratory testing, will be responsible for all costs associated with treatment, including all PPE gear used. Horses' logbooks will not be returned while accounts remain outstanding.

(iii) BIOSECURITY INFORMATION FOR RIDE ORGANISERS

Workplace health and safety requirements

Each state and territory within Australia has work, health and safety legislation. Horse Industry associations that conduct a business or undertaking have duties under work health and safety legislation to ensure the health and safety of themselves, their workers and other persons so far as is reasonably practicable. Risks to health and safety must be eliminated so far as is reasonably practicable. If elimination is not reasonably practicable, the risks must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

An endurance ride may be a workplace for some persons but not others. Rides must:

- provide and maintain a work environment without risks to health and safety
- provide and maintain safe plant and structures
- provide and maintain safe systems of work
- ensure the safe use, handling, and storage of plant, structures and substances
- provide adequate facilities (including hand hygiene and first aid facilities) for the welfare of workers including ensuring access to those facilities
- provide any information, training, instruction or supervision that is necessary to protect all persons from risks to their health and safety

A Safework Australia Volunteer Resource Kit is available at:

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/model-whs-laws/guidance/volunteers/pages/resource-kit>

Biosecurity management

Biosecurity risks can be reduced by taking steps to:

- a. prevent introduction of disease onto grounds
- b. prevent the spread of disease on the grounds
- c. minimise the effect and spread of a disease incident within the ground

These have been described earlier in this document.

(iv) Hendra and Adjoining Zones by Local Government Area

Broadly speaking the Hendra Risk Zones in Queensland are the entire QLD east coast and the area contained within a line 200km due west of the coast. In addition, the 200 km line bulges out in an arc at Noosa, to go as far west as 20 km east of Chinchilla. In NSW the Hendra Risk Zones are the north coast of NSW to as far south as 50 km south of Kempsey, and the area contained within a line 200km due west of the coast.

For this plan the Hendra Risk Zone is defined as the local government areas where there has been a known Hendra incident, together with their adjoining Local government areas. The following are the Hendra Risk Zones in Queensland and NSW prepared from the Hendra Virus Incident Summary compiled by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

For ease of ride management, the Local Government area and PIC number that a horse is arriving from should be provided on the Entry Form.

Hendra Zones

Queensland	New South Wales
Brisbane City Council	Ballina Shire Council
Bundaberg Regional Council	Byron Shire Council
Cairns Regional Council	Kempsey Shire Council
Charters Towers Regional Council	Lismore City Council
Douglas Shire Council	Nambucca Shire Council
Fraser Coast Regional Council	Tweed Shire Council
Gladstone Regional Council	Richmond Valley Council
Gold Coast City Council	
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	
Livingstone Shire Council	
Logan City Council	
Mackay Regional Council	
Mareeba Shire Council	
Moreton Bay Regional Council	
Noosa Shire Council	
Redlands City Council	
Rockhampton Regional Council	
Scenic Rim Regional Council	
Somerset Regional Council	
South Burnett Regional Council	
Western Downs Region Council	
Whitsunday Regional Council	

Adjoining Zones

Queensland	New South Wales
Balonne Shire Council	
Banana Shire Council	
Barcaldine Regional Council	Bellingen Shire Council
Burdekin Shire Council	Clarence Valley Shire Council
Carpentaria Shire Council	Coffs Harbour Shire Council
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Kyogle Council
Central Highlands Regional Council	Port Macquarie Hastings Shire Council
Cook Shire Council	Walcha Shire Council
Etheridge Shire Council	
Flinders Shire Council	
Goondiwindi Regional Council	
Gympie Regional Council	
Ipswich City Council	
Isaac Regional Council	
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	
North Burnett Regional Council	
Maranoa Regional Council	
Rockhampton Regional Council	
Southern Downs Regional Council	
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	
Tablelands Regional Council	
Townsville City Council	
Toowoomba Regional Council	

B. EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

ORGANISATION	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	COMMENT
Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline			
Biosecurity (State govt details)			
Biosecurity Manager			
Event Veterinarian			
Local Veterinarian 1			
Other Local Veterinarians			
Body Disposal Company			
Clinical waste disposal			
Venue Owner/Manager			
Neighbours with horses			
Local Police			
Workplace Health Safety (State govt details)			
Local hospital			

C. BIOSECURITY POLICY

Competitors will be advised before and during the event that:

- They have a biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure their activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.
- Horse Health Declarations (HHD) are a mandatory requirement for all rides.
- The property identification code (PIC) of the horse's origin and returning property must be included on the HHD.
- Acceptance into the event will be refused if the required HHD is not presented at point of entry or designated registration point.
- No horses with signs of illness are to be brought onto the grounds.
- Equipment, including food containers is not to be shared between horses.
- Direct nose to nose contact between horses that are not regularly in contact should be minimised.
- Horse floats and trucks should be cleaned and disinfected before leaving to go to the event.
- Biosecurity equipment identified later in this document should be available at all times.
- Competitors are responsible for cleaning up manure from yards and placing it in designated areas.
- Competitors are required to advise the event organisers immediately if a horse is sick, to stop all non-essential contact with the sick horse and not allow anyone to have close contact with the sick horse.
- Everyone handling horses should wash or sanitise hands between contacting different horses.

