



# **MEDIA**

# release

MR1001/0807

25 August 2007

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## **HORSE QUARANTINE DECLARED IN THE ACT**

As of today, Saturday 25 August, the Chief Minister has declared the ACT a quarantined area under the Animal Disease Act 2005.

The ACT's Chief Veterinarian Officer, Dr Will Andrew said that the quarantine applies to all equine species including horses, donkeys and mules.

"In response to a suspected case of equine influenza in NSW, which geographically surrounds the ACT, we are now applying similar restricted movement conditions.

"This quarantine is part of the national coordination response to contain the disease.

"Included in the quarantine notice is all equine products and equipment, i.e. bridles, saddles and associated riding gear.

"All horse owners are required not to move their horses across the ACT/NSW borders OR within the ACT unless they have prior written approval from the Chief Veterinarian Officer or approved officer.

"This means people need to keep their horses in their paddock and under restricted movement.

"People are also advised to consider personal hygiene around equine species and equipment as human contact can act as a transmitting agent. This disease is normally contained to equine species only.

"This quarantine will remain place in the ACT until further notice.

For updates and information on the equine influenza call 1800 234 002 or visit [www.outbreak.gov.au](http://www.outbreak.gov.au)

If horse owners are concerned for their animal or if they suspect influenza please call 1800 675 888.

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Further information: Nikki Hogan, telephone 0428 970 699