1. Hendra virus is a potentially fatal virus transmitted from bats to horses and rarely to humans; since its discovery in 1994, there have been 41 cases of Hendra virus reported in horses and six cases in humans, three of which have been fatal.
2. Following two incidents of Hendra virus at Redlands and Proserpine in July and August 2008 respectively, the then Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries commissioned Dr. Nigel Perkins, from Ausvet Animal Health Services, to review the former Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries’ response to these incidents.
3. Dr. Perkins’ report, the *Independent review of Hendra virus cases at Redlands and Proserpine in July and August 2008* (Hendra Review), was tabled in Parliament in 4 December 2008. Dr. Perkins found the Hendra response to be effective, rapid and conducted to high standards. He also identified 20 recommendations to enhance responses to future Hendra incidents. These recommendations were based around increasing communication, researching technical issues and enhancing internal procedures.
4. Biosecurity Queensland, a business group of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, is undertaking a range of initiatives in partnership with horse industry stakeholders to address the recommendations.
5. Biosecurity Queensland’s relationships with horse industry stakeholders will be strengthened by enhancing the way the Department communicates with the horse industry, utilising a range of initiatives including the development of a web-based portal to distribute biosecurity information and holding infection control ‘roadshows’. Opportunities for research to bridge Hendra virus knowledge gaps are being thoroughly explored and a revised Biosecurity Emergency Operations Manual is being implemented, combined with extensive training, to ensure all internal procedures remain effective.
6. Cabinet noted Biosecurity Queensland’s progress in implementing the recommendations of the Hendra Review to enhance future response to the Hendra virus.
7. *Attachment*
* [Progress with Implementation of the Recommendations of the Report by Dr Nigel Perkins, *Independent review of Hendra virus cases at Redlands and Proserpine in July and August 2008*](Attachments/Hendra%20virus%20att.docx)