



From the Chair | Larry Cutler

Dear Members,

In recent weeks, there has been a significant level of discussion regarding the proposed constitutional changes ahead of our upcoming AGM. It is clear that many members feel strongly about these matters, and as Chair — and as a fifth-generation ASHS breeder — I want to acknowledge those concerns.

Our Society has always been built on the passion and commitment of its members, and it is important that everyone feels heard and respected — particularly when change is being considered.

The Board has approached these proposed amendments with careful thought and a clear responsibility: to act in the best interests of the Society as a whole, both now and into the future. These changes are not intended to disadvantage members, but rather to provide greater clarity and consistency within our registration system, while maintaining the integrity of our breed.

This proposal builds on the existing Base Registry requirement of 25% HSH, in place for the past five years. It will impact only a small number of members directly, and for the majority, breeding programs and registration processes will continue unchanged.

To assist members in understanding the intent of the proposal, the key changes are outlined below:

Understanding the Percentages:

- 25% (Base Registry) = 1 out of 4 grandparents is HSH
- 50% (First Cross / C1) = 1 parent, or 2 out of 4 grandparents are HSH
- 75% (Second Cross / C2) = 3 out of 4 grandparents are HSH

First Cross (C1)

A horse shall be eligible for registration as First Cross if it shall have either:

- 1 registered HSH parent
- 2 registered HSH grandparents

Additional changes:

- Stallions will now be eligible for registration in this category
- Eligible stallions currently in the Base Registry may be elevated to First Cross

Second Cross (C2)

A horse shall be eligible for registration as Second Cross if it shall have either:

- 2 registered HSH parents
- 1 registered HSH parent and 1 registered HSH grandparent on the other side of the pedigree or
- 3 registered HSH grandparents

Additional changes:

- Eligible stallions currently in the Base Registry may be elevated to Second Cross

Key outcomes:

- Creates consistency across all categories:
 - All sexes treated equally
 - Horses can progress (“breed up”) when eligible
- Horses will be registered in categories that accurately reflect their HSH ancestry
- More than 120 Base Registry stallions may qualify for elevation to First and Second Cross registration, expanding the breeding pool
- A 2-year transition period will apply – any horse foaled before 1 October 2028 will be able to be registered under the current rules.
- Builds on the Base Registry HSH changes introduced in 2020



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- Strengthens the integrity of the registry system
- Supports the Society's mission to preserve the heritage and identity of the Australian Stock Horse
- These changes require member approval at the AGM

What This Proposal Does NOT Change

- It does not change the registration rules for Stud Book horses, which represent nearly two-thirds (62.6% in 2025) of total registration
- It does not prevent members from continuing their current breeding programs
- It does not remove any horses from existing registrations or categories
- It does not introduce a closed studbook or restrict the introduction of external genetics
- It does not affect most members or their day-to-day activities within the Society. Fewer than 3% of recent registrations would be impacted. These cases are limited to progeny from a Stud Book parent with little or no HSH pedigree crossed with an unregistered horse
- These changes are about improving clarity and consistency—not limiting opportunity.

We understand that uncertainty can create concern. For that reason, I strongly encourage all members to take the time to read the proposed changes in full and to seek clarification where needed. The Board and management are available to answer questions and to discuss how these changes may relate to your individual circumstances.

Respectful and informed discussion is an important part of any member-based organisation. We ask that all engagement—whether in person or online—reflects the values of our Society.

As Chair, I support these proposed changes and believe they represent a considered step forward for the Society.

Your participation in the AGM is important. If you are unable to attend, you may appoint a proxy to ensure your vote is represented. I am available to carry proxy votes for members who wish to do so.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Society.

Yours sincerely,


Larry Cutler Chair