



RIS Ref: DAF152-1015 RIS
File Ref: DOC16/1320

19 May 2016

Margot Ricardo and James Boyle
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
80 Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Ricardo and Mr Boyle

Consultation RIS – Review of regulatory fees prescribed by the *Veterinary Surgeons Regulation 2002*

Thank you for your enquiry of 20 April 2016 seeking formal advice on the adequacy of the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (the Consultation RIS) regarding a review of regulatory fees prescribed under the *Veterinary Surgeons Regulation 2002* (the Regulation).

We understand the Department proposes to increase regulatory fees prescribed in Schedule 3 of the Regulation to establish full cost recovery of the services provided by the Veterinary Surgeons Board (the Board) in line with the Queensland Government's cost recovery principles. We note that through the Consultation RIS the Department seeks stakeholder comment on the following matters:

- the means used to address financial constraints experienced by the Board due to increasing expenses
- the adequacy of the Board's service delivery
- the distribution of fee burden across veterinary registrants.

The Consultation RIS presents three options for regulatory fees:

- status quo (increase in fees by 3.5% CPI), with no change in fee structure
- uniform fee increase of 35%, with no change in fee structure
- average fee increase of 55%, with changes to the fee structure for specialist veterinarians, retired veterinarians and new graduates.

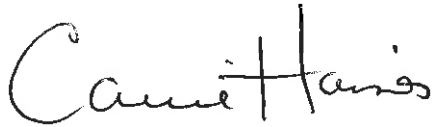
We note the Department's preferred option is an average 55% fee increase designed to: achieve cost recovery objectives, enable improved service delivery by the Board and provide a more equitable distribution of fee burden across registrants.

Consultation with stakeholders will assist in determining whether the impacts of the preferred option are likely to be significant and whether benefits outweigh the costs. Under the Treasurer's Regulatory Impact System Guidelines the preferred option should be the one that generates the greatest net benefit to the community as a whole.

We consider the Consultation RIS analysis is proportionate to the issue and adequate for the purpose of public consultation.

Please contact Meghan Buckley, Assistant Analyst on (07) 3015 5170 if you require any additional information or guidance in relation to the above comments or the RIS guidelines in general.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Haines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carrie Haines
Team Leader