



Last week's broadcast of the outcome of an ABC investigation into Australian abattoirs left NZTR's Board, management and staff sickened, a reaction we are sure was shared by all involved in the industry.

In the wake of the ABC programme and the discussion and disgust it has rightly generated on both sides of the Tasman, we would like to reiterate NZTR's position around thoroughbred welfare, and the work we are undertaking when it comes to the traceability of our horses.

NZTR's vision for thoroughbred welfare in New Zealand is simple: "A thoroughbred should be provided a good life, with the care and conditions that will allow the horse to thrive and perform to its natural abilities." This vision extends to a thoroughbred's post-racing "career" no matter what shape that might take.

At the time news of the horrific ABC programme was surfacing last week NZTR had a presence at Equidays – a celebration of the horse. Our people were there to promote careers in the industry and, on Friday afternoon, also presented an update on the advancement of NZTR's Thoroughbred Welfare Guidelines and our work towards traceability.

As industry stakeholders will be aware, NZTR has been drafting and consulting on amendments to the rules of racing as part of our Thoroughbred Welfare strategy since 2017. These rules and the welfare guidelines have been circulated to the wider industry and have been available for review on our website since July.

Following the submission period and a review of those submissions, the final version will be available online at the end of this week, with the rules coming into effect at the end of the year. We trust that our industry stakeholders will share our resolve to work towards comprehensive traceability of our thoroughbred herd.

One requirement will be the prompt submission of information relating to foaling, changes of ownership, location, and death or retirement. There is also clear onus under the rules upon a racehorse's "accountable person" to ensure they sell or re-home their horse to appropriately skilled persons with an appropriate property for horses.

We know that the majority of our owners and trainers rehome their retired horses where they will receive the best of care, and where often they go on to forge second, and even third careers, as eventers or in the show ring. To those people we say thank you, we appreciate your efforts to adhere to our vision of a good life for our thoroughbreds.

Bernard Saundry
Chief Executive

