

Horse Riding Activities: Planning for Facility Sustainability in Greater Adelaide Metropolitan Area and Near Regions

August 2013



Acknowledging

Equestrian South Australia & Pony Club South Australia



Horse Riding Activities: Planning for Facility
Sustainability in Greater Adelaide
Metropolitan Area and Near Regions
Final Report



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In association with SKM

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Horse SA

Office for Recreation and Sport

Equestrian SA

Pony Club SA

Riding for the Disabled Assoc. SA Inc

Light Regional Council

City of Tea Tree Gully

City of Onkaparinga

City of West Torrens

Rural City of Murray Bridge

Alexandrina Council

Adelaide Hills Council

District Council of Mount Barker

Natural Resources, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

Novelty Riders association of SA

Mount Barker Show

Strathalbyn Polo and Recreation grounds

Gawler Trail Horse Riders Club

Dusty Horse Trail Riders Club

Gawler River Pony Club

Kapunda Show Society

Pegasus Pony Club

Riding for the Disabled Barossa

SVDC Equestrian Park

Strathalbyn Polo and Recreation Grounds Management Committee

Dedication: This study is dedicated to the members of the Western Districts Riding Club who lost their club grounds of 53 years during the period of this project.

Cultural Heritage Values Statement

The horse has significant meaning to many people in Australia and is intrinsically connected to our national storyline.

Riding a horse in the iconic Australian bush, racing at historic Flemington or driving a Clydesdale through the dust of South Australia; this is the horse in our Australian landscape.

A horse was selected to open the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

It's a horse race that stops a nation for one Tuesday in November and it's a horse called Sandy remembered at the Australian War Memorial.

For many, it is a horse that connects human and country.

Traditional practices, beliefs and techniques associated with horses must be conserved as a "living and now" - just as relevant today as yesterday. Important to be preserved for the future.

Buildings, trades, designs, tools and implements are associated with horses. Perhaps nothing by themselves, each is given meaning when connected with a horse. Each providing interpretation when utilised within its intended setting.

The horse evokes emotion within our common consciousness; reflected in the arts, in story, in poetry and in song.

Our Australian social identity recognises horses. A spiritual connection often reflected through images, music and style.

We seek to maintain the cultural value of horses in our community through practicing the keeping and use of horses for our future generations.

Horse SA.



Photograph credit: Kirsty Dudley

1.0 Introduction

Horse SA, in partnership with the Office for Recreation and Sport, Pony Club SA, Equestrian SA and eight Councils¹ has initiated the *Horse Riding Activities: Planning for Facility Sustainability in Greater Adelaide Metropolitan Area and near Regions* project.

The key objective of this project is to identify strategic directions that will aid future decision making by government, the not for profit sector and the horse industry regarding the provision of facilities that cater for various horse riding related activities.

In delivering on this objective, the project aims to understand:

- The current demand for participation in horse riding related activities
- The current level of supply of horse riding related facilities
- The future demand for horse riding related activities.

Understanding these aspects will help support and inform local and state government project partners and other agencies and organisations that have a role in the planning and provision of facilities.

As the title suggests, central to this project is the concept of sustainability. Sustainability is about our ability to keep something going. In the context of this project, the reference to sustainability recognises the importance of maintaining access to suitable horse riding facilities into the future that are well designed, managed, provided and planned for.

Typically sustainability refers to social, economic and environmental aspects which are inextricably linked. In reference to planning for horse riding facilities, social sustainability is about meeting user needs, volunteering and recognising the important social, health and other benefits that can be delivered by being part of a recreation group or club. Environmental sustainability is about ensuring facilities have access to water, are adapting to climate change, managing the impacts of horses on other land uses including the natural environment. Economic sustainability is about being able to maintain and upgrade infrastructure through membership fees and other funding sources and maintaining the viability of facilities into the future.

This report therefore, aims to provide information and direction that will assist with sustaining the provision of horse riding facilities into the future.

¹ Partner Councils comprise City of Salisbury, City of Onkaparinga, Light Regional Council, Alexandrina, Council, City of West Torrens, Adelaide Hills Council, District Council of Mount Barker and City of Tea Tree Gully

1.1. Why has this project been initiated?

Horse SA is a not-for-profit organisation growing the horse industry in South Australia. As an umbrella body representing the broad interests of the horse industry, Horse SA is in an excellent position to lead a strategic planning process which will enable the articulation of a clear, shared vision for planning and facility provision for horse riding activities.

This project delivers on one of Horse SA's strategic plan key result areas of advocacy and promotion for public horse trails and community land use for use by horse owners and riders for the purpose of club activities, events, recreational trails and horse exercise.

Without strategic direction, it is more difficult to plan for horse riding facility provision, whether it be upgrading existing infrastructure, retaining existing facilities in their current or new locations, consolidating facilities or providing new facilities. In addition, there has been an absence of information about horse riding facilities and the clubs and groups that use them to feed into decision making.

One of the key aims of this project therefore has been to gather and document a range of information to help fill this gap.

1.2. What is the role of this report?

This report provides information and a vision and direction for the horse riding sector which can be utilised by:

- Horse riding activity groups to support their own future planning, development of partnerships and funding applications.
- Agencies such as the Office for Recreation and Sport (ORS) to inform future planning, policy development and the assessment of funding applications.
- Local government to inform planning and decision making for horse riding facility provision.

1.3. The challenges of planning for horse riding activities

Facility planning for horse riding activities is complex. This complexity stems from:

- The **diversity of activities** that are considered "horse riding activities"-there are over thirty five different primary horse related sport and recreation pastimes practiced in South Australia. For each of these key areas, there are many sub-areas, often with their own specialist club or rule book. For example, carriage driving is a primary activity, but has the variations of show driving, period turnout, heavy horses, combined driving events, endurance driving, scurry driving, obstacle driving, with the further element of undertaking these with a single horse or pony, pairs, tandem, teams or other hitching variations.

A glossary of the most popular horse riding activities is provided in **Appendix A**.

- The **lack of established planning approaches** to the provision of horse riding facilities—there is no established hierarchy of facility provision and no standards regarding the number and types of facilities required to serve populations or catchments. These aspects are discussed in more detail in section 6.
- The **lack of standard approaches to facility requirements for different user groups**—there is no established criteria regarding infrastructure provision for different types of facilities and user groups. Infrastructure requirements include parking for cars and horse floats, shade for spectators, riders and horses, toilet and kitchen facilities, turf or artificial surfaces, seating, biosecurity controls, horse welfare etc.
- An **entry point into horse riding activities that relies predominately on the private sector** (e.g. riding schools) to deliver. This often removes many of the drivers to attract new entrants addressed by other sports e.g. facilities to hold equipment and horses for casual hire, rest areas within facilities (TV, lounge suites, computer games) change rooms.

Given the aspects outlined above, planning for horse riding facilities is not as straight forward or as structured as perhaps other types of sport and recreation activities. This project aims to better define some of these aspects and provide some structure in order to better aid planning and future decision making regarding horse riding facilities.

1.4. What is the scope of this project?

This project is focussed on the planning and provision of facilities that:

- Support horse riding activities; and
- Are accessible to the broader community.

In this context, the following definitions apply:

Facilities are spaces or places available to the public that cater for horse riding activities. Facilities can range from ovals or arenas with minimal built infrastructure and amenity through to facilities with a range of infrastructure such as dressage arenas, cross-country courses and showgrounds.

For this project, analysis has focussed on facilities provided on public land. It is acknowledged that privately owned facilities play an important role in catering to the needs of the horse community and that there are a number of privately owned facilities throughout the study area which have been documented by this project. However, it is important that horse riding facilities remain predominantly on public land to ensure their ongoing provision.

Horse riding activities are those activities that involve horse riding or other use of horses for sport and recreation (including horse drawn carriages). It includes activities such as show jumping, dressage, tent pegging, showing and polo. Horse riding activities can be competitive or recreational.

This project does not focus on facilities dedicated to the racing of thoroughbreds and standard breeds which are related to professional bodies and have specific rules regarding access by licensed persons as part of insurance requirements. Given the significance of these types of facilities however, this report documents their location and information about their user groups.

There are a number of other opportunities that are available to the horse owning public for riding including dedicated marked shared use trails permitting horses, such as the Kidman Trail, Amy Gillett Trail and the Tom Roberts Trail, beaches such as Silver Sands, forests, parks such as Belair National Park, private stables and agistment areas. Although these provide important opportunities for horse riding these are outside the scope of this project.

Groups and **clubs** refers to those people who come together around a particular horse riding interest or activity. Groups and clubs may meet regularly, for example on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis, or less frequently, meeting annually. Groups and clubs may use one horse riding facility and have a "home base" or may use multiple facilities depending on the activity (e.g. a riding club may use a range of hired facilities to complete an annual calendar of meetings).

1.5. Study Area

This study area for this project is described as the greater Adelaide Metropolitan Area and near regions and is depicted on **Maps 1 and 2**.

1.6. How has the project been undertaken?

Figure 1 summarises the methodology used for this project.

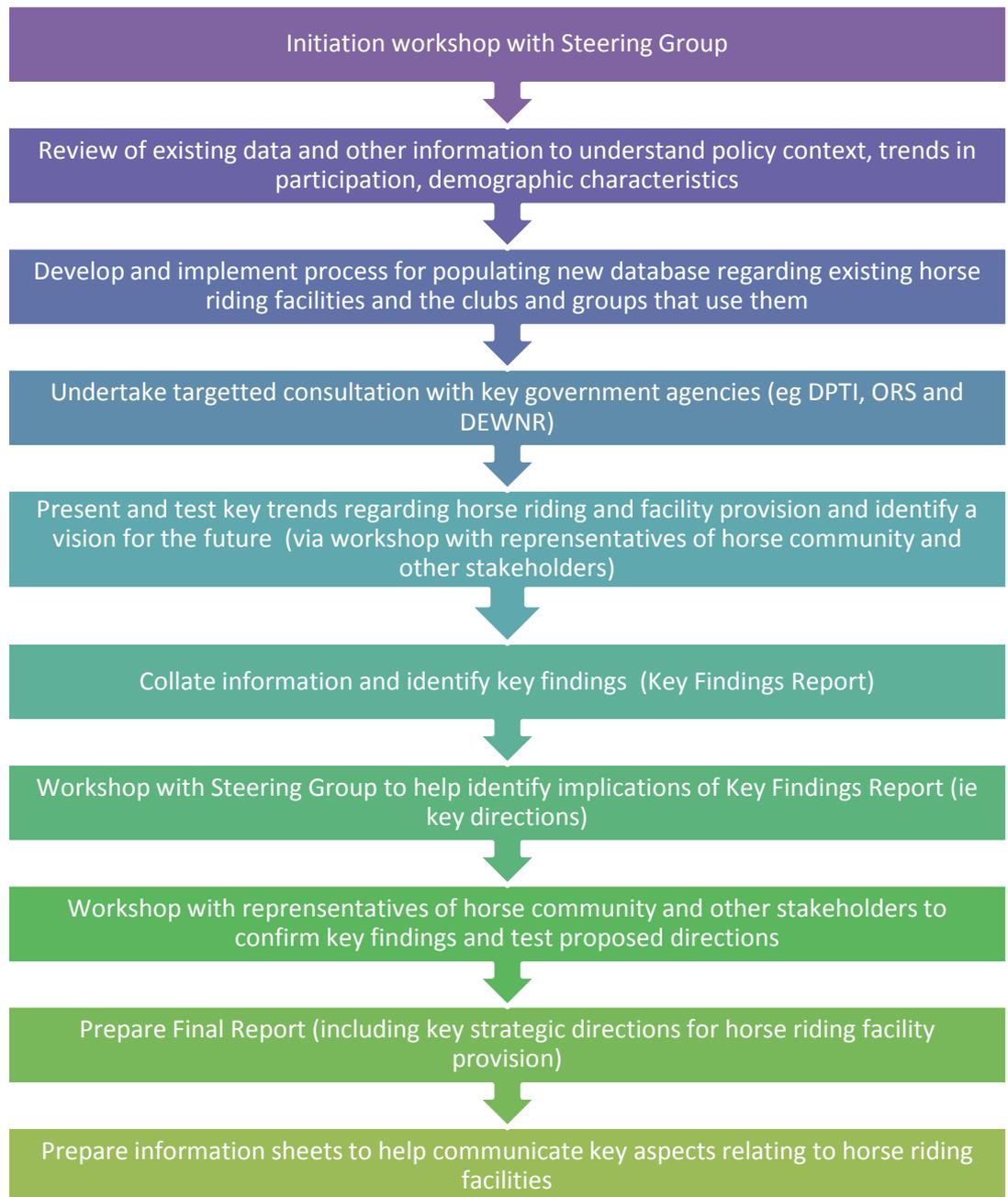


Figure 1: Summary of project methodology

1.7. Development of database

One of the key tasks of this project has been to develop an updated database regarding existing horse riding facilities and the clubs and groups that use them. Known as the *Facility and Groups Database*, this database is GIS based and will continue to be managed and updated by Horse SA into the future.

Information collected for this database (which was obtained via a survey of clubs and groups, targeted consultation and Horse SA knowledge) has been used to supplement other information collection processes used for this project. The database is a series of linked excel spreadsheets which are separate to this report.

The survey of clubs and groups is located in **Appendix B**. In total, 40 clubs or groups participated in the survey process, with some not completing all questions asked. Assuming 191 clubs and groups, this represents a response rate of 21%.

2.0 Current provision and use of facilities

There are currently 78 horse riding facilities located throughout the study area².

Approximately 191 different clubs and groups use these facilities.

This data shows that:

- Facilities are used for a range of horse riding activities
- There is not an abundance of horse riding facilities across the study area
- That the co-location/consolidation of facilities is already occurring with some facilities being used by multiple user groups.

Map 1 shows the location of existing horse riding facilities across the study area.

