

**Media Release**  
**30 August 2007**

**New Zealand Racing Industry Unites in bid  
to keep EQUINE INFLUENZA at Bay**

Australasian racing has received confirmation of 8 positive tests for EI from Anthony Cummings' Randwick base.

Up to 700 horses are based at the Randwick Racetrack and authorities are now resigned to the fact that EI is likely to impact the Sydney training centre.

New Zealand Racing Board Chief Executive Graeme Hansen reiterated the need for extra vigilance on this side of the Tasman.

"The recent developments in Australia have severe impacts for the racing industry and local economies. We are pleased that the entire equine industry is on guard and taking every necessary precaution to prevent the disease from spreading," said Mr Hansen.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has released strict guidelines for any jockey or track rider entering New Zealand from Australian EI hotspots. Jockeys and riders are being asked to undertake extreme Biosecurity measures before coming in contact with any horses in New Zealand.

The new measures apply to top Sydney rider Larry Cassidy who is engaged to ride Splashing Out in the Mudgway Partsworld Stakes at Hastings this weekend.

"We can't stress enough the importance of taking every possible measure to prevent EI from invading our equine industry. The stance taken by NZTR echoes the sentiments of the entire industry in our quest to protect our EI free status," says Mr Hansen.

As the busy spring carnivals approach on both sides of the Tasman it is expected that far more "equine related" traffic will filter in and out of New Zealand, prompting a call for extreme vigilance for anyone that has been in contact with horses while overseas.

"It is paramount that all travellers abide by strict MAF Biosecurity guidelines ensuring their own decontamination practises including disinfecting gear, clothing and any other items which could become infected," says Mr Hansen.

In Victoria Racing Officials are also holding their breath after reports that 6 Thoroughbred yearlings have been quarantined after showing possible signs of EI. The yearlings were recently transported to Victoria from NSW and if tests reveal they contracted EI, plans for racing in Victoria over the weekend are likely to be aborted.

ENDS



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