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Dear Lisa,

**RE: Land Transport of Horses – Consultation Paper 2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Review of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Land Transport of Livestock (the Standards and Guidelines).

ACA supports the proposed recommendations made within the Land Transport of Horses Consultation Paper of February 2021 and recognises the proposed changes as a clear improvement to horse welfare during transport and in particular long distance travel.

ACA supports the prohibition of double decker trailers for horses.

In relation to the recommendations for mixing of horses ACA would like to add a further point:

- horses unfamiliar with each other (horses that are not in their normal family groups or originally living together on the same property) are more likely to fight, bully weaker horses and injure each other because there is no avenue for escape from more aggressive horses. Therefore,
- unfamiliar horses should NOT be loaded in open compartments together. Equestrian transporters have divided transport with individual bays to prevent horses from injuring each other during transport, and this should be the minimum standard for unfamiliar horses.

The above points would help prevent horses arriving at their destinations injured and stressed. This could easily be monitored by checking horses PIC numbers, and including a code for the seller on Saleyard documentation if purchased from saleyards, to help identify breaches of this standard.

ACA supports the proposal to clarify that dogs must not be used to work horses during transport by removing the mention of horses from general standard SA5.11 and removing GB8.31

ACA appreciates your department acting on the recommendations of the Martin Inquiry, and welcomes further opportunity to consult on further matters as this Review progresses.

Kind regards,

*Karri Nadazdy*

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