Table 1 identifies known facilities located throughout the study area and provides summary information regarding:

- User groups known to use the facility
- The horse riding disciplines provided for at the facility
- Council area the facility is located within
- Land ownership
- Frequency of use of the facility
- Infrastructure available at these facilities
- Level in hierarchy³

Summary of current provision and use

There are 78 horse riding facilities

Approximately 191 different clubs and groups use these facilities.

The co-location/sharing of facilities is already occurring with some facilities being used by multiple user groups.

² Information relating to facilities and the groups that use them has been taken from the *Facility and Groups Database* updated by Horse SA in collaboration with Councils and the horse community as part of this project. It is acknowledged that this may not be an exhaustive database and there are still gaps in some information.

³ It should be noted that this assessment of hierarchy is preliminary only and needs to be further tested and confirmed by the owners/operators of facilities as well as by user groups and clubs. Explanation of how the hierarchy has been applied is detailed in section 3.

Insert map 1

Table 1: Summary of Facilities

Facility Name	Facility Number	Council area	Hierarchy level ⁴	Land ownership	Facilities on site	Known user groups	Frequency of use for horse riding activities	Disciplines offered										Infrastructure at Facility											
								Horse racing	Show jumping	Pony/ Riding club	Dressage	Cross country	Showing	Harness racing	Riding school	Link to trail riding	Agitment	Riding for the Disabled	Other Use	Stables	Car parking	Toilets	Showers	Shade	Kitchen	Overnight accommodation	Permanent stabling	Yarding	Agitment paddocks
Adelaide Hills Equestrian Centre	1	Adelaide Hills Council	Regional	Private	Polocrosse fields, 200 day yards	Adelaide Polocrosse Club,	Seasonal				YES		YES						Polocrosse rodeo	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES			YES		
Kersbrook Equestrian Centre	2	Adelaide Hills Council	District	Private	Indoor Arena, outdoor arena	The Heights Vaulting																						YES	
Mylor Pony Club	3	Adelaide Hills Council	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	clubrooms & arena	Mylor Pony Club	Fortnightly			YES		YES	Mini								YES	YES		YES	YES			YES	
Paracombe Recreation Reserve	4	Adelaide Hills Council	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	clubrooms & arena	Paracombe Pony & Equestrian Club	Fortnightly			YES		YES									YES	YES		YES	YES			YES	
Mount Lofty Pony Club	5	Adelaide Hills Council	Neighbourhood	Private	clubrooms & arena	Mount Lofty Pony Club	Fortnightly			YES											YES	YES		YES	YES				
Oakbank Racecourse	6	Adelaide Hills Council	District	Private	Grandstand, racecourse, riding arena, clubrooms	Onkaparinga Pony Club, Oakbank Racing Club, Riding for the Disabled-Oakbank	Weekly	YES		YES							YES	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES			YES	
Goolwa & District Pony Club	7	Alexandrina Council	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	clubrooms & arena	Goolwa & District Pony Club	Fortnightly			YES											YES	YES			YES				
Port Elliot Showground	8	Alexandrina Council	District	Public (LGA)	Pavilions	Southern Agricultural Show Society	Annual		YES				YES								YES	YES	YES	YES	YES				
Strathalbyn Showground	9	Alexandrina Council	District	Public (Other)	Pavilions, oval	Strathalbyn Agricultural Society	Annual												Breed led horse classes	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES					
Ravenswood	10	Alexandrina Council	District	Private	Indoor Arena																								YES

⁴ It should be noted that this assessment of hierarchy is preliminary only and needs to be further tested and confirmed by the owners/operators of facilities as well as by user groups and clubs

Facility Name	Facility Number	Council area	Hierarchy level ⁴	Land ownership	Facilities on site	Known user groups	Frequency of use for horse riding activities	Disciplines offered										Infrastructure at Facility											
								Horse racing	Show jumping	Pony/ Riding club	Dressage	Cross country	Showing	Harness racing	Riding school	Link to trail riding	Agistment	Riding for the Disabled	Other Use	Stables	Car parking	Toilets	Showers	Shade	Kitchen	Overnight accommodation	Permanent stabling	Yarding	Agistment paddocks
Magic Millions	21	City of Marion	State	Private	Sales ring, offices, round yards	SA Thoroughbred Breeders	Daily											Sales	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES			
Morphettville Racecourse	22	City of Marion	State	Private (Club)	Grandstands, racecourse, water walker, swimming pool	Jumps Racing South Australia, SA Country Racing Clubs Council, SA Jockey Club, TAFE SA, Thoroughbred Racing SA Pty Ltd	Daily	YES									Yes			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES		
Brownhill Creek Public Riding Arena	23	City of Mitcham	Neighbourhood	Public (DEWNR)	Grass arena																								
Equestrian Park Aldinga	24	City of Onkaparinga	Regional	Public (LGA)	Dressage arena, outdoor riding arena and clubrooms	Aldinga Bay Riding Club, Southern Star Western Performance Club Inc, Southern Vales Dressage Club Inc	Weekly			YES	YES									YES	YES			YES					
Frank Smith Park (note is multi use reserve not just for equine activities)	25	City of Onkaparinga	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	Trail, sloped open exercise area													Exercise area					YES						
Kangarilla Pony Club	26	City of Onkaparinga	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	Clubrooms & arena, round yards, small cross country	Kangarilla Pony Club	Fortnightly			YES	YES	YES								YES	YES			YES	YES			YES	
McLaren Districts Riding Club	27	City of Onkaparinga	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	Grassed arena, sand arnea, round yard, day yards	McLaren Districts Riding Club	Fortnightly			YES	YES	YES Mini								YES	YES			YES	YES			YES	
Oakridge Road Public Riding Arena	28	City of Onkaparinga	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	Sand arena, float park	Arena is available for use.												Exercise area	YES										sand arena
Southern Hills Pony Club	29	City of Onkaparinga	Neighbourhood	Public (LGA)	Clubroom & arenas, Kidman Trail head	Southern Hills Pony Club	Fortnightly			YES					YES					YES	YES		YES	YES			YES		
Tangari Regional Park	30	City of Onkaparinga	District	Public (LGA)	RDA centre, cross country course, arenas and clubrooms	Riding for the Disabled- Jennibrook Farm, SA Horse Trials	Daily			YES	YES	YES			YES	YES	YES		Yes	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

3.0 Trends in the provision of horse riding facilities

Unlike for most types of sport and recreation activities, there are no agreed service provision thresholds or standards for horse riding facilities. This is because horse riding facilities vary considerably from facilities able to provide equestrian sports run under International rules right through to smaller scale facilities serving a local catchment. In addition, horse riding facilities are often “opportunistic” in that a space or land becomes available or is required for a particular activity and a best fit approach is adopted. For example, an oval, a dressage arena and a local farmer’s paddock are all facilities that can be used for pony club.

For these reasons, developing a single decision making process/criteria for the provision of horse riding facilities is unlikely to be appropriate. For example, a large formal organisation is likely to plan for future facilities that meet their unique needs and develop these for their exclusive use, while smaller, more informal organisations may seek shared facilities and hire on an as needs basis rather than enter into a longer term lease arrangement, possibly incorporated with other recreational facilities.

Sometimes facilities are provided wholly by the private sector while in other situations they are provided in partnership with Government bodies (such as Local Councils) or as part of larger recreational precincts. In some instances, horse riding facilities are provided with funding assistance from the State Government (e.g. Office for Recreation and Sport).

There are currently no agreed standardised minimum land requirements for horse riding venues nor is there an ideal mix and configuration of horse riding facility components and supporting infrastructure.

3.1.1. Approaches to non-horse related sport and recreation facilities

It is generally accepted that *non horse* related sporting and recreational facilities in any given area are typically provided in a hierarchy, such as outlined below:

Facility level	Description	General characteristics
State	Facilities that meet the requirements of nominated sport or recreation peak bodies to conduct training at a State level or hold a State ‘Open’ event and/or a facility that meets the requirements of nominated sport or recreation peak bodies to conduct training or an event at a National level or under National rules. They may also be a recreation facility that has a unique/high profile attraction that attracts people from wide catchments including interstate and overseas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of large scale higher standard facilities (i.e. elite level sporting facilities, grandstands) • attracts large numbers of patrons from outside the Council area • high usage by a range of clubs/users • high spectator numbers • capable of catering for state, national and/or international level events • incorporates a unique quality, feature or facility that draws people from wide catchments including interstate and/or overseas.

Facility level	Description	General characteristics
Regional	A facility that attracts users from a substantial part of the Council area as well as outside of the Council area. They tend to cater for large numbers of people, teams or individuals beyond a local area e.g. a multi-court indoor recreation centre, and an outdoor sporting complex of a high standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial facilities e.g. large club rooms, high number of courts, high standard lighting suitable for night competitions • Usage by a range of clubs/users • Features a specialised single purpose facility • More than one playing/competition area • Generally attracts patrons from within and outside the Council area • May have significant infrastructure such as sealed car parking and substantial fencing.
District	District facilities have a wider catchment than just a small number of towns or settlements, however they do not have the level of infrastructure that a regional facility has.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of facilities e.g. club rooms, change rooms, multiple tennis/netball courts, sports lighting suitable for training (minimum) • Used by a large club or significant number of users • At least one reasonably high quality playing/competition area • Generally attracts patrons from within, but possibly outside the Council area for special events • Infrastructure such as adequate car parking and fencing.
Local	Local recreation and sport facilities cater for activities primarily targeted at the population of a township or settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic facilities e.g. toilets, shelter • Possibly small clubrooms and/or change rooms • Used for low-level competitions, junior, casual and social activities • Generally attracts patrons from only within the local community • Caters for local club activities but not district and higher level competitions

Table 2: Summary of typical non horse related sport and recreation hierarchy

3.1.2. Proposed hierarchy for horse related facilities

Research undertaken for this project has shown that there is no commonly used hierarchy approach to the provision of horse riding facilities. The Cardinia Shire Council in Victoria however, has attempted to articulate what such a facility hierarchy would mean for horse facilities and this approach is summarised in **Table 3**.

	Definition	Criteria
Neighbourhood	'Neighbourhood' equestrian facilities are generally smaller equestrian venues with a limited range of facilities and supporting infrastructure and cater for a restricted range of equestrian activities. Such facilities generally have a small catchment area and / or are located in relatively close proximity to a larger equestrian venue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small site / land parcel. • Small and/or limited range of equestrian facilities (i.e. single arena and / or open space area). • Limited supportive infrastructure (if any), may be associated with other users / groups. • Catchment from the surrounding area only (or larger area for an annual event). Relatively close proximity to other larger equestrian venue/s. • Limited range of equestrian disciplines and events offered. • Caters for one equestrian club / organisation only.
District	'District' equestrian facilities have a good standard of facilities and supporting infrastructure that cater for a range of equestrian disciplines of varying levels. These venues generally service participants from surrounding suburbs / townships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium size site / land parcel. • Good range of equestrian facilities, including two or more arenas. • Good provision of supportive infrastructure, including clubrooms, amenity facilities, dedicated storage, suitable car parking etc. • Catchment from surrounding suburbs / townships. • A range of equestrian disciplines and events offered. • Caters for more than one equestrian club / organisation.
Regional	'Regional' equestrian facilities have a catchment greater than the Shire boundary and provide a broad range of high level facilities on a large site, capable of hosting elite level competitions / and events with large numbers of participants and spectators.	
State (added by this project)	Venues known as "headquarters" for a single sport catering from local to international level events, and major events as currently run in the State e.g. Morphettville (thoroughbred racing), Globe Derby (Harness Racing), Adelaide Polo Club (Polo) and Adelaide Showgrounds (Agricultural Show).	

Table 3: Summary of equestrian hierarchy modified from: *Cardinia Shire Equestrian Strategy 2012 Review*⁵

The development of a hierarchy of horse facilities was a direction identified by the *South Australian Recreation and Sport Horse Strategy* (developed in 2000). This Strategy recommended that in order to assist in delivering on its objectives that a hierarchy of facilities be developed.

⁵ http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/files/Meetings_agendas_2012/Attach1_Equestrian_Strategy.pdf

The *South Australian Recreation and Sport Horse Strategy* anticipated that three categories of horse facilities are likely to be developed within South Australia as follows:

1. Elite facilities of state, national or international standard for each horse discipline.
2. Local club facilities, grouped into two categories:
 - a. facilities which cater for club activities and occasional interclub events.
 - b. facilities of a standard and with sufficient components and amenities to cater for a wider catchment, possibly of regional level. These facilities are more likely to be located either in larger regional centres, such as Mount Gambier and Murray Bridge or alternatively centrally within a large region, such as the Eyre Peninsula or the South East.

3.2. Consideration of existing horse riding facilities using a hierarchy lens

For this project existing horse riding facilities have been reviewed using a hierarchy lens. This review process enables the identification of gaps in facility provision across the study area as well as facilities that are well catered for. The hierarchy proposed by Cardinia Shire Council for equestrian facilities has been used as the basis for assessing existing horse riding facilities in the study area.

In addition to the hierarchy provided by the Cardinia Shire approach this project has identified an additional category, that of State level facilities. State level facilities are venues known as “headquarters” for a single sport catering from local to international level events, and major events as currently run in the State e.g. Morphettville (thoroughbred racing), Globe Derby (Harness Racing), Adelaide Polo Club (Polo) and the Adelaide Showground (Agricultural Show).

Map 2 shows horse riding facilities by hierarchy as assessed by this project. It should be noted that this assessment is preliminary only and needs to be further tested and confirmed by the owners/operators of facilities as well as by user groups and clubs.

3.2.1. Neighbourhood facilities

The review of horse riding facilities across the study area shows that 27 of the existing facilities are considered to be operating at a neighbourhood level. These types of facilities are spread throughout the study area and have a more localised catchment of participants. Examples of these types of facilities include pony clubs such as Williamstown Horse and Pony Club, Pegasus Pony Club, Belvedere Pony Club, Kangarilla Pony Club and Gawler River Pony Club and Riding Clubs such as Victor Harbor Riding Club and Marion Riding Club.

