

## Equine Advisory Group Priorities - Update February 2024

Priority Statement	Descriptors	Timeframe	Update	Status
Determine most effective methods of communication with the equine community.	Undertake a review to determine how the equine community and industry would like to be communicated with and information these groups would like to receive from the Shire.	1-3 years	This action is ongoing. Officers regularly work with the Equine Advisory Group and Clubs to share information and seek advice.	Ongoing
Ensure appropriate trails development and use.	Install awareness signage to inform people using bridle trails that there are horses in the area and other etiquette for sharing the trails.	1-3 years	\$10,000 Signage budget allocated in 22/23FY. Signage in procurement stage for delivery of upgraded signage at the Darling Downs Equestrian Park which has a current signage plan and some at Serpentine Sports Reserve. Signage across all reserves and trails is a continued concern for the equine community. Previous Equine Advisory Group recommend this work be progressed as a priority for 23/24FY. Signage on all trails is non-existent to poor and requires upgrading in all cases to include risk statement, info on shared use including conduct around horses and wayfinding. Maps and information signages could utilise new technologies.	Ongoing
	Run an awareness campaign to educate people on how horses and other vehicles can safely interact on trails and roads.		Campaign launched and delivered. Equine Road Safety campaign is being re-run in May 2024. Looking into funding to make this an annual campaign. WA Horse Council are also currently conducting an equine road safety survey.	Ongoing.
	Ensure an assessment of existing and clarity on required signage is included within the Equine Trails Masterplan.		The Equine Trails Masterplan has been adopted by Council which includes a recommendation to progress work on signage. Equine Officer looking into funding for a SJ Equine brand to ensure the signage is cohesive and celebrates the status of equestrian activities within the Shire.	Ongoing
Ensure existing Equine facilities are fit for purpose.	Ensure Shire owned equine facilities are easy to access and meet the needs of user groups.	1-3 years	Development of service levels to be undertaken that includes frequent mowing, trail maintenance timetables. It is important to work with Clubs using Facilities as to ensure grounds are suitable and able to be recovered after events. SJ s has planned ,maintenance program.	Ongoing
	The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to engage with Stakeholders to provide advice on a maintenance program to ensure surfaces are fit for horses.			Ongoing
Equine Events are supported.	Develop and promote an annual calendar of equine events delivered in the Shire.	1-3 years	Promotion of events occurring where these have been subject to the Public Event application process. Additionally, the Shire website enables Clubs to list events for promotion. Some events organisers have advised a preference not to be advertised, due to member/insurance considerations. Equine Advisory Group recommend this be marked as complete as there are other sources of event listings dependent on the discipline.	Ongoing
	Identify opportunities to promote equine activities within the region.			Ongoing
	Support the development of equine events, through review of the events application process and development of templates such as risk assessments, to assist event organisers.			Events Officer is working to improve the Events process internally. Event Organisers are engaged by the Officer and assistance provided where required.
Ensure the equine community is aware of current funding.	Share information about the funding programs with equine not-for-profit and community groups.	1-3 years	Communicating through Sport and Recreation Officer or Equine Officer to engage with clubs and via Shire communications channels.	Ongoing
Provide good trails linkages, through safe road crossing facilities.	Advocate to the Western Australian State Government to ensure safe crossing of new key transport and rail infrastructure in the Shire.	1-3 years	Ongoing, advocacy in relation to Thomas Road and Tonkin Highway crossings has been undertaken. Main Roads is cognisant of the need to engage with the equine community on major road projects.	In progress
	Design and construct safe road crossings that link all bridle trails from north to south, east to west in the Shire.		Equine Trails Masterplan adopted by Council July 2022 includes recommendations on equine crossings and trail linkages. Consideration of the Equine Trails Master Plan recommendations needs to be given by business units undertaking works/projects and when subdivisions occur. State Govt works cognisant of equine connections in the Shire and consult through their project engagement process.	Ongoing
	Consider options and locations for safe road crossings in the Equine Trails Masterplan.		Equine Trails Masterplan adopted by Council July 2022 includes recommendations on equine crossings and trail linkages. Consideration of the Equine Trails Master Plan recommendations needs to be given by business units undertaking works/projects and when subdivisions occur. Awaiting details of the design for the underpass at BRE (Thomas Road rail link)	Ongoing
