



# ANRPB

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## Press Release – 3.00pm - 6 January 2017

To: The Management Committees of All Australian Racing Pigeon Federations, Combine Entities, One-Loft Races and Fancy Pigeon Associations.

**Re: Update 2: Highly infectious, emerging pigeon disease - Reo-virus outbreak in Australia.**

Further to the ANRPB press release of 4 January 2017, the following update applies:

1. Further diagnostic testing is in progress. Results are expected by mid-January. As advised by NSW DPI 5 January 2017 “It's possible that some poultry vaccines will be of assistance in the management of this disease. In the meantime, biosecurity measures are **critical** to prevent the spread of this disease until a long-term solution can be determined”. Please remain positive and refer to daily updates on-line: <http://www.melbournebirdvet.com/pigeon-virus-update.aspx>
2. The following Biosecurity measures remain in place and must be adhered to until further notice by all pigeon flyers, no matter where you live.
  - a. Do not introduce new pigeons into your yard
  - b. Do not allow your pigeons to mix with other pigeons
  - c. Avoid visiting other pigeon lofts
3. ***On 4 January an article was posted on-line (which has since been taken down) which suggested deliberate loft infection with the Reo-virus. The Australian National Racing Pigeon Board does NOT support nor condone this suggestion. This practice if introduced would spread the Reo-virus far and wide and may result in the deaths of many thousands of racing and fancy pigeons in this country. From a pigeon welfare perspective this suggestion is totally unacceptable and indeed contrary to the very code of practice for the welfare of our pigeons we are currently developing within the ANRPB; in response the Federal Government AHA overhaul of animal welfare standards in this country.*** The ANRPB will be seeking the strongest disciplinary measures possible by Federation entities to ensure pigeon membership do not actively put their flocks or other member's flocks at risk. Please abide by the above Bio-security measures.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board

Stephen Eggleton  
Chair – ANRPB