Given the low level of infrastructure generally provided at these types of facilities, there can be a perception that it is easy to relocate them to another location if required. However, this may not be the case in reality. Anecdotal evidence suggests that critical to the survival of these types of facilities and the groups that use them, is their proximity and connection to the surrounding area.

Often, people who own horses and participate in horse riding activities such as pony club or riding clubs choose to reside in areas where other likeminded people are living and keeping their horses. This is evident for example, in the areas surrounding Pegasus Pony Club and Morphett Vale Riding Club.

This sense of community that is built around horse riding facilities is an important aspect to consider when reviewing existing facilities in terms of any plans to relocate facilities. Where relocated too far from the original location (more than 20 kilometres for Pony Clubs and Riding Clubs), this could mean the demise of local clubs and break down of the community fabric that has developed around it.

3.2.2. District facilities

The review of horse riding facilities across the study area shows that 30 of the existing facilities are considered to be operating at a district level. These types of facilities are those where a number of groups or clubs use the one site, there is a better standard of infrastructure provided than that at the neighbourhood level and participation is drawn from a broader geographical area. Examples of district level facilities include Gawler Oval, Riding for the Disabled, O'Halloran Hill, Oakbank Racecourse and Murray Bridge showgrounds.

Insert Map 2

3.2.3. Regional Facilities

The review of horse riding facilities across the study area shows that 16 of the existing facilities are considered to be operating at a regional level. It should be noted however, that of these 16 facilities, 10 are either associated with professional harness racing, totting or thoroughbred racing (and therefore not broadly accessible to the community for a range of riding activities) or are located on private land.

Regional facilities are those where there is a higher use by a range of groups and clubs (often more than 2 or 3) that use the facility, there is a better standard of infrastructure than that provided at a neighbourhood and district level, and the catchment from which participation is drawn can be much wider including state, interstate and international. Regional facilities also have the capacity to host elite competition.

There is much benefit to this level of facility being provided as the use by a range of groups and therefore horse riding activities, means that the facilities provided are more diverse and flexible and can host a diversity of events. In addition the costs of construction and maintenance of infrastructure can be shared.

Regional facilities comprise:

- Equestrian Park Aldinga
- Adelaide Hills Equestrian Centre
- Strathalbyn Polo and Equestrian Grounds
- Monarto Equestrian Centre
- Northern Adelaide Regional Horse Centre
- Metropolitan Show jumping Grounds
- Kapunda Harness Racing Track

The review of these remaining 6 regional facilities shows that there is an absence of this type of level of facility in the outer northern region that is accessible to the community for horse riding activities.

It is noted that Globe Derby Park is located to the north of Adelaide, but this facility is considered to be situated in the inner north and broader community access for horse riding at Globe Derby Park is limited.

The review has also identified that investment in regional centres is required as a high priority. The review shows that a number of existing regional facilities have an uncertain future which poses a serious threat for ongoing equestrian sports given that the majority of these activities occur at these types of facilities and not at the neighbourhood and district facilities. Facilities which have an uncertain future include:

- The Strathalbyn Equestrian and Recreation Grounds-This facility is facing threat due to a lack of water for irrigation. The 2013 State Showjumping Championships and 2013 State Dressage Championships are examples of two events which were unable to be held at this facility due to the inability to water grounds and the surface being unsafe. In previous years the grounds used water from the Alexandrina Council sewage ponds which have now been decommissioned. This type of situation emphasises the need to have reliable, long term access to water.
- Aldinga Equestrian Park-There will be continued urbanisation of this area over coming years and increased housing is likely to place pressure on the existing facilities at the Aldinga Sports Park. In the long term there may be a need to relocate the horse riding activities to another site. Council has been investigating future opportunities for the development of Aldinga Sports Park.

3.2.4. State Facilities

The review of horse riding facilities across the study area shows that 5 of the existing facilities are considered to be operating at a State level.

State level facilities are venues known as “headquarters” for a single sport catering from local to international level events, and major events as currently run in the State.

State facilities comprise:

- Adelaide Polo Club
- Adelaide Showgrounds
- Morphettville Racecourse
- Magic Millions
- Globe Derby Park

There are also “pop up” style events such as the Australian International 3 Day Event in the Adelaide Park Lands which could be considered a State facility, despite having no permanent infrastructure. Held annually in November, the Australian International 3 Day Event is Australia’s premier equestrian competition. It is the only CCI four star event held in Australia, the only one held in the Southern Hemisphere and one of only six held across the world. For the past ten years, Adelaide has been the chosen host city of this Hallmark Equestrian event.

Previous plans such as the *South Australian Recreation and Sport Horse Strategy* have identified the need to develop a State Horse Centre Precinct, through an upgrade of existing horse facilities.

Available for major events, the State Horse Centre Precinct would tap into the high population base surrounding the site and provide opportunity to introduce new people to equestrian sports and recreation through a range of programs and events provided by clubs and private providers.

The Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Adelaide Showground Master Plan and subsequent Ministerial Development Plan Amendment for the showgrounds provides for a greater diversity of activities which support the potential for year round use of the showgrounds facilities for horse riding activities.

The future of the grounds where Adelaide Polo Club is situated is uncertain and Mount Barker Council is investigating opportunities for this area to become a sports and recreation hub. It is unclear as yet, whether horse riding will be part of this hub. It is reasonable to expect that this area will be ultimately surrounded by housing and therefore, horses may not be a part of this future.

Globe Derby Park plays an important role as a State level facility in the inner north, however, broader community access for horse riding at Globe Derby Park is limited. It is important however, given the level of use and variety of disciplines that this facility caters for that Globe Derby Park is supported into the future.

4.0 Trends in participation in horse riding activities

There is limited statistical data available regarding participation in horse riding specifically as a sport and/or recreation activity in South Australia. The best available data in this regard comes from the Australian Sports Commission which undertakes an annual survey as documented below. It should be noted that there are limitations to this data in that:

- The more detailed data relates to those over the age of 15 years. However, groups and clubs report a significant proportion of their members are less than 15 years.
- The data does not relate to participation in all types of horse riding activities but is collected for participation in a limited range of activities.

4.1. Participation by those aged over 15 years

The Australian Sports Commission publishes regular data regarding participation in sports and recreation activities. These reports are based upon the annual Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS)⁶. This survey is conducted for those over the age of 15.

The most recent (2010) report documents that, in South Australia, approximately 7,900 people over the age of 15 participated in organised and non organised horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities. This equates to a participation rate of 0.6% of the population (over the age of 15).

The 2001 ERASS identified that there were 13,400 people participating in organised and non organised horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities, at a participation rate of 1.1% of the population over the age of 15. This indicates that there has been a decline both in the number of people and proportion of the population involved in horse based activities in South Australia.

It is unclear whether this decline is attributable to declining interest in horse based activities, a lack of suitable facilities or for some other reason. This decline could in part be a reflection of the general population decline we are seeing in country South Australia and therefore reduced horse ownership and participation in these areas. Country areas have traditionally had higher participation in horse riding activities than those living in capital cities. Data shows that those living outside of capital cities are 3.7 times more likely to participate in horse based recreational activities than those within capital cities.⁷

⁶ *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010* Published by: Australian Sports Commission
http://www.ausport.gov.au/information/casro/ERASS/erass_past_reports/erass_2010

⁷ Ibid and ABS sport and recreation: A statistical overview, Australia. Catalogue Number 4156.0.

The gender break down of participation data reveals that females (over the age of 15) are much more likely to participate in horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities than males. In the 2010 Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey, 0.2% of males participated in horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities, compared with 1.0% for females.

South Australia has below average participation rates in horse based activities when compared with the rest of Australia (the national rate was 1.0% in 2010).

Broader trends⁸ regarding participation in horse based activities across Australia include:

- Those who undertake horse riding or equestrian activities do so an average of 1.2 times per week. It should also be noted that in contrast to other types of sport and recreation activities, horse riding requires greater commitment of time per week due to the need to feed a horse twice a day and care for it.
- Horse riding, equestrian activities and polocrosse is the ninth most popular organised and non organised recreation activity (behind walking, aerobics, running, cycling, swimming, weight training, bush walking and yoga)
- While horse based recreational activities are predominantly undertaken by young people, 40% of those employed in the industry (such as breeders and racing officials) are over the age of 50.

The following chart summarises the age breakdown of participants in horse based activities (organised and unorganised) in 2010:

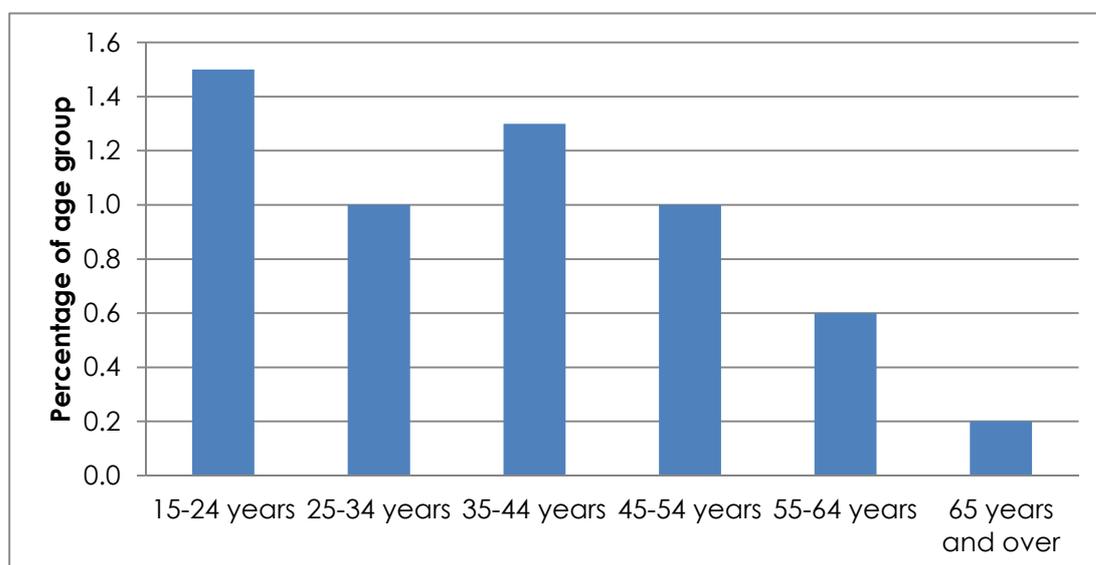


Figure 2: Participation in horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities by age

Data Source: Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Published by Australian Sports Commission.

⁸ Ibid

4.2. Participation by those aged younger than 15 years

In 2009 and 2010, a number of questions were added to ERASS asking survey respondents with children aged between 5 and 14 years about their children's level of physical activity outside of school hours. The results of these questions were reported in a separate report on children's physical activity⁹.

The results reported for these questions do not provide a breakdown by State but provide national figures and national participation rates.

For those between 5 and 14 years of age, approximately 72,700 participated in organised and non organised horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities nationally. This equates to a participation rate of 2.6% of the population (between 5 and 14 years).

Survey questions were only included in 2009 and 2010 relating to children aged between 5 and 14, and therefore there is no data via this survey process to understand changes in participation rates over time.

The survey concluded that similar to those older than 15 years, females aged between 5 and 14 years are more likely to participate in horse riding than males.

Participation in horse riding by females came ninth after dancing (22.1%), swimming (20.3%), netball (15.0%), gymnastics (6.6%), tennis (6.5%), basketball (6.1%), outdoor football (4.2%) and martial arts (3.3%). Horse riding did not feature in the top 10 activities for males between 5 and 14 years.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has also collected data regarding participation rates of children in the top 10 sports over 2006, 2009 and 2012¹⁰.

This ABS data is consistent with the ERASS survey findings in that it shows participation by girls in horse riding as ninth out of top ten organised sporting activities. Again, horse riding does not feature on the top ten sport activities for boys.

The ABS data also shows a decline in participation rates of girls in horse riding between 2006 and 2012, declining from 2.8% in 2006 to 2.0% in 2012.

It should be noted that the data collected relating to participation in horse riding activities has its limitations given that it does not account for the wide diversity of horse riding related activities available.

4.3. Registration of Properties

Primary Industries and Regions SA has a registration process for properties throughout the State that keep livestock. The Property Identification Code (PIC) system allows PIRSA to plan for biosecurity and emergency management responses.

⁹ Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Children's report 2010 Published by: Australian Sports Commission

http://www.ausport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/496694/ERASS_2010_Childrens_Report.pdf

¹⁰ 4156.0 - Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2012, www.abs.gov.au

The PIC system has been in place for many years for livestock managers (cattle, sheep, pigs) who sell stock commercially, including through saleyards. Properties that keep horses have only been required to register by law in the last two years.

To date 3,000 properties have indicated that they keep horses.

Figure 3¹¹ below shows the location of properties which have had a PIC issued thus far in South Australia. Recognising that this figure has limitations, it does show a correlation between the facilities that are located in the study area and a higher density of properties that keep horses compared with the rural and regional areas.