	Identify opportunities to link and expand bridle trails.		Jarrahdale Horse Trail Network Concept Plan endorsed by Council in June 2022. Develop a new bridle trail network consisting of: •One long loop of approximately 20 kilometres classified as blue (intermediate/class 2). •One short loop of approximately 5 kilometres classified as green (easy/ class 1). This trail should connect to the blue trail and can potentially share green sections of the blue trail. Federal funding of \$1.35m in progress for detailed design and construction. Strategic Planning are using the Plan when dealing with Local Development Plans.	In progress
Increase opportunities for use and improve the user experience at the Byford Trotting Complex	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to provide support to not-for-profit users of the Byford Trotting Complex to apply for any available grants to upgrade the facilities as required.	1-3 years	Grant opportunities are regularly shared with groups. The Community Activation Team can provide support where requested.	Ongoing
	Monitor local traffic conditions and plan for the gradual transition of the road environment that balances protection of the trotting complex against broader needs for safe traffic conditions.		Delivery of both Orton Road from the future Tonkin through to SW Hwy is currently being discussed with Main Roads WA in regards to its tie in and connectivity to Tonkin Hwy. It is also being discussed with relevant Developers responsible for delivery as part of their adjacent developments. Delivery is still a few years away. Sansimeon Blvd is also to be delivered by Developers and is a few years away also. As delivery of these projects nears, review of the local road network will be required to address any potential rat running through the local roads in these areas. In the meantime, proposed local road upgrades as part of annual capital works will take consideration of the equine uses, by incorporating treatments to address the potential traffic issues on the local roads.	Ongoing
Design and deliver a multidisciplinary equine facility	Identify a suitable location with a sufficient amount of land available to meet the needs of the user groups.  Consider facilities to allow for overnight stays.  Investigate other similar facilities including the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (Tamworth).  Develop lifecycle costing models and examine opportunities for income generation to offset costs.	5-10 years	The Equine Facilities Master Plan was adopted by Council in December 2022. This is still a relevant priority.	In progress

Policy Statement	Descriptor	Timescale	Update	Status	Date archived
Ensure appropriate trails development and use.  Equine events are supported	Equine Advisory Group to be consulted through the process of development of the Equine Trails Masterplan.	1-3 years	Complete. The EAG were involved in discussions with the Consultant, invited to workshops and provided updates and opportunities to provide comment during the development of the Equine Trails Master Plan. The EAG will be consulted as recommendations contained within the Master Plan are resourced.	Complete	15.2.24
	Develop, promote and run an equine showcasing event in the Shire.	1-3 years	At July OCM 2022, Council resolved not to proceed with an event. Shire / EAG could be present at WA SJ event. SHPC looking for sponsorship for SJ / ODE series.	Complete	15.2.24
Planning and Building approval processes are equine friendly.	Conduct a review and feedback process with the Equine Advisory Group, to further enhance the 'Keeping of Horses' section of the Shire website.	1-3 years	Complete - Website section for equine created with quick link on front page. Engagement with the Equine Advisory Group on 2 occasions to review content. Provided information on the Shire website with regard to equine friendly businesses that could assist residents with the Planning and Building approval processes.	Complete	15.2.24
	Conduct a review and feedback process with the Equine Advisory Group, to review all Planning and Building forms to ensure they are equine user friendly.		Shire Officers have undertaken a review of the website and associated documents. Officers discussed with the Equine Advisory Group to update the information on the Shire's website to ensure the information is relevant and up to date.	Complete	15.2.24
	Conduct a review and feedback process with the Equine Advisory Group to inform improvements to the planning and building processes for equine developers/ owners.		Shire Officers have undertaken a review of the website and associated documents. Officers discussed with the Equine Advisory Group to update the information on the Shire's website to ensure the information is relevant and up to date.	Complete	15.2.24
	Provide information on the Shire website with regard to equine friendly businesses that could assist residents with the Planning and Building approval processes.		The Shire is not able to make recommendations in this regard. Businesses can self register via the Shire's Business Directory.	Not progressing	15.2.24
Ensure appropriate support for the management of horses in an emergency.	Communicate the current Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Emergency Animal Welfare Plan via the Shire's social media channels and the Shire website.	1-3 years	A review of the Shire's Emergency Animal Welfare Plan has been undertaken which included identification of suitable evacuation facilities for large animals.	Completed	15.2.24
	Identify and communicate dedicated evacuation centres suitable for horses.		Communication of activated evacuation areas for large animals can only be communicated once determined by an Incident Controller. To investigate best way to communicate to the community to assist with planning for emergencies.	Complete	15.2.24
