

EQUINE INFLUENZA - MOVEMENT OF HORSES

**859. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

- (1) When did the new arrangements for the movement of horses into Western Australia from other areas of Australia that are free of equine influenza begin?
- (2) Were there any authorised exemptions prior to this time permitting any horses into WA?
- (3) Is the minister aware of any horses entering WA with or without an authorised exemption prior to this time?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

- (1) Yes, on Tuesday this week the nationally consistent Interstate Movement Protocols were adopted.
- (2) Yes, transnational horses were imported last week, the bulk of which were from New Zealand, but there was one United States horse that was in isolation at the Spotswood quarantine centre in Victoria. They came in together on one flight. From memory, there was a total of 19 horses. That is one horse from the United States, and 18 horses from New Zealand.
- (3) I forget what the last question was, but the answer was no. I only wrote the answer down, sorry.

**Hon Barry House:** Are you aware of any horses other than -

**Hon KIM CHANCE:** No, I am absolutely not aware. I would be extremely surprised if that were the case because there are great difficulties in entering Western Australia in a covert way. Using air transport they would be seen very quickly and that would be picked up by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service. Were they to attempt to enter by road, there are really only two points of entry into Western Australia, if one does not count the desert highway, which, I suppose, is a possibility. However, the two points of entry are from the Northern Territory near Kununurra and from South Australia near Ceduna. Both of those points of entry are subject to Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food quarantine inspection points.