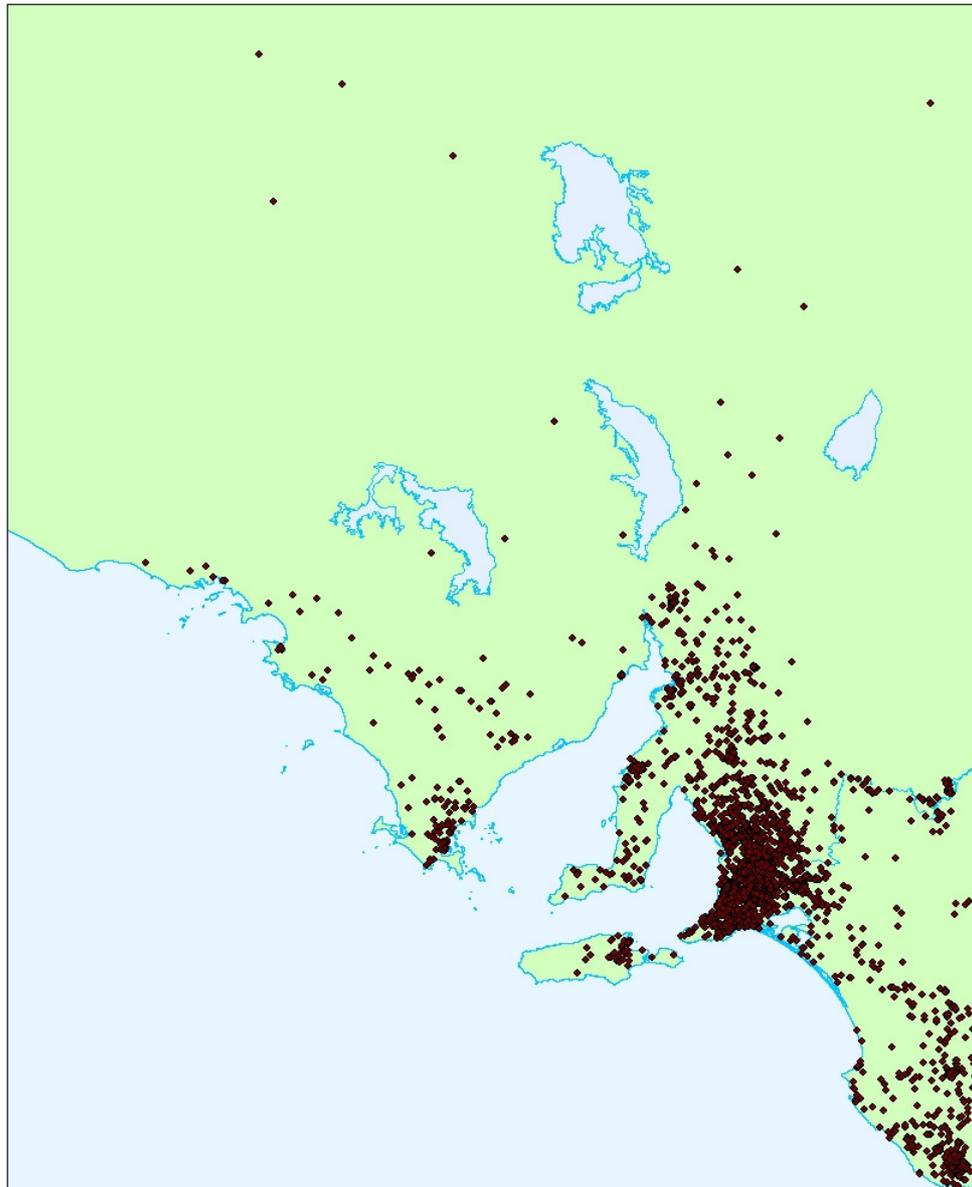


Figure 3: Horse registrations in South Australia

¹¹ Figures 3 and 4 were generated by Primary Industries and Regions SA using data collected by same.

Figure 4 shows horse density by postcode. Again, recognising that this figure has limitations, it does show a correlation between where horses are kept and the facilities that are located in the study area.

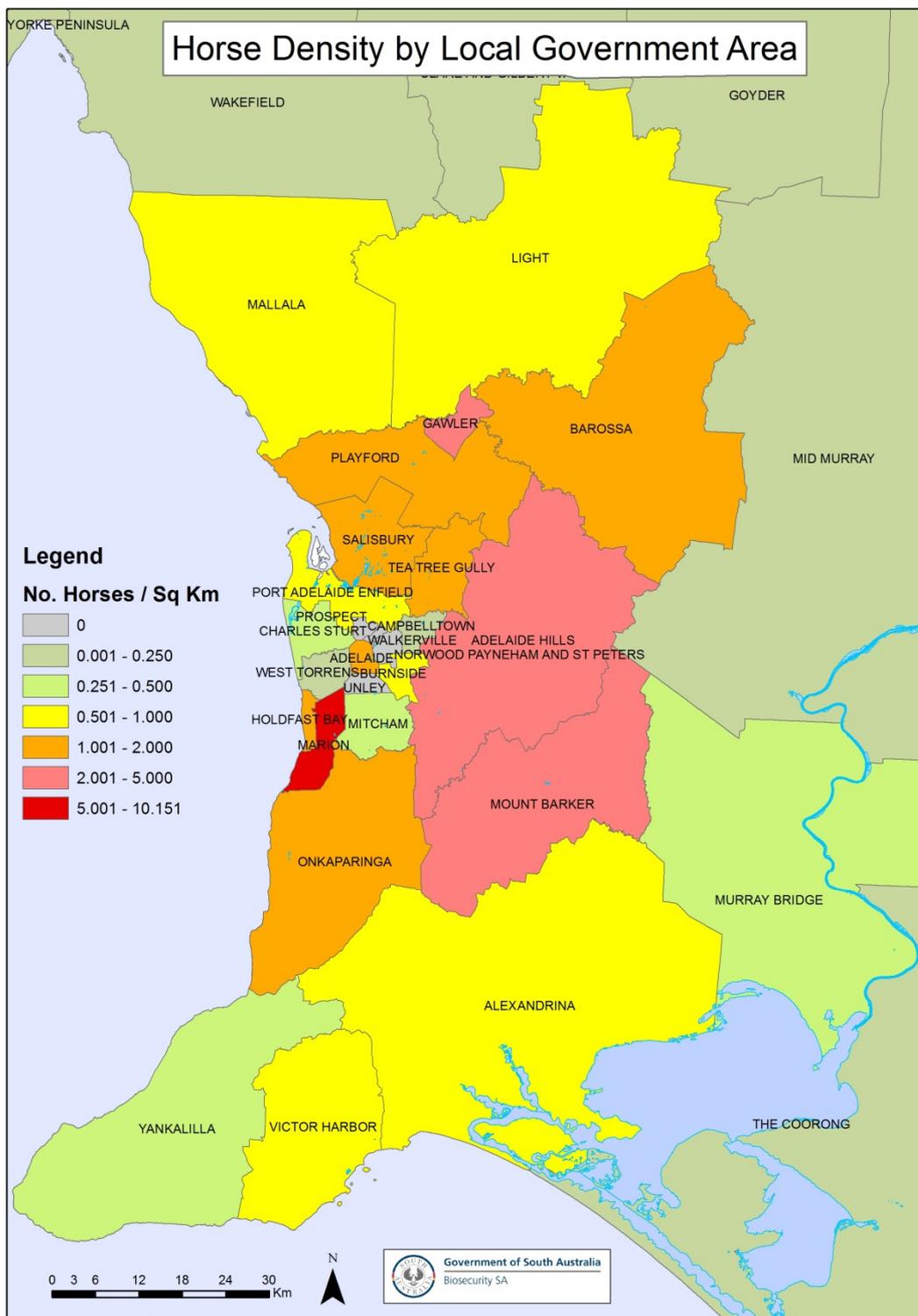


Figure 4: Horse registrations by post code

Summary of trends in participation in horse riding activities

In 2010 7,900 people over the age of 15 years participated in organised and un-organised horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities (0.6% of population) in South Australia.

In 2001, 13,400 participants over the age of 15 years (1.1% of population) in South Australia.

Females more likely to participate than males, both in over 15 years and between 5 and 14 years age ranges

Horse riding, equestrian and polocrosse activities are the ninth most popular non-organised recreational activity in South Australia for those aged over 15 years.

Those living outside capital cities are 3.7 times more likely to participate in horse riding than those in capital cities

The limitations of the available data means that an accurate picture of current and future participation in horse riding activities is difficult to obtain

The apparent anomaly between what the data is showing regarding participation and what clubs and groups are reporting in terms of participation may be a reflection of the general population decline we are seeing in country South Australia and therefore reduced horse ownership and participation in these areas.

4.4. What do existing horse riding clubs, groups and organisations say about current and future participation?

In developing the database regarding existing horse riding facilities and the clubs and groups that use them, information was sought regarding clubs and groups' views on participation rates in horse riding activities.

Of the 191 horse riding clubs, groups or organisations identified by the database, 40 provided a response regarding membership changes in the past 5 years and what they anticipate occurring over the next 5 years. The table below summarises these responses.

Change in membership	Last 5 years	Next 5 years
Decrease	6	1
Increase	16	17
Same (note that some clubs cap their membership, database shows 5)	18	22

Table 4: Changes in Membership

4.5. Current and future capacity

There is limited data and other information available which indicates the current capacity of a facility or future capacity. This is because of the way in which information that is available relating to horse riding activities is mostly linked to the clubs and groups that use them rather than the facility itself. This project has gone some way in addressing this by developing a new database which aims to identify all horse riding facilities as the primary task and then the groups and clubs that use them.

In addition to this lack of information, there is also difficulty understanding whether a facility is at capacity which is associated with the need for grounds to recover between events/meets. Unlike other sport and recreation activities, horse facilities can not be used all day every day, unless significant investment is made in both artificial and turf horse exercise surfaces, staffing and infrastructure such as at Morphetville Racecourse.

In relation to information that is available regarding capacity, a number of groups have identified that they are at full capacity, or have very high membership levels, particularly pony clubs located around the peri-urban fringe. Those clubs which are at capacity (either due to capping of membership or due to facility limitations) currently include:

- Galwer River Pony Club (has the highest number capped at 100)
- Williamstown Pony Club
- Two Wells Pony and Equestrian Club
- Murray Bridge Riding Club (next highest number, but not indicated if capped, at 93)
- Southern Pony Club
- Mountain Pony Club
- Strathalbyn Equestrian Grounds (upto 5 groups regularly use this facility and is hired by many other clubs and associations for annual shows)
- Equus Horse and Pony Club grounds at Globe Derby Park (Riding for the Disabled and the Equus Horse and Pony Club use this facility and is also hired frequently by other groups)

For most of the pony clubs, numbers are capped due to the number of available coaches with many having a waiting list in place. Feedback from the groups and clubs indicates that existing pony clubs are at capacity not for reasons associated with the facility or infrastructure per se, but rather due to the number of available coaches and volunteers.

As shown by **Map 3** in section 6 the clubs which are currently at capacity are located in the peri-urban fringe areas where urban growth is continuing to occur. It is reasonable to suggest that, for example, the demand for pony clubs (as for other sport and recreation uses) in the northern areas will increase as the urban growth occurs. This demand, coupled with the anticipated pressure that is expected to come from the expanding urban area on existing equestrian facilities is a key challenge.

4.5.1. Group membership

In terms of group membership by group type, the database shows the following¹²:

Group type	Number of groups	Average membership 2013	Maximum group membership	Minimum group membership
Equestrian	1	50	50	50
Facility Management	3	530	1,350	20
Other	7	54	192	4
Pony club	17	35	100	7
Racing, harness racing and trots	7	512	1,817	10
Riding club	3	64	93	50
Shows	2	183	290	75

Table 5: Summary of group membership

4.5.2. Catchments that members are drawn from

In terms of the catchment that members are drawn from by different group types the database shows the following¹³:

Pony clubs

- Of the 11 pony clubs that provided a response to this aspect:
 - the furthest distance members travelled ranged between 20 and 60 kilometres
 - the average distance travelled by members ranged between 10 and 25 kilometres
 - some indicated that their members were willing to travel to participate, while others said their members would not

Equestrian

- One group provided a response to this aspect as follows:
 - the furthest distance members travelled was 150 kilometres
 - the average distance travelled by members was 30 kilometres
 - indicated that their members were willing to travel to participate

Riding club

- Of the two riding clubs that provided a response to this aspect:
 - the furthest distance members travelled ranged between 50 and 70 kilometres

¹² Membership details are available for 40 groups.

¹³ Details regarding members willingness to travel is available for 39 groups

- the average distance travelled by members ranged between 7 and 20 kilometres
- one indicated that their members were not willing to travel to participate, while the other said yes if the facilities were better elsewhere

Shows

- Of the 10 show societies or similar that provided a response to this aspect:
 - the furthest distance members travelled was from interstate
 - the average distance travelled was unknown
 - all indicated the willingness to travel to participate

Other¹⁴

- Of the 7 groups identified as 'other' that provided a response to this aspect:
 - the furthest distance members travelled was between 100 and 400 kilometres
 - the average distance members travelled ranged between 30 and 150 kilometres
 - all but one indicated the willingness to travel to participate

Summary of what groups say about participation in horse riding activities

Of those groups that responded, the majority anticipate that their membership will either remain the same or increase.

Some clubs are already at capacity. For neighbourhood level clubs this is often due to available coaches rather than limitations of the facility per se.

The majority of clubs that are at capacity are located on the peri-urban fringe, where urban growth is continuing to occur. It is reasonable to conclude that demand for horse riding facilities will continue to also grow as the population grows. At the same time the availability of public land for horse riding facilities will reduce in these areas (if not adequately planned for).

There is a need to better collect data that focusses on facilities in addition to data about the clubs and groups that use them.

There is no set catchment from which members are drawn from for particular District, Regional and State facilities.

However there are some emerging themes such as pony club and riding club members come from the more immediate locality and there is less of a willingness to

¹⁴ includes endurance, tent pegging, rodeo, side saddle, youth camp, hunt, mounted games, cutting, sales, trail riding, western, polo, polocrosse, historical society

travel, while members of equestrian and show related groups appear to travel greater distances including interstate.

5.0 What strategic context does planning for horse riding facilities sit within?

5.1. State Strategic Context

5.1.1. Seven strategic priorities

Building upon the direction outlined by the State Strategic Plan, the Premier in early 2012 outlined seven immediate priorities for the State's future. These priorities will deliver the focussed action needed to achieve the vision, goals and targets outlined in the State Strategic Plan.