Please note that details relative to Horse Health Declarations and Temperature Log duration have been spelt out in more detail below. It is particularly important to observe the strong recommendations re duration of Temperature Log maintenance. These encourage vaccination against Hendra virus and take into account whether or not a ride is held in a Hendra Risk Zone.

The Horse Health Declaration

A Horse Health Declaration - current forms available on the AERA website <http://aera.asn.au/forms-page/> - must be completed prior to entry to the venue and will detail the contact details of the owner or person in charge of the horse, the address and PIC number of the horse's property of origin immediately prior to travel, a temperature log, a horse health declaration by the owner or person in charge of the horse(s), and a declaration.

The Temperature Log Duration

Temperature logs must be completed by the person in charge of the horse. The temperature log duration will be decided by the ride's Head Veterinarian in conjunction with the ride Biosecurity Manager at least one month before the ride commences. Dependant on the size of the ride these two functions may be one and the same person. In conjunction with the advice to vaccinate against Hendra the strong recommendations re temperature logs are:

- For a horse not in a Hendra Risk Zone or a vaccinated horse in the Hendra Risk Zone: 3 days
- For an unvaccinated horse from a Hendra Risk Zone going to a ride in a Hendra Risk Zone, or a non-vaccinated horse from a Hendra Risk Zone going to ride in other areas: 10 days

- For National Championship (Tom Quilty) the temperature log duration is at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian, the Biosecurity Manager and AERA but will generally be of longer duration given the broad geographic origins of the participants attending.

Horse Health Declarations should be collected at the point of entry to the ride base in Hendra Risk Zone areas. In other areas the Head Veterinarian in conjunction with the Biosecurity Manager may permit them to be collected at a designated registration point, as the first point of contact. The required duration of the Temperature Log should be completed before the first point of contact, at which a supplementary Temperature Log may be required to be undertaken.

Veterinary Treatment Hospital and Isolation Zone

An endurance treatment hospital is a very important area of an endurance ride base, but can pose major risks to staff, volunteers and competitors, as such it is important that strict protocols and procedures are followed.

The Biosecurity Manager, in consultation with the Organising Committee, is in charge should a biosecurity risk arise. While the Biosecurity Manager does not possess the legal powers necessary to quarantine or restrict movements of people, they will arrange to record the details of any person and/or animal leaving the grounds if they have been directed not to.

Equipment and Access

A suitable area in a quiet place on the ride base grounds needs to be set aside as a designated treatment area. The area must be large enough to accommodate a number of horses, depending on the number of entries and the expected climate, terrain and experience of competitors. Horses may require some form of veterinary intervention. This can vary greatly depending on weather conditions, terrain and timing of the event (eg. Early in the season). The area must be protected from the weather elements (sun and rain) and be private - either screens erected around the facility, or vehicles parked around the facility. The area must have adequate lighting to allow veterinary procedures to be conducted.

Access to the veterinary hospital needs to be restricted. Only the person responsible for the horse receiving treatment and the rider (if over 18) will be allowed access to the treatment hospital. No children will be allowed within the treatment hospital. If the rider or responsible person wants to update or discuss with other people (eg. Strappers) they must leave the veterinary hospital. Officials who can access the veterinary hospital are the ride veterinarians, chief steward and any other ride officials at the direction of the chief steward or treatment veterinarian. There should be only one entry and exit point from the treatment hospital, to allow monitoring of those present within the treatment hospital.

No dogs or animals (other than horses entered in the ride) are permitted within the treatment hospital.

Only ride veterinarians and trained veterinary staff are to administer treatment. The veterinarian may instruct that the person responsible or rider leave the vicinity of the horse, or stand more than 5 metres

away during certain invasive procedures, or for the entirety of the treatment (at the discretion of the head veterinarian).

Certain invasive procedures may not be able to be carried out on unvaccinated horses. Also, referral to external hospital facilities for further diagnostic procedures and surgery may not be an option for unvaccinated horses originating from known Hendra High Risk areas, or at/from rides conducted in known Hendra high risk areas.

To ensure that all horses attending an event will be able to receive treatment if required, AERA Rulebook S1 rules 14.1 and 16.5 must be implemented well before the event date.

Riders and responsible persons must be aware that there are many limitations in the treatment of endurance horses at an endurance ride, due the limited availability of diagnostic equipment, and the ambulatory nature of a ride base treatment facility (compared to permanent horse hospitals with 24-hour staffing and on call veterinarians and trained veterinary staff). Unvaccinated horses may not be able to receive adequate treatment by either the Treatment vet at the ride or the referral hospital.

Appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn. Please refer to the interagency report <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/cdb/hev-inf-prev-adv.pdf> Pages 24 to 32 are particularly pertinent re infectious disease control recommendations. After administration of invasive procedures and treatment of horses, the veterinarian and those in contact must follow appropriate decontamination procedures prior to leaving the vet hospital or having contact with another horse.

The Biosecurity Manager, in consultation with the Organising Committee, is in charge should a biosecurity risk arise. While the Biosecurity Manager does not possess the legal powers necessary to quarantine or restrict movements of people, they will arrange to record the details of any person and/or animal leaving the grounds if they have been directed not to.

D. BIOSECURITY EQUIPMENT

This is the *suggested minimum* list of biosecurity equipment required at a ride in a Hendra Risk Zone but given that horses from a Hendra Risk Zone may travel to rides in other areas, this is regarded as required biosecurity equipment for all states.

Equipment required at event:

- Microchip scanner for vet inspection (Biosecurity Manager)
- PA system (Organising committee)
- Hand sanitiser for stations around yard areas and at marshalling areas (Organising Committee)
- Human First aid kit (Organising committee)

Biosecurity field kit

PPE equipment

- disposable nitrile gloves
- overalls
- boots/covers
- P2 respirators
- safety goggles
- paper hand towels
- heavy duty garbage bags
- clinical waste bags

Decontamination equipment

- buckets
- spray bottles
- scrubbing brush
- foot bath –detergents and disinfectant

Isolation equipment comprising

- star pickets or panel fencing
- rolls of hessian
- large tarpaulin
- hazard tape

E. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Notification of all affected parties is a critical component for an effective infectious disease control plan. Development of a clear, concise and accurate message about a situation, the measures being taken and the procedures for event participants to follow is critical to prevent the spread of disease.

F. SITE MAP

A site map should include:

- entry and exit point/s
- isolation area
- stabling
- public access
- public parking
- participants' parking
- designated exercise/warm up areas
- event activities
- manure disposal area
- other waste areas (eg feed, soiled bedding, clinical waste including sharps)
- location of cleaning agents, disinfectant
- location of hand washing basins and hand sanitisers
- location of first aid kits
- location of PPE Kit
- water sources
- a traffic flow/movement of people information (spectators, competitors and officials), vehicles, animals and emergency vehicles for safe exiting of the vetting area

Further information can be found here -

<http://www.ava.com.au/sites/default/files/TheHendraVaccine-YourQuestionsAnswered-WebVersionMay2015.pdf>

A detailed site plan to be included here, and be displayed prominently at locations around the Ride Base

G. BIOSECURITY INCIDENT CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the event that a horse at the event is sick with symptoms similar to the symptoms of a notifiable disease, the following plan is to be followed:

Sick horse

- ROC and Biosecurity Manager are to be advised of a sick horse immediately.
- Biosecurity Manager will contact an event vet.
- Horse is to be taken to isolation area, via the most direct route avoiding any unnecessary contact with other people or horses until review by the vet.

Vet attendance

- If the horse is deemed to be non-infectious it may be returned to its regular stable and will be managed by the person responsible (for the horse) and the attending vet (at the responsible person's expense – see page 6).
- An event vet may decide to perform a diagnostic exclusion test and the horse will remain in isolation with a minimum twenty-five metre distance to other horses or passing people until the test results are available.
 - i. If a Hendra exclusion test is performed the event halts and a Biosecurity shutdown according to State Government legislation ensues.
 - ii. All people within the isolation zone i.e. vet, officials, owner, are to don PPE gear when tending to horse.
 - iii. Disinfection of shoes via footbaths and strict hand hygiene to be followed.
- If the diagnostic exclusion test result is negative the horse may return to the ride Vet hospital if treatment still needed, or to its regular stable if no further treatment is required.

Biosecurity issue Identified

- Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with attending vet will contact the Biosecurity authority for the state involved.
- Biosecurity Manager will ask ROC to close exit points and broadcast to all present at the venue to remain on site until further information and while exit points are closed.
- Event organiser will take advice about whether to continue with the event, after discussion with the Biosecurity authority of the state involved, and advise participants of this decision.
- Horse Health Declarations for all horses on site are made available to the Biosecurity authority of the state involved.
- Access to isolation area will be patrolled by the Biosecurity Manager and limited to essential personnel.
- All horse movement to cease unless authorised by the Biosecurity authority of the state involved.

Lockdown

- The Biosecurity authority of the state involved will advise if a total lockdown of the venue is required and the event organising committee will advise participants of this decision.
- The Biosecurity Manager will regularly check entry/exit points to ensure anyone leaving the venue is given an exit notice and their vehicle registration is noted.

- The Biosecurity Manager will make arrangements for waste removal if required.
- The event organiser will arrange for fodder to be available for purchase by participants.
- Further bedding, if required, will be arranged by the Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with the venue and be available for purchase by participants.
- The Biosecurity authority of the state involved will advise the Biosecurity Manager and participants of any further protocols required.
- The Biosecurity Manager in conjunction with the Head Veterinarian and ROC will arrange removal and disposal of deceased animals if required.