



Queensland

# **Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2012**

## **Explanatory Notes for SL 2012 No. 85**

made under the

*Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*

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## **General outline**

### **Short title**

*Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2012.*

### **Authorising law**

Sections 10, 11 and 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the Act).

### **Policy objectives and the reasons for them**

The purpose of the subordinate legislation is to introduce a scheme, to be known as the 'Hendra virus PPE Rebate Scheme', to assist eligible applicants to offset the purchase of prescribed personal protective equipment (PPE) for the testing of Hendra virus.

The scheme fulfils the Government's commitment to provide funding of \$1 million over 4 years to pay for protective equipment for use by the veterinary surgeon and anyone else assisting the veterinary surgeon with the testing of the horse for Hendra virus. The scheme evidences the Government's commitment to support and encourage those in the

veterinary profession involved with the treatment of horses, to mitigate the risks of transmission of this disease.

The rebates claimable under the scheme are in two forms. The first is a start-up rebate of \$250 per eligible veterinary surgeon employed or engaged in the applicant's veterinary practice. The number of eligible veterinary surgeons in the practice determines the maximum rebate potentially payable, whereas the actual level of assistance payable is determined by the actual expenditure on eligible items of PPE (as evidenced by receipts) purchased on and from 24 March 2012. The start-up rebate is only payable once to an applicant.

The second rebate is a replenishment rebate for re-stocking of eligible items of PPE which have been used in the veterinary practice for the sampling and disease testing of suspect Hendra virus horses. The amount of \$250 is payable for each approved test carried out by a Biosecurity Queensland laboratory.

### **Achievement of policy objectives**

Section 10 of the Act provides that QRAA may only give assistance under an approved scheme and section 11 of the Act provides that an approved assistance scheme is one which is approved by regulation.

Consequently approved assistance schemes under which QRAA administers financial assistance are prescriptively detailed in the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*. The new scheme will be included as schedule 20 of the Regulation.

### **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

This subordinate legislation is consistent with the provisions of the authorising law which are prescribed in section 3 of the Act.

### **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

This subordinate legislation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of any other legislation.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

The benefit of this subordinate legislation is that it provides assistance to eligible applicants to offset some of the costs associated with the purchase and use of disposable items of PPE; and encourages private veterinarians, when dealing with suspect Hendra virus cases, to ensure that they utilise appropriate PPE and provide appropriate PPE for any person assisting them during examination and sampling.

This is particularly important given that private veterinarians owe a duty of care to any person assisting them during the examination (including collection of samples for testing) of a suspect Hendra virus case, including non-employees such as the owner of the horse being tested.

This scheme evidences the Government's commitment to support and encourage those in the veterinary profession involved with the treatment of horses, to mitigate the risks of contracting Hendra virus.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

These regulatory amendments are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

## **Consultation**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Australian Veterinary Association and Equine Veterinary Association on the design of the assistance scheme and subsequently with QRAA on the administration of the scheme.

Consultation on the subordinate legislation was undertaken with the Regulatory Review Branch, Queensland Treasury and Trade with regard to regulatory assessment statement (RAS) requirements.

Queensland Treasury and Trade advised that a RAS is not required as the subordinate legislation does not impose significant impacts on business, community or government.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

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