The seven priorities are:

1. Creating a vibrant city
2. Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods
3. An affordable place to live
4. Every chance for every child
5. Growing advanced manufacturing
6. Realising the benefits of the mining boom for all
7. Premium food and wine from a clean environment

The Horse Riding Activities: Planning for Facility Sustainability in Greater Adelaide Metropolitan Area and near Regions project will assist in the achievement of a number of these priorities. For example, the project aims to ensure that horse riding facilities are continued to be planned for and provided across the Greater Adelaide area and near regions. Participation in horse riding delivers a number of benefits including being healthy, active and exercising regularly, being connected to others and participating in our community by being part of a club or group.

5.1.2. State Strategic Plan

South Australia's Strategic Plan sets out the broad objectives and targets for the State. All other State produced plans and reports nest within the Strategic Plan, providing detailed strategies and policies to achieve the State's objectives.

The Horse Riding Activities: Planning for Facility Sustainability in Greater Adelaide Metropolitan Area and near Regions project is consistent with the objectives of South Australia's Strategic Plan, contributing to specific goals and targets outlined in the Plan as follows:

- Goal: We are physically active.
- Target: 1. Urban spaces-Increase the use of public spaces by the community
- Target: 83. Sport and recreation-Increase the proportion of South Australian's participating in sport or physical recreation at least once per week to 50% by 2020.
- Target: 23. Social participation: Increase the proportion of South Australians participating in social, community and economic activities by 2020.

5.1.3. 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

The ongoing provision of horse riding (and keeping) facilities in the Greater Adelaide region will be impacted upon by the land use planning agenda being promoted by the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.

For the purposes of the 30 Year Plan, Greater Adelaide encompasses not only existing metropolitan Local Government Areas, but also outer metropolitan Councils including Mallala, Light, Barossa, Murray Bridge, Alexandrina, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla. This means that the land use planning agenda promoted by the 30 Year Plan will impact many areas where horse riding facilities are currently located.

The 30 Year Plan sets out the State Government's strategic directions for land use and the physical development of the State. The Plan is expected to achieve the following targets across the Greater Adelaide region over its 30 year time frame:

- Population growth of 560,000 people
- The construction of 280,000 additional homes
- Economic growth of \$127.7 billion
- The creation of 282,000 additional jobs.

While the Plan proposes to locate the majority of new housing within existing urban areas, it also aims to supply an additional 10,650 hectares of land across the Greater Adelaide region for new growth areas, predominately on the urban fringe.

This urban growth on the city fringe is likely to place pressure on existing equestrian facilities as urban communities are located closer and closer to horse riding and keeping facilities. In some places, it may mean that these facilities are 'squeezed out' and required to relocate further away from the City. In addition, the population growth being promoted by the 30 Year Plan is likely to increase demand for horse riding facilities.

The 30 Year Plan also identifies contains a number of policies that relate to peri-urban areas. These include preventing land fragmentation and limiting subdivision in areas of "primary production significance". In areas of primary production significance, the Plan contains policies to avoid the expansion or intensification of existing Rural Living Zones. These policies are significant when thinking about the future of horse riding facilities as Rural Living Zones are often preferred by horse owners and therefore there may be even fewer opportunities for those wanting to keep horses.

A summary of the directions outlined in the 30 Year Plan is shown in **Figure 2**.

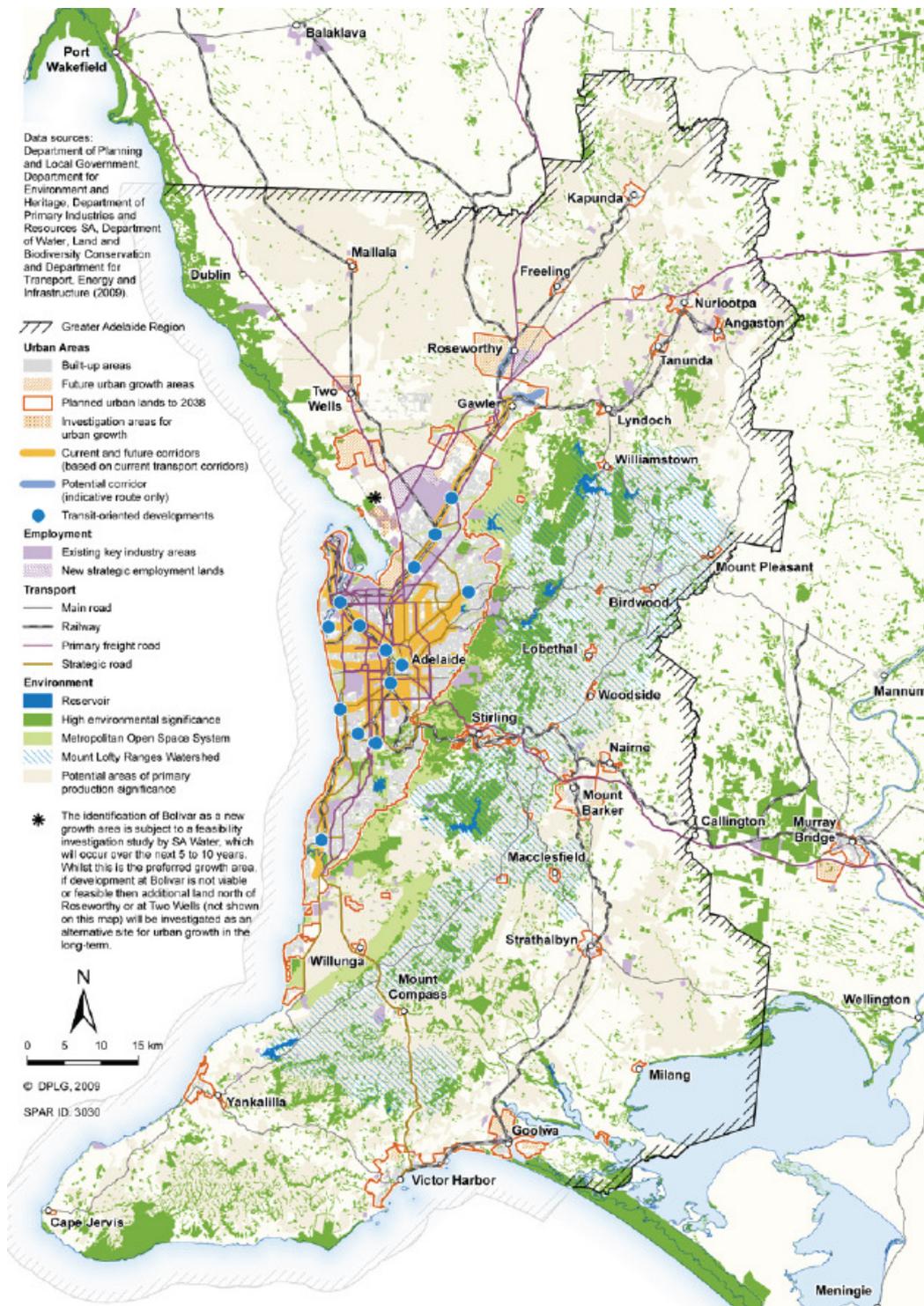


Figure 2: Overview of the growth agenda promoted by the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide

Source: 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, page 73.

5.1.4. Local Government Strategic Plans

In addition to the 30 Year Plan, a range of other documents and strategies are relevant to the provision of horse riding facilities including Local Government strategic plans¹⁵, as well as regional sport and recreational documents¹⁶.

Frequently occurring policy direction contained within the documents reviewed include:

- The need for trails networks that cater for horse riding, as well as walkers and cyclists
- Linking horse keeping areas to horse riding facilities via trails and other access arrangements
- Developing higher quality facilities in regional areas to grow horse related tourism and events
- Developing partnerships between Local Governments, State Government (Office for Recreation and Sport) and clubs to develop regional facilities where these are needed
- Better collaboration between clubs and local Government in developing appropriate places for horse riding to occur.

5.1.5. State Horse Strategy

The *South Australian Recreation and Sport Horse Strategy* (developed in 2000) devotes a chapter to horse riding facilities, noting that:

- Facilities need to be accessible to horse riders.
- Facilities should be multi purpose and flexible to accommodate a range of uses and users.
- High quality facilities located centrally within major horse riding areas will attract participants from a wide geographic area especially if they include facilities for overnight stays for horses.
- An opportunity exists to develop a State Horse Centre, for major events and a centre of excellence for horse riding.
- A hierarchy of facilities should exist, ranging from elite level, international standard, through to local community facilities.

¹⁵ Strategic Plans for the partner Councils were reviewed.

¹⁶ See <http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au/sport-active-recreation/planning.html> for links to Regional Sport and Recreational Strategies

The emphasis on trails in providing recreational opportunities and also connecting agistment with facilities used for horse events presents ongoing challenges and opportunities.

5.2. Population characteristics and projections that impact on horse facility provision

A Growing Population Driving Demand for New Facilities

Greater Adelaide was home to 1,225,235 people at the 2011 Census¹⁷.

Population Projections prepared by the former Department of Planning and Local Government anticipate that Metropolitan Adelaide will grow to a size of 1,420,869, and Outer Adelaide to a size of 190,558 by 2026. This brings Greater Adelaide to a size of 1,611,427.

These projections informed the 30 Year Plan population targets of 560,000 additional people in Adelaide by 2040, at a rate of approximately 18,666 people per year.

Based on this growth rate, if 0.6% of the population continues to participate in horse based activities, it is reasonable to assume that there will be an additional 112 participants in horse based activities each year.

If, however, participation in horse based activities in the Greater Adelaide region to match the national participation rate of 1.0%, there will be an additional 186 participants each year.

Regardless of the specific numbers or assumptions made, it is reasonable to assume that population growth will drive demand for new facilities.

An ageing population to generate increased interest in horse based activities

The ageing nature of South Australia's population is well documented. The number and proportion of the population over the age of 65 living in Greater Adelaide is projected to increase steadily in the years ahead.

According to the DPTI population projections, 20.4% of the Adelaide Statistical Division's population will be over 65 in 2026, up from 15.5% at the 2011 Census.

The ageing nature of the population is also evident in considering the median age of the population, tipped to increase from 39 at the 2011 Census to between 42 and 45 by 2056¹⁸.

¹⁷ Greater Adelaide was defined as the Greater Capital City Statistical Area in the ABS 2011 Census. This area is smaller than Greater Adelaide as defined in the 30 Year Plan.

¹⁸ The rate at which the population ages, according to the ABS modelling, depends upon a range of demographic factors.

Although horse riding itself is undertaken in larger proportions by the younger age cohorts, those involved in the management of horse organisations and events, and the care of horses, are often in the older age groups.

Horse activities such as dressage, trail riding and hunting are also attractive to older persons.

Supporting those living with disabilities

At the 2011 Census, there were 65,809 people living in Greater Adelaide who "required assistance with core activities", which is the Census indicator most closely related to physical disability.

Not for profit horse riding groups, such as Riding for the Disabled, provide safe, healthy stimulating, therapeutic, horse-related activities to people with any form of disability.

Given the significant benefits these types of activities provide, it is important that people with disabilities are able to continue to access horse related facilities.

Summary of strategic context

The ongoing provision of horse riding (and keeping) facilities in the Greater Adelaide region is likely to be impacted upon by the land use planning agenda being promoted by the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide.

This urban growth on the city fringe is likely to place pressure on existing equestrian facilities as urban communities are located closer and closer to horse riding and keeping facilities, which may mean that some facilities are 'squeezed out'.

The 30 Year Plan also promotes avoiding the expansion or intensification of existing Rural Living Zones and fragmentation of primary production areas. These policies are significant when thinking about the future of horse riding facilities as Rural Living Zones are often preferred by horse owners and therefore there may be even fewer opportunities for those wanting to keep horses.

There are opportunities to provide trails for recreation as well as for connecting agistment with horse riding facilities.

It is reasonable to assume that population growth will place pressure on demand at existing facilities and drive demand for new facilities.

Facilities which provide activities for people with disabilities play an important therapeutic and recreation role.

6.0 Key issues relating to planning for horse riding facilities

Throughout this project a range of issues have been identified that are relevant to the consideration of planning for horse riding facilities¹⁹. These issues are summarised below. **Map 3** provides a summary of the key issues impacting on planning for horse riding facilities.

Pressures from urban growth and competing uses

As a result of residential growth and housing infill there is increasing demand on open space within the metropolitan Adelaide area and on the peri-urban fringe from Roseworthy to Sellicks Beach and throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges. This development is placing pressure on community land available to be used for horse related activities. In addition, this growth means that existing facilities are being encroached upon by residential development and there is a perception that horse riding facilities and residential development are incompatible.

There are examples already where existing horse riding facilities located on community land are coming under pressure. One example of this is the Aldinga Equestrian Park which is likely to be surrounded by residential development in coming years. Anticipating this urban growth, the City of Onkaparinga is investigating the future of the Aldinga Sports Centre which may involve the need to relocate horse riding activities over the longer term. This type of pressure on existing facilities associated with perceived land use conflict as residential development moves closer, means these types of established facilities may come under increasing threat to relocate.

Country showgrounds are another example of facilities which have traditionally been used for horse riding activities annually or a few times per year, but are now feeling increased pressure from other user groups. There is an increasing trend towards horse use only on annual show days due to pressure from other sport and recreation users that utilise ovals and fear damage of playing surfaces by horses. Given that many showgrounds are located throughout the peri-urban fringe and areas just outside of greater Adelaide this exacerbates the pressure already being felt as a result of urban growth. Examples where even the annual use is under threat has occurred include the Mount Barker Show (now no longer having horses on the same site as the main show) and the Angaston showground, used by football and cricket, providing a pressure point for use by the Angaston Show for horses for one day per year.

As these pressures continue to occur on the peri-urban fringe, there will be increased demand on existing horse riding facilities in the peri-urban area and beyond, and horse riding activities may be displaced further out as the peri-urban interface shifts.

Given the relationship between the ability to agist/keep horses and the proximity to facilities (refer below), the demand for horse riding facilities is therefore likely to be most keenly felt in the peri-urban areas.

