

Equine Advisory Group

Thursday 16 May 2024 at 5.30pm

6 Paterson Street

Mundijong 6123

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1. Welcome, Housekeeping & Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale acknowledges that the land of the district is the traditional country of the Noongar people. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the lands and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Meeting opened at: 5:36pm

2. Meeting information and attendance

Attendance

Name	Organisation/Representative Position
Cr Reece Jerrett	Councillor Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
Cr Tricia Duggin	Councillor Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
Denelle Kennedy	Keeping of Retired & Companion Horses Representative (Chair)
Susan Hennessy	Equine Disciplines
Mike Geurds	Racing Industry Representative
Dr. Heather Stewart-Rowe	Leisure and Trail Riding Representative

Shire Officers and Invited Speakers

Name	Title
Jason Parker	Coordinator Youth and Recreational Development
Rebecca Steinki	Manager Community Activation
Tarryn Coleman	Community Activation Support Officer

Absent

Name	Title
Brithany Villena	Equestrian Disciplines
Jayne Lavendar	Keeping of Retired & Companion Horses Representative (Deputy Chair)

Apologies

Name	Title
Brian Oliver	Director Community Engagement
Paula Vaughan	Equine Officer
Emma Wilcock	Equestrian Disciplines
Leigh Hopkinson	Leisure and Trail Riding Representative

3. Discussion Item One

Equine Officer Report

Presented by Jason Parker on behalf of Paula Vaughan

Trails:

- Trail audit 98% completed.
- Items for general maintenance improvements have been identified.
- Potential places for future development of float parking are as follows:
 1. Oakford Community Centre – fenced, direct access to trails, availability of water is an issue.
 2. Off Bournebrook Rd, Cardup (Eastern side) - Open grassed area, would require fencing and appropriate float entry point. Has direct trail access, but water also an issue. No access from RDA Oakford to trails without going on road.
- Equine priorities and updates from last Advisory Group meeting presented to Council. Equine way finding and signage branding project identified for next FY and a business case developed. Outcomes of business case pending – part of 24/25 budget setting process. An option for internal delivery of this project may also be considered.
- Jarrahdale Horse Trails – detailed route completed, signage options being looked at (DBCA).
- Road crossings next focus.

Facilities:

- Plan to visit undercover arenas to fact find. (Orange Grove, SEC, Dryandra). Future presentation proposed to occur with Equine Advisory Group on pros and cons of each venue for discussion.

Road Safety Campaign:

- 1 May-30 June: Grant from Road Safety Commission successful. Same campaign as last year, but enhanced with radio component during Road Safety Week. Additional bin stickers have been ordered and will be distributed to horse areas.

Equine Advisory Group comment:

- Concerns raised about lack of signage or inadequate signage across the Shire (including misspelt “bridal” trails) – especially keeping dogs on lead and traffic around horse areas. To be addressed as part of business case proposed to Council.
- The Group agreed that signage specifying “horse trails” rather than equine trails or bridle trails was a good approach for clear understanding amongst trail users. Especially with linguistically diverse demographics coming into the area for settlement and tourism who may not know equine/bridle context.
- Equine Group will be consulted on draft signage and way finding processes and designs once project known to be moving forward. It is expected outcomes will be known by next Equine Meeting date in August.
- Road Safety Commission bin stickers available for group to distribute to their networks.

4. Discussion Item Two

Equine Trail Connection - Alexander Rd & Evans Way/Padra Turn (to Thomas Road)

Presented by Manager Community Activation

A business case has been proposed for the design of an Equine Trail Connection, ultimately linking the Byford Trotting Complex trails and Darling Downs Equestrian Park via the following connection:

- Extending the Equine Trail alongside the rail line on Alexander Rd, north/south from Larsen Rd to Evans Way, Byford.
- New Equine Trail east/west along Evans Way/Padra Turn.

Presentation (attached) presented scope of information known by Officers to date, images of current locations and provided general discussion on the use and interest of local horse riders for these connections.

Existing/future crossings as part of ongoing development were also discussed, such as the proposed Pegasus Crossing across Thomas Rd.

Equine Advisory Group comment:

- Map and images attached shows trail connections existing and proposed. Images included depict current site conditions and state of development works.
- Feedback provided indicated that the proposed trail along Evans Way/Padra Turn would be better located on southern side of the creek line as there is more room and further away from residential properties. For noting if business case progressed.
- Further information or comment on Pegasus crossing examples welcomed – very common in UK not so much in Australia. One has been installed in Canberra [Pegasus Crossing @ Streeton Drive – ACT Equestrian Association \(actea.asn.au\)](#)
- Request by member to collate information on number of users on trail connection north of Thomas Road via trail counters. Viability to be investigated by Officers. Trail is not currently in use due to the underpass being barricaded closed, so may not be good time to start collecting information.
- Overall, Equine Advisory Group remain supportive of progressing a design (eg: current business case) for the equine trail connection outlined above.



5. General Business

Items from members

Questions from Advisory group Member – Emma Wilcock

1. There was a email sent out by Darling Downs Residents/trail group - regarding Mainroads wanting to extend the road works on Thomas road and take part of the bridle trail and then it is right next to the road with no buffer . Does the group know about this can it be stopped?
Some members are aware of the road works. Officers to investigate further the context and extent of works and report back to Equine Advisory Group next meeting.
2. With the new housing division on Utley/Walker road is there a proposed bridle trail around the small acreage for horse users to use as it is aimed at selling to horse riders /5 are blocks etc Apparently there is an oval or small amount of land that would be good to use.
Members agreed this seems a reasonable/good idea. Officers to provide this feedback internally – unknown if this can be implemented. Update to be provided at next Equine Advisory Group meeting.
3. We also have an endurance ride (one of 2) at the Jarrahdale oval coming up we have had very large problems with the markers being pulled down over night before the ride. Is there any movement on having a designated marked trail up in the area?
Due to it being an endurance ride event there will not be permanent signage put in place. Permanent signage will be in place for the horse trail being developed with DBCA. Current understanding is that this seems to be actions of a group or person who is intent on disrupting the event for some reason. The Shire will discuss what other interim measures may be viable – e.g talk with Rangers.

6. Meeting Close 6:45pm

Next Meeting date: 15 August 2024