	Raise awareness with residents, stakeholders and community equine groups regarding options for safe places and evacuation of horses in an emergency.		To include in annual rolling communication plan. Consider development of preparedness resources similar to Horse Road Safety Campaign. The Local Emergency Management Committee is scheduled to exercise the revised Emergency Animal Welfare Plan in September. Look for opportunities	Complete	15.2.24
	Raise awareness with residents to encourage them to have a bush fire ready plan and know how to prepare their horses and carry out their plan, prior to bush fire season.		Feedback provided within scope of the review undertaken by DFES to inform improvements to public information in emergencies. The single source of information is <a href="https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/">https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/</a>	Complete	15.2.24
	Advocate to DFES for the provision of up to date information, with no more than 1 hour between updates, in an emergency.		An External Funding Opportunities page has been created on the Shires website. This page sits under the SJ Community Grants Program landing page. Information is available for clubs/organisations and business on different funding bodies and provides resources to search for grants. Grant opportunities and information on grants are always changing, a webpage will ensure the most up to date information is available. External Funding opportunities webpage- <a href="https://www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/community/your-community/sj-community-grants-program/external-funding-opportunities.aspx">https://www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/community/your-community/sj-community-grants-program/external-funding-opportunities.aspx</a>	Complete	15.2.24
Ensure the equine community is aware of current funding opportunities available to equine not-for-profit and community groups and businesses.					
Increase opportunities for use and improve the user experience at the Byford Trotting Complex	Facilitate a conversation with the Byford Trotting Complex and Racing and Wagering Western Australia, to discuss opportunities for multi-discipline equine usage of the facility.		Meeting held 24 August 2022. No appetite for additional facility use. Additionally the inner area of the complex was never designed or constructed for use as it serves as a drainage basin.	Not progressing	15.2.24
	The Shire to advocate to retain the Byford Trotting Complex investigate the opportunities to retain usage of properties surrounding the Byford Trotting Complex for equine purposes.		Meeting held 24 August 2022. No plans to sell complex and location is protected under the Shire's Heritage Overlay.	Complete	15.2.24
	Facilitate a conversation with the Byford Trotting Complex and Racing and Wagering Western Australia, to discuss opportunities for activation of the facility through community activities such as markets.		Meeting held 24 August 2022. No appetite for additional facility use.	Not progressing	15.2.24
Support business development that enhances bridle trails and facility use in the Shire.	Proactively seek out complementary businesses and advocate for and support their establishment in the Shire.	1-3 years	Equine category created on website Business Directory and promoted through social media.	Completed	15.2.24
Employ a part-time Equine Officer	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to employ a part-time Equine Officer to:  *Support residents in undertaking business with the Shire;  *Increase the understanding by Shire Officers of equine uses, priorities and requirements;  *Provide guidance to the Parks and Gardens team on appropriate maintenance standards for equine facilities; and  *Work with equine groups and businesses to enhance and build their capacity.	3-5 years	Business Case submitted for consideration in the 23/24FY budget.	Complete	15.2.24
Equine Friendly accommodation	Develop a policy that facilitates camping and accommodation options on private properties and through Air B&B's that are equine friendly.		Complete. This action was completed at the April OCM, whereby Council adopted the new Rural Tourism Accommodation Policy. This has a focus on nature based tourism, and also leveraging for the opportunities that trails and the like can provide in attracting people.	Complete	15.2.24
Equine friendly accommodation	Advocate for the provision of these opportunities, particularly where they are in close proximity to bridle trails and facilities.		The Equine Advisory Group considers this action to be some years away as priority must first be the improvement and consolidation of trails and infrastructure to support. To consider where this priority should be post October 2023.	Not Started	15.2.24
Support the integration of equine therapy into schools	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to advocate to the Minister for Education and Training, Department of Education WA and local schools for the inclusion of equine therapy in schools.	3-5 years	The Equine Advisory Group felt that advocacy for vocational training opportunities within the Shire would be beneficial. There are limited wellness and mental health equine therapy opportunities. This has merit however requires further investigation before seeking to advocate. The EAG decided that the Dept of Education was responsible for this and it would not be well received if this was pursued by the group.	Remove:	15.2.24
	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to advocate for the use of Serpentine Jarrahdale based businesses for the provision of equine therapy in schools.				