¹⁹ These issues have been identified as the result of research, targeted consultation with representatives of DPTI, ORS and DEWNR, discussions with the steering group and a workshop with representatives of the horse community and other stakeholders.

Insert map 3

Ability to keep horses in proximity to facilities

Horse riding is intrinsically linked to the ability to keep horses. Horse clubs, especially those with a local catchment, thrive if horse agistment is available within a short riding or driving distance. Whilst not a direct concern of sport and recreation providers, the ability to keep horses within easy distance from a facility has an immediate impact on club viability and in turn, facility sustainability.

Horse keeping within the local area appears to be of less concern for District and Regional facilities. However, local agistment is very much linked with participation at neighbourhood level facilities.

Relationship of tenure arrangements and infrastructure

Of the 191 groups documented for this project, the majority hire (74 groups) or lease (57 groups) a facility. For some groups their horse riding activities are very dependent on these tenure arrangements. For example, 71% of pony clubs in the study area lease facilities and 68% of equestrian groups hire facilities.

Many horse clubs lease, or have a permit for, undertaking horse activities on Community land under the control of Local Government. Infrastructure such as club rooms, toilets, horse yarding, wash bays or other horse related amenities are generally included along with open space land. The agreement could be for a one-off event, monthly or for a multi-year period.

Many clubs also make their own improvements to the site, taking up many hours of volunteer time. Any fixed assets normally become the property of the Council should the club leave.

These tenure arrangements can have significant implications for the ongoing sustainability of facilities in terms of investment in infrastructure. Most groups are reliant on external assistance to maintain the facilities they use. Of the 56 groups with information in the database regarding this aspect:

- 13 groups have the ability to maintain their infrastructure
- 39 groups can maintain the infrastructure with help from other sources
- 3 groups cannot maintain their infrastructure
- 1 group is heavily reliant on external assistance

Tenure arrangements can also impact on the ability/desire to make significant improvements to infrastructure at facilities. For example, where a facility is leased or hired, there is less certainty regarding the ongoing future use of the facility. Therefore, there is a greater element of risk associated with investing in significant improvements (both from a funding body perspective as well the horse riding group).

Pressure to relocate being felt by some existing facilities

Some existing horse riding facilities are under pressure and a number of not-for-profit groups such as pony clubs, dressage and show jumping clubs or adult riding clubs are facing future relocation.

Facilities which have an uncertain future include:

- Equestrian Park Aldinga (There will be continued urbanisation of this area over coming years and increased housing is likely to place pressure on the existing facilities at the Aldinga Sports Park. In the long term there may be a need to relocate the horse riding activities to another site. Council has been investigating future opportunities for the development of Aldinga Sports Park.
- Kangarilla Pony Club (encroachment of existing club infrastructure on land designated for other purposes).
- Adelaide Polo Club (Mount Barker Council is investigating opportunities for this area to become a sports and recreation hub. It is unclear as yet, whether horse riding will be part of this hub. It is reasonable to expect that this area will be ultimately surrounded by housing and therefore, horses may not be a part of this future).
- Murray Bridge Riding for the Disabled (is located on private land which is being sold).

Willingness and ability to travel to access facilities

There appears to be less willingness to travel to access facilities, particularly those of a neighbourhood level such as pony clubs. For the majority of pony clubs and riding clubs, members come from within a fairly small radius of the facility, on average approximately 20 kilometres.

Transporting horses requires significant investment in a towing vehicle and float, and some members ride to facilities. Anecdotally it has been reported that members do not float their horses to pony club due to lack of confidence towing or inability to afford the necessary vehicle/float. This issue reinforces the importance of the need for agistment areas in proximity to facilities, particularly those of a local nature such as pony clubs.

This means that relocating these types of facilities can result in clubs closing if located too far from its existing member base. This aspect needs to be carefully considered.

Currently, the future of the Aldinga Equestrian Park is under question which is home to three clubs, the Aldinga Riding Club, Southern Vales Dressage and the Southern Star Western Performance Club. Relocating these clubs to another facility may mean that members are unable to participate due to the travelling distance involved. As previously documented in this report and further explained below, the proximity of some user groups to the facilities they use is a critical aspect to their ongoing survival. Close proximity appears to be of particular significance for Pony Clubs and Riding Clubs.

Being part of a likeminded community

The location of agistment areas and facilities in proximity to one another is particularly important for localised horse riding facilities such as pony clubs and riding clubs. Often, people who own horses and participate in horse riding activities such as pony club or riding clubs choose to reside in areas where other likeminded people are living. This is evident for example, in the areas surrounding Pegasus Pony Club at and Morphett Vale Riding Club.

This sense of community that is built around horse riding facilities and horse keeping is an important aspect to consider when reviewing existing facilities in terms of any plans to relocate facilities. Where relocated too far from the original location (more than 20 kilometres for Pony Clubs and Riding Clubs), this could mean the demise of local clubs and break down of the community fabric that has developed around it.

Perceptions of equity issues with other sport and recreation uses

Horse riding activities take up significant space when compared to many other types of sport and recreation uses. The associated infrastructure required for horse riding facilities such as space to park cars and horse floats and unload/load horses in addition to the area required for the horse riding activity can seem significant.

For some, dedicating this amount of public land for use by a small proportion of the population may seem inequitable.

The need to better integrate planning for horse riding facilities with other planning processes

The needs of the horse riding community are rarely or adequately considered in mainstream strategic or structure planning processes. Given the area of land that horse riding facilities often require it is important that consideration is given to these types of facilities and land allocated early in planning processes, particularly where new urban areas are developing on the fringe of the metropolitan area.

The consideration of horse riding facilities should also extend to the identification of trails (although not part of the scope of this study) as well as the need to provide appropriately zoned land for agistment, given the established relationship between the ability to keep horses and participation in horse riding related groups/activities.

Examples to better consider the needs of horse riders in planning processes might include greater emphasis on horse trails planning, creative analysis of underutilised land (e.g. use of electricity transmission corridors) and identifying possible locations for horse riding facilities via structure planning processes.

Environmental sustainability

Like any facility, horse riding facilities need to consider how to manage their ongoing environmental sustainability. This includes managing water use (horse facilities often require significant volumes of water for irrigation), weeds, dust and soil erosion and protecting drinking water quality and remnant vegetation.

The important relationship of the ability to irrigate and the sustainability of horse riding facilities was recently demonstrated at the Strathalbyn Polo and Recreation

Grounds. The 2013 State Showjumping Championships were unable to be held at this facility due to the inability to water grounds and the surface being unsafe. In previous years the grounds used water from the Alexandrina Council sewage ponds which have now been decommissioned. This type of situation emphasises the need to have reliable, long term access to water.

In discussion with DEWNR, it was suggested that horse riding facility design and management provides the opportunity to educate horse owners in sustainable property management through leading by example. That is the design and management of horse riding facilities can show horse owners ways to better manage their own land in terms of water use, dust and erosion control, weed management, stable design etc.

Biosecurity issues-risk from horses

In discussion with DEWNR, it was noted that horses do have the potential to transmit soil borne diseases such as phytophthora when undertaking recreational activities, but to date, transmission of soil borne diseases by horses is considered low.

Biosecurity-horse diseases

Biosecurity is the management and individual hygiene practices that minimise the movement of disease onto, off and within a venue, and the measures taken to prevent, or control, the introduction and spread of infectious agents to horses.

Where multiple horses come together there is the potential to spread infectious disease. Horse events act as multipliers for the spread of infectious diseases should an outbreak occur. All horse riding venue owners and managers should establish a set of biosecurity measures applicable to their venue, which ensure horses are protected from disease and pests.

Facilities across the study area have varying levels of formalised biosecurity controls in place, with the majority of facilities having no written biosecurity management plan in place.

Climate change adaptation

As a result of climate change we can expect more frequent and extreme weather events including heat waves, storms and bushfires and a continued decline in rainfall, and higher temperatures.

In planning for horse riding facilities it is important to consider the impacts and opportunities presented by climate change and what they might mean for the provision, design and management of horse riding facilities. Key considerations include thinking about what the implications more days over 35 degrees in a row, less rainfall and more frequent and intense storms might have on horse riding activities/facilities. For example, what might the impacts of climate change mean for the scheduling of events and activities, the need to retrofit or provide new facilities to ensure the comfort of horses and riders, the risks associated with the spread of equine diseases, the growing of feed or pasture and the proliferation of some types of weeds.

Land use conflict with neighbouring properties

There is potential for conflict between horse riding facilities and neighbouring properties as a result of traffic, noise, dust and odour. Where horse riding facilities are located within urbanised areas, this potential for conflict increases, particularly as urban infill occurs and urban horse riding facilities are 'squeezed out'.

As urban growth continues to occur on the peri-urban fringe, which is where many horse riding facilities have traditionally been located, again, horse riding facilities are pushed further out.

It is noted that many horse riding facilities and horse owners are well aware of the potential for adverse impacts that can result from horse riding and actively manage their use of facilities accordingly.

It was noted in discussion with DEWNR that those horse owners who are able to ride publically are more likely to implement sustainable land management practices on their own properties. It was also felt that any opportunities to better account for the needs of recreational horse riders in urban growth areas through, for example, the provision of bridle tracks in open space corridors, would be particularly beneficial.

Economic benefits of horse riding activities

The horse industry including horse keeping and horse riding facility users contribute to the State and local economies.

In 2001 the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)²⁰ estimated that in 1999 the contribution of the horse industry to the Australian economy was \$6329 million. Further that if voluntary labour was included the contribution would have been about \$8000 million. If these estimates are inflated to 2011 values and if, based on South Australia's share of the national economy, it is assumed that South Australia's horse industry contributes 6 per cent of the Australian horse industry total then the contribution of South Australia's horse industry in 2011 would have been around \$550 million. If voluntary labour was included then the contribution would have been around \$700 million.

A study by Horse SA shows that horses and their use impacts on the economy in a number of ways including the spend of horse owners on:

- Annual expenditure for the care of the horse
- Annual expenditure for the care of the land and horse related infrastructure
- Annual expenditure related to undertaking an activity of choice with a horse
- Capital investment in horses, property and horse related equipment
- Land dedicated to the keeping of horses and horse feed production
- Employment

²⁰ <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/01-083>

Based on a survey of horse owners in 2012²¹, Horse SA sought responses to a range of questions that aimed to understand how much owners spend on keeping their horses and participation in horse riding activities via groups or clubs. Initial analysis of the survey shows the significant financial investment involved with the care for a horse and participation in horse riding activities.

New ways of thinking about facility provision

The establishment of equestrian precincts in the peri-urban fringe where there is shared stabling and riding facilities is a direction that could be further investigated. The implications of such an arrangement in terms of allotment sizes, the sorts of development (e.g. would dwellings on-site be appropriate) and titling (e.g. torrens title versus community title) would need to be resolved.

This type of approach would lead to more intensive agistment facilities with recreation assets (ie horse riding facilities) and could offset the broader land use impacts that result from rural living/lifestyle allotments. This contrasts with horse keeping in the region currently where a small number of horses are held on rural living type allotments. Overseas there are numerous examples in cities where this type of approach has been adopted.

The planned development at Gifford Hill at Murray Bridge is an example of this type of equine precinct development whereby stabling, housing, trails and facilities are located in direct proximity of each other.

If this type of approach was amenable, there may be scope to amend the South Australian Planning Policy Library to incorporate some form of equestrian policy area/precinct within existing zone(s). This also recognises that public land for horse agistment (e.g. such as that provided in the Adelaide Park Lands) is still in demand and is a legitimate land use and not just a remnant of the "old days".

Maintenance and infrastructure provision standards

There is an absence of standards regarding the provision and maintenance of facilities. Without such standards, the variability in facility provision across the study area will remain inconsistent. This means that some horse riding facilities have very limited infrastructure and amenities for both riders and horses. For example, many local horse facilities, including pony clubs, still operate on uneven, untreated surfaces (e.g. paddocks). Public amenities such as spectator facilities including seating and shade and toilets and showers are unsatisfactory at the majority of facilities. There are examples where investment has been made in core infrastructure such as at the Adelaide Polo Club which has good clubrooms and competition surfaces, however, there is no overnight stabling or semi-permanent horse care facilities due to the short nature of the tournaments and the short summer season.

²¹ Horse SA, 2012, Cost of Horse Ownership Report

Funding processes

As discussed above, many groups are reliant on funding to maintain, upgrade and provide infrastructure/facilities.

Funding processes can appear difficult and onerous depending on the group and its available skills and experience. Some groups/organisations are better able to drive this process due to their organisational structure, ability to advocate for their club's needs and financial resources.

It was identified by the ORS that with respect to individual facilities, while the peak bodies and to a lesser extent local government can lead the broader planning process, it is individual clubs who need to drive the detailed investigations, taking ideas to a concept, feasibility study and businesses case that can be used to lever funds and secure grants.

The ORS can provide a support role throughout this process, however is only able to consider grant funding and/or develop a budget bid once the case has been properly made.

It was considered that where horse groups/ organisations are less organised and resourced, Local Government has a bigger role to play in the planning of new provisions. With respect to local government, key roles include:

- Strategic planning and broad needs and opportunity assessment
- Use of Council land and facilities
- Direct support to organisations with the detailed feasibility studies and business cases.

For an organisation like Horse SA, its role primarily resides with undertaking strategic planning processes such as the one associated with this report and advocating for better facility provision more broadly, rather than driving individual facility provision.

Shared use facilities

As a general philosophy, the ORS promotes the sharing of facilities wherever possible as such an approach maximises the use of facilities while sharing the costs associated with construction and maintenance. It is acknowledged that for horse riding activities, this may not be as easy due to the specialist nature of some facilities, the sometimes significant land requirement and the non-seasonal nature of the activity (i.e. doesn't occur only for certain months of the year like football for example).

In addition, facilities need to be managed to enable grounds to recover between use. Horse riding activities are not like other sports/recreation activities whereby an oval can be used by different groups in the morning, afternoon and evening. Therefore the use of facilities by multiple groups for different horse riding activities needs to be scheduled and managed accordingly.

Sharing of facilities for the horse community is often more likely to occur with the consolidation and/ or co-location of horse riding facilities rather than sharing with other recreational users. The sharing of facilities by other horse users is likely to be

more successful. There is evidence in the study area to suggest that shared use by horse riding and non-horse related users is less likely to be successful. For example, in country towns where the oval is part of the showgrounds, horse riding is being "squeezed out" even for their one day of use per year in preference for football and cricket.

There is also evidence in the study area of horse and non horse related activities coexisting. There are several examples in the study area where this is occurring such as at Weigall Oval where trotting occurs in addition to soccer and baseball and at Lockleys where there is a horse arena coexisting with baseball. The sharing of facilities by horse and non-horse activities may be an opportunity to be explored.

The consolidation and co-location of horse riding facilities has the added benefit of developing a larger conglomeration of horse related activities, which can help to build broader community awareness/understanding of horses in the area. For example when the Enfield club relocated to Globe Derby, they were moving into an area that was already known for horse riding and therefore people understood and were more sympathetic to the needs of horses.

In addition, the co-location of facilities has the added benefit of creating vibrancy that comes from a diversity of activities and users in one location.

Already across the study area, groups are sharing facilities. There are 191 groups identified, using 42 public land facilities. Facilities where clustering of groups is particularly occurring include:

- Mount Pleasant showground
- Strathalbyn Equestrian Grounds
- Aldinga Equestrian Park

The Alexandrina Council has been investigating the opportunity to establish an Equine Precinct (including undercover facility) and complement existing horse related facilities such as the racecourse. These investigations have in part been driven by the need for a Riding for the Disabled facility and the pressures being felt by other horse riding groups using the Strathalbyn showground where a lack of water for irrigation is adversely impacting on use of the facility. For Alexandrina Council, the establishment of an Equine Precinct can deliver a range of economic, environmental and social benefits including future proofing horse riding facilities in the area.

To further this objective the Alexandrina Council as an Agistment Zone which is a zone primarily for horse agistment adjacent the Strathalbyn racecourse.

At the same time, the Strathalbyn Consultative Committee has been progressing a proposal to rehabilitate the Terramin mine site at Strathalbyn for equestrian use. It is understood that this proposal seeks to establish a multi-use site which could incorporate horse and non-horse related activities.

There is also opportunity for the further colocation or clustering of horse activities in Roseworthy given the establishment of the Equine Hospital, racing and concentration of agistment in the locality. The clustering of activities is recognised

internationally as a core approach to building a modern economy that facilitates innovation, research, growth and professional development. The Regional Development Australia-Barossa has been working to understand how cluster development centred around the horse industry in Gawler and Roseworthy might occur. A possible location for this clustering could be the Kapunda Harness Racing Club.

Although outside of the scope of this project, it is important to note that one of the greatest sharing opportunities for horses is with trails. This is particularly true in outer metropolitan/peri-urban areas where volumes of pedestrians and cyclists are lower, and opening the trails/trails corridors to horses may result in increased usage. The ORS considers that practical issues such as whether horses ride on or off the sealed trail; the need to provide separate bridle trail; trail conflict management; dealing with horse waste can be worked through on a case by case basis. It is important to be clear to all trail users and stakeholders about what is reasonable to expect on a shared use trail (e.g. a horse would not be expected on the Torrens Linear Park, but may be expected on the Coast to Vines trail).

It is the ORS' experience that shared use arrangements, and increased recreational access for horses, are best achieved by developing relationships with landowners early in the process. This was pivotal to the successful establishment of the Kidman Trail.

Commitment and communication within horse community

As a community, there is a need to communicate and commit to the delivery of horse riding facilities across the study area.

Although it is likely that many facilities will be driven on an individual basis, there is still a role for a shared vision and commitment regarding the ongoing need to cater for all manner of horse riding activities and the valuable role horse riding plays in our community as a sport and recreational pursuit.

In addition, as noted above, there will likely be an increasing need for shared use and cooperative management of facilities in the future. This sharing of facilities will not only occur in response to the pressures evident as a result for example of urban growth, but also because of the opportunities they present such as the ability to provide a better standard of facility and the vibrancy that comes from a diversity of uses in one location.

Provision of a diversity of facilities

Like any sport and recreation facilities, horse riding facilities can operate at different levels, ranging from those suitable for international and national competitions through to local pony club meets.

The challenges of planning for horse riding facilities when activities are so diverse and there is an absence of a standardised approach to their provision in terms of an agreed hierarchy have been described earlier.

Despite these challenges there is the need to ensure that horse riding facilities are provided which cater for a diversity of activities and levels of participation ranging from elite through to learning and are accessible for all members of the community.

The review of existing horse riding facilities in the study area shows that there is no facility that is dedicated to elite competition at the national and international level. There is also an absence of a regional type level facility in the northern region.

Summary of key issues relating to planning for facilities

Increased urban growth means that some existing facilities are being encroached upon by residential development. This is particularly evident in the peri-urban area.

There is a perception that horse riding facilities and residential development are incompatible and therefore there can be pressure to relocate existing facilities as urban areas grow.

The ability to keep horses within easy distance from a facility has an immediate impact on club viability and in turn, facility sustainability. The location of agistment areas and facilities in proximity to one another is particularly important for local, neighbourhood level horse riding facilities such as pony clubs and riding clubs.

For the majority of pony clubs and riding clubs, members come from within a fairly small radius of the facility, on average approximately 20 kilometres. This means that relocating these types of facilities can result in clubs closing if located too far from their existing member base.

There is an absence of standards regarding the provision and maintenance of facilities. This means that the standard of facilities across the study area is variable. Without a consistent approach this variability in facility provision will remain.

Some groups and clubs have very limited ability to fund infrastructure improvements/maintenance. Many groups are reliant on funding to maintain, upgrade and provide infrastructure/facilities. Funding processes can appear difficult and onerous depending on the group and its available skills and experience.

Tenure arrangements impact on the ability/desire to make significant improvements to infrastructure at facilities. Some tenure arrangements mean there is less certainty regarding the ongoing future use of the facility. Therefore, there is a greater element of risk associated with investing in significant improvements.

There is a need to better integrate horse riding considerations into mainstream strategic or structure planning processes, including the identification of trails, the need to provide appropriately zoned land for agistment and setting aside land for facilities.

Horse riding facilities need to consider how to manage their ongoing environmental sustainability. This includes managing water use (horse facilities often require significant volumes of water for irrigation), weeds, dust and soil erosion and protecting drinking water quality and remnant vegetation.

Horse riding facilities should not be planned for sites known to be infected with Phytophthora in order to minimise the spread of this soil based disease.

The design and management of horse riding facilities needs to consider the impacts and opportunities presented by climate change.

The establishment of equestrian precincts in the peri-urban fringe where there is shared stabling and riding facilities is a direction to be investigated.

The sharing of facilities maximises the use of facilities while sharing the costs associated with construction and maintenance. The co-location or co-siting of facilities also has the added benefit of creating vibrancy that comes from a diversity of activities and users in one location. This sharing can be by horse only activities as well as with non-horse activities.

The use of facilities by multiple groups for different horse riding activities needs to be scheduled and managed accordingly.

Horse riding facilities should be provided which cater for a diversity of activities and levels of participation ranging from elite through to learning and are accessible for all members of the community.

There is a need to communicate about and commit to a shared vision for the delivery of horse riding facilities across the study area

7.0 Conclusions and recommendations for planning for horse riding facility sustainability

Based on the information collected by this project and documented in this report the following conclusions and recommendations are made regarding planning for horse riding facility sustainability. These conclusions and recommendations are structured in two parts. Firstly, those that are higher level and relate to planning for horse riding facility sustainability across the region, and secondly, those that relate more specifically to those Councils or Council areas, horse organisations and government agencies that have been partners in this project.

For each recommendation the following information is provided:

- Lead responsibility-group, organisation or agency responsible for progressing the recommendation
- Other stakeholders-those who are likely to also have an interest and should be involved in progressing the recommendation
- Priority for implementation-level of priority for implementation of the recommendation.

Priority has been assigned using the following criteria and colour coding:

Priority	Criteria
Critical, urgent and/or achievable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical to the ongoing sustainability of facility planning and provision; and/or • Requires action in short term as relates to another project/activity/initiative underway; and/or • Easy and early win (i.e. is relatively easy to implement or requires minimal effort to deliver).
Important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to facility sustainability; and/or • Is subject to change in circumstances or resources becoming available; and/or • Is desirable over the medium to longer term.

7.1. Conclusions and Recommendations-Regional

7.1.1. A shared vision

Throughout this project, it has been identified that there is a need for a shared vision regarding planning for the future of horse riding facilities in the study area. Based on various discussions with representatives of horse clubs and groups and State and local government a vision has been identified. Fundamental to this vision is the concept of sustainability. As discussed earlier in this report, sustainability in the context of this project, recognises the importance of maintaining access to suitable horse riding facilities into the future that are well designed, managed, provided and planned for.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
1.	Adopt the following shared vision and use it in communicating about and planning for, horse riding facilities: <i>Sustainable horse riding facilities that support access to a diversity of horse riding experiences and help realise the positive contribution horse riding activities make to the community.</i>	Horse SA	Horse clubs and groups, Councils, government agencies	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.1.2. Understanding current and future demand for horse riding facilities for needs based planning

Understanding current demand and being able to project future demand is a difficult task given the lack of accurate data regarding participation rates, membership numbers, facility capacity, activities that facilities cater for etc. This project has found that there is a significant gap in consistently collected and recorded information relating to horse riding facilities and the clubs and groups that use them.

This project has gone some way to “plugging” this gap through the development of a new database comprising existing horse riding facilities and the clubs and groups that use them. This database is GIS based and will continue to be managed and updated by Horse SA into the future.

The lack of data available relating to participation rates in horse riding activities is not something that has been able to be addressed by this project. Without a more accurate understanding of current levels of participation in horse riding activities it is difficult to predict future demand and therefore make detailed recommendations about the future of existing as well as new facilities. Having said this, it is acknowledged that participation rates alone will not be the only predictor of demand for facilities. There are a range of issues that impact on whether new facilities are required including aspects such as:

- The wide ranging of activities that involve horse riding and the specialist nature therefore of some facilities to cater for these activities.
- The need to schedule and manage use of a facility to enable recovery of grounds between use. Horse riding activities are not like other sports/recreation activities whereby an oval can be used by different groups in the morning, afternoon and evening. Therefore the use of a facility may need to be limited accordingly.

Developing an understanding of current, and as time goes by, historic, participation in horse riding activities will assist in being able to more accurately project future demand.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
2.	Maintain and add to the <i>Facility and Groups Database</i> developed by this project so that it remains up to date with information about existing horse riding facilities and the clubs and groups that use them.	Horse SA	Councils, user groups and clubs	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
3.	Make the <i>Facility and Groups Database</i> available to clubs, groups and organisations to assist them with facility planning.	Horse SA	Councils, user groups and clubs	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
4.	Provide GIS data layers to Councils.	Horse SA	Councils	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

Conclusions and recommendations for planning for horse riding facility sustainability

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
5.	Utilise the GIS data collected for this project to support other planning processes.	State government agencies	GIS data will reside with Horse SA and be available on its website	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
6.	Promote the public GIS version of existing horse facility locations (prepared by this project) to the wider community, in order to support use and hire of venues.	Horse SA	User groups and clubs	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.1.3. Communicating facility requirements

Communicating facility requirements

This project has also found that there are no agreed service provision thresholds or standards for horse riding facilities, and that often, horse riding facilities are “opportunistic” in that a space or land becomes available or is required for a particular activity and a best fit approach is adopted. In the absence of this guidance, stakeholders consulted for this project have expressed a desire to have a better understanding of what is required for typical types of horse riding facilities in terms of land size and infrastructure.

In an effort to provide guidance in this regard, Horse SA has previously prepared a range of information and resources that aim to provide guidance to clubs, groups and organisations. Examples include the summary of facility requirements by different user groups (refer **Appendix C**) and the resource Sport & Recreation Horse Activities on Community Land: A guide for volunteer horse activity groups and local government which provides information about infrastructure design and other considerations for horse related facilities.

Table 1 in this report provides a summary of existing horse riding facilities in the study area and the common activities or horse riding disciplines catered for. This information may also provide some assistance in understanding what is required by different disciplines/activity types.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
7.	Promote existing resources that provide guidance about horse riding facility requirements to clubs, groups and organisations such as Local Government. This may be as simple as developing a Fact Sheet that lists existing “go to” reports, guidelines and websites for relevant information regarding facility requirements.	Horse SA	User groups and clubs, horse organisations and Councils	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
8.	Review the grant program provided by the Office for Recreation and Sport to determine if high-demand venues hired to (horse activity) sport and recreation groups are eligible to apply for grants to maintain or upgrade essential facilities (e.g. undertake upgrades of associated toilets and safety features as it is recognised that a number of private indoor riding arenas are frequently used by clubs and associations).	Horse SA	ORS	Important

Recommendation	Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
<p>9. Articulate and communicate the requirements of different facility types (e.g. level in hierarchy, horse riding activity type or discipline) to those organisations that plan for and provide facilities and infrastructure such as local government and horse riding groups and clubs. As a starting point the following could be used as a guide to assist with undertaking a first pass or high level assessment of facility requirements and could comprise the content of a Fact Sheet or similar.</p> <p>Neighbourhood facility (e.g. Southern Hills Pony Club, Lockleys Riding Club)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically a home base for one club • Small site / land parcel. • Small and/or limited range of equestrian facilities (i.e. single arena and / or open space area). • Limited supportive infrastructure (if any), may be associated with other users / groups. • Catchment from the surrounding area only (or larger area for an annual event). Relatively close proximity to other larger equestrian venue/s. • Limited range of equestrian disciplines and events offered. • Caters for one equestrian club / organisation only. <p>District Facility (e.g. Oakbank Racecourse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically a home base for two clubs or one club and a number of regular "hirers" • Medium size site / land parcel. • Good range of equestrian facilities, including two or more arenas. • Good provision of supportive infrastructure, including clubrooms, amenity facilities, dedicated storage, suitable car parking etc. • Catchment from surrounding suburbs / townships. • A range of equestrian disciplines and events offered. • Caters for more than one equestrian club / organisation. 	<p>Horse SA</p>	<p>ORS</p>	<p>Critical, urgent and/or achievable</p>

Recommendation	Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
<p>Regional facility (e.g. Northern Adelaide Regional Equestrian Centre, Equestrian Park Aldinga)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a catchment greater than a Council boundary • Provide a broad range of high level facilities on a large site • Capable of hosting elite level competitions / and events with large numbers of participants and spectators. <p>State Facility (e.g. Adelaide Showground, Globe Derby Park)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "headquarters" for a single sport or a range of equestrian sports with similar facility requirements • Catering from local to international level events, and major events as currently run in the State. <p>Administration home base for a range of organisations that service the sport, recreation or breeding sectors</p>			

7.1.4. Development and use of tools

<p>To further assist with delivering a more consistent approach to facility provision, there is a need to articulate and communicate what facilities should provide in terms of infrastructure and amenity. This information would be useful to clubs and groups as well as other facility providers such as local government.</p>			
Recommendation	Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
<p>10. Develop the tools that help support the delivery of a shared vision for planning for horse riding facilities. Such tools include guidelines or fact sheets that set out minimal infrastructure requirements for different types of facilities. Information to be covered should not only focus on the horse riding activity itself but extend to the needs of spectators and riders' comfort and amenity. The information should also address (where not already available) other issues relevant to facilities such as climate change adaptation, land management, access to water and biosecurity.</p>	<p>Horse SA</p>	<p>Councils, user groups and clubs</p>	<p>Critical, urgent and/or achievable</p>

7.1.5. Meeting current and future demand and catering for a diversity of activities, learning, levels of participation and competition

Currently in South Australia there is no established hierarchy that is used to classify horse riding facilities. Identifying a hierarchy and understanding where existing facilities fit within that hierarchy can assist with understanding the appropriateness or otherwise of the existing level of facility provision. This project has gone some way in addressing this issue by applying a hierarchy lens using proposed hierarchy criteria from Victoria.

Recommendation	Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
11. Adopt and apply a hierarchy of facilities to ensure that a diversity of activities, learning, levels of participation and competition are catered for across the study area. The hierarchy for equestrian facilities developed in Victoria by Cardinia Shire Council is suggested and has been applied to existing facilities in the study area as identified in Table 1. It should be noted levels of hierarchy have been assigned without a site visit and audit process and therefore requires further investigation and verification.	Councils, user groups and clubs	Horse SA	Important

7.1.6. Facility requirements across the region

The review of facilities currently provided across the study area shows that there is an absence of a regional level facility in the northern region. This is in contrast to the rest of the study area where regional facilities are located in the south (Equestrian Park Aldinga), in the hills (Adelaide Hills Equestrian Centre), to the south east (Strathalbyn Polo and Equestrian Grounds and Monarto Equestrian Centre) and in the city (Adelaide Showgrounds).

The review of facilities has not revealed that any existing facilities are inactive or underutilised. Rather, the review process shows a high level of use and activity at existing facilities and for some facilities the inability to meet demand. For some of those facilities that report an inability to meet demand, the issue appears to relate to the lack of coaching staff rather than the facility itself in being able to cater for additional membership. This is certainly the case for a number of pony clubs.

There may be opportunity for consolidation or relocation by taking up opportunities that have been identified by this project in the future. Each of these opportunities would need to be further investigated by the relevant groups, clubs and other stakeholders to determine their appropriateness for use. The scope of this project has not extended to assessing individual opportunities and the specific circumstances of existing facilities and user groups, although a number of more specific recommendations are made in this regard in section 7.2.

Opportunities include:

- Adelaide University at Roseworthy has identified the desire to establish an indoor arena to assist with horse handling training but would not require the use of the facility for more than a few hours per week. This desire coupled with the obvious synergies with the equine hospital being constructed nearby provides an opportunity for the establishment of a multi-use facility.

Conclusions and recommendations for planning for horse riding facility sustainability

- The Kapunda trotting track is not used for many race meets per year due to its size and therefore provides an opportunity for increased use by horse riding groups.
- Alexandrina Council is investigating the opportunity to establish an undercover facility in an Equine Precinct to complement existing horse facilities in Strathalbyn such as the racecourse.
- The Strathalbyn Consultative Committee is progressing a proposal to rehabilitate the Terramin Mine site for equestrian and other uses.
- Year round use of the showgrounds facilities for horse riding activities at the Adelaide showgrounds. The Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Adelaide Showground Master Plan and subsequent Ministerial Development Plan Amendment earmark this potential. 65 million dollars has been invested in showground facility developments over the last five years. There may be opportunity for the horse industry to pursue the development of horse facilities at the showground for all year round use once interrelated projects have progressed.
- The planned development at Gifford Hill at Murray Bridge is an equine precinct development whereby stabling, housing, trails and facilities are located in direct proximity of each other.
- The establishment of an indoor arena/enclosed shed at Tallunga Park. The existing facilities at Tallunga Park could be enhanced by the provision of an indoor arena/all purpose large enclosed shed, providing services for many community groups, including horse organisations to allow use of the facility during wetter months.

Map 4 summarises future opportunities for horse riding facilities identified by this project (note this map is not exhaustive).

Recommendations		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
12.	Maintain a spread of facilities, catering for a diversity of horse riding activities across the region. This includes ensuring that all levels of hierarchy are adequately catered for.	Councils, horse user groups and clubs, horse organisations	Horse SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
13.	Retain and support existing facilities (i.e. those documented in Table 1 in this report) subject to more detailed investigations. Opportunities for consolidation/relocation would need to be investigated by the relevant organisation, groups, clubs and other stakeholders to determine their appropriateness for use. This project has insufficient information to provide specific direction for new locations to relocate facilities.	Councils, horse user groups and clubs, horse organisations	Horse SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
14.	Where neighbourhood level facilities are being reviewed for relocation, be mindful of the need for their new location to be in proximity to the existing facility to ensure that the existing local clubs do not disintegrate as a result of the relocation.	Councils, horse user groups and clubs, horse organisations	Horse SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
15.	Pony Club SA to undertake a study to investigate options for reducing waiting lists and avoidance of capping of numbers at peri-urban clubs.	Pony Club SA		Critical, urgent and/or achievable

Conclusions and recommendations for planning for horse riding facility sustainability

Recommendations		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
16.	<p>Maintain access to public horse riding facilities in inner, urban Adelaide. This includes retaining existing facilities within urban areas, such as those found in the City of West Torrens, as well as exploring new opportunities for facilities in urban locations.</p>	Urban Councils		Critical, urgent and/or achievable
17.	<p>Address the absence of a regional facility in the outer north. In the first instance, a more focused inner and outer northern Adelaide regional horse facility study should be undertaken. This study should review existing facilities (such as those at Globe Derby Park, Roseworthy and Kapunda) with the view to identifying the opportunity to establish a new regional facility in the outer north. Other aspects to be addressed by such a study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of current facility assets and their condition • Future development of the study area • Developing a more detailed understanding of user groups and horse owners within the study area including the types of activities and events run over a calendar year and the opportunity to attract new events to the region • Where facilities are clustered (i.e. horse facilities on different sites but in the same locality) consider • Future options for relocation of Belvedere Pony Club and potential re-homing of Northern Districts Showjumping Club. • Community horse keeping opportunities <p>The outcome of this type of study would be a range of recommendations for future land allocation and investment in horse facilities in the inner and outer north.</p>	Existing user groups, City of Salisbury,	Horse SA, Globe Derby Park	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.1.7. Facilities on the peri-urban fringe

It is clear that demand for horse riding facilities will continue and that increasing pressure will be felt by existing facilities particularly on the interface between peri-urban and urban areas. Given that much of the areas available for agistment are located in these peri-urban areas and that there is a direct link between participation and use of horse riding facilities and the ability to keep horses in proximity to facilities, it is important that facilities are continued to be supported and located on the peri-urban fringe.

This is particularly the case in the northern area where growth is occurring in line with the key transport corridors such as the Northern Expressway. This growth will place pressure on land available for agistment as well as community land available for horse riding facilities.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
18.	Retain existing facilities and support their continued location in the peri-urban fringe.	Peri-urban Councils	Horse user groups and clubs, horse organisations, Horse SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
19.	Actively communicate and advocate for the strong relationship between agistment and horse facility viability via involvement in planning processes such as development plan amendments and strategic directions report processes undertaken by Councils. One way to achieve this is via formal submission in the statutory consultation processes associated with development plan amendments and strategic directions report.	Horse SA	Horse user groups and clubs, horse organisations such as Equestrian SA, Pony Club SA, Harness Racing SA etc	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.1.8. Integration of planning for horse riding facilities into broader planning processes

Due to their nature including their potential impacts, unique needs and size of land required, horse riding facilities are not easily accommodated retrospectively particularly where new urban areas are developing on the fringe of the metropolitan area. Therefore, it is important that planning for horse riding facilities is integrated into broader planning processes so that it is considered “up front”.

The consideration of horse riding facilities should also extend to the identification of trails (although not part of the scope of this study) as well as the need to provide appropriately zoned land for agistment, given the established relationship between the ability to keep horses and participation in horse riding related groups/activities.

Examples to better consider the needs of horse riders in planning processes might include placing greater emphasis on horse trails planning, creative analysis of underutilised land (e.g. use of electricity transmission corridors) and identifying possible locations for horse riding facilities via structure planning processes.

An example of how to “get in early” in planning processes is the planned development of Roseworthy, Garden Town. This project provides the opportunity to consider planning for horse riding opportunities early in the process. The Roseworthy Garden Town Planning Project by Light regional Council identifies green belts as an important aspect of the Garden Town’s development. These green belts could provide horse trail opportunities. In addition, there is a need for the development to consider providing allotments suitable for agistment or community agistment centres such as the one in place at Sunnybrae Pony Club. The Roseworthy Garden Town will develop land for housing that has traditionally been used for horse keeping and therefore opportunities to replace this land could be investigated.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
20.	Develop a horse facility planning checklist for Local Government to help raise awareness of horse facility requirements and facilitate the integration of horse riding considerations into mainstream strategic or structure planning processes. This checklist should identify key aspects to be considered such as the amount of land required, infrastructure requirements, opportunities for shared use, recreational trail linkages, the need to provide appropriately zoned land that allows for the keeping of horses in different planning zones within a Council district.	Horse SA	Local Government Association, Councils	Important
21.	Undertake a regional recreational plan for horse trails and land set aside which permits the exercising of horses to complement the work already undertaken by Light Regional Council, The Barossa Council and Gawler Council. This trails plan to also take in Adelaide Hills Council and the City of Tea Tree Gully.	Light Regional Council, The Barossa Council, Gawler Council, Adelaide Hills Council and the City of Tea Tree Gully.	Horse SA, horse groups and clubs, horse organisations such as Equestrian SA, Pony Club SA,	Important

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
22.	Explore the potential for incorporating more specific policy into the South Australian Planning Policy Library that relates to planning for horse riding facilities including trails. Policy considerations include the development of some form of equestrian policy area/precinct within existing zone(s) and the review of relevant modules such as the Open Space and Recreation Module to incorporate references to horse trails.	DPTI	Horse SA	Important
23.	Undertake a research study to identify approaches to the provision of integrated agistment and horse riding opportunities on community land. This research study would comprise desktop research of national and international approaches, focussing on the benefits and disadvantages.	Horse SA	Local Government Association, Councils, DPTI, ORS	Important

7.1.9. Use of facilities through coordination and shared use arrangements

<p>Shared use of facilities is already occurring across the study area.</p> <p>There will likely be an increasing need for shared use and cooperative management of facilities in the future. This sharing of facilities will not only occur in response to the pressures evident as a result for example of urban growth, but also because of the opportunities they present such as the ability to provide a better standard of facility through sharing of costs and the vibrancy that comes from a diversity of uses in one location. This sharing can be by horse only activities as well as with non-horse activities. The use of facilities by multiple groups for different horse riding activities and other uses needs to be scheduled and managed accordingly.</p>				
Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
24.	Continue to explore and take advantage of opportunities for shared use or co-location of facilities. Support the sharing and co-location of facilities through the development of supporting information (e.g. guidelines or fact sheets about key considerations associated with sharing and co-location (both horse and non-horse users) and a template shared use agreement. This information could be supplemented by case studies of existing facilities being shared by a range of users.	Horse SA	Local Government Association, DPTI, ORS	Important

7.2. Conclusions and Recommendations-Project Partners

Based on the information collected by this project and documented in this report the following conclusions and recommendations are made. These are in addition to those identified in section 7.1.

7.2.1. Adelaide Hills Council

With a recognised high level of horse ownership throughout the Adelaide Hills Council, the majority of horse activity venues are on land tenures other than public.

Adelaide Hills Council does not have significant housing development pressures unlike many other councils within the study area, however the ability to keep horses is important as there are a number of commercial horse breeding and equestrian sport enterprises located within the region.

The Adelaide Hills Equestrian Centre may have opportunity to cater for additional clubs or events on a regular basis, with upgrades to existing infrastructure if required, in alignment with a strategic planning process.

There is an opportunity to expand the network of trails that permit horses, including provision of trail heads supporting horse access for the Amy Gillet Bikeway.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
25.	Liase with existing users of the Adelaide Hills Equestrian Centre regarding current use, opportunities for an additional club and infrastructure upgrades that may be required.	Adelaide Hills Council	Adelaide Hills Equestrian Centre	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.2.2. Alexandrina Council

The