

EQUINE INFLUENZA FORUM

Wednesday 27 February 2008

Committee Room

Moonee Valley Race Course

Why Victoria is an “affected” State

- Loss of product from 2 states
- Represents loss of 40% of business
- Operating on 100% of existing costs

Plus

- Additional expenditure for
 - Bio security measures
 - Vaccine
- Club revenue decline, eg
 - On course attendance down 23%
 - On course wagering down 21%
- NZ and interstate horses not here for major Carnivals

Why Victoria is an “affected” State

- Hidden costs
 - Disillusioned owners
 - Threat to horse population
 - Deferring productive projects
- No government relief
- Future industry costs
 - Vaccine?
 - Declining breeding numbers?
- Long term impact of greyhound boost
 - Market share impact?

What have we learned?

- National need for 'Operation Pegasus' style Animal Disease Plan
- Breakdown of the gentleman's agreement
- Don't believe the rumour mill/panic merchants
- Listen to the experts – too many differing 'industry' views, eg, on vaccination RVL example
- Easier to keep out than contain
- Police movement bans immediately
- Gutsy and strong leadership to stick to an eradication plan
- Avoid political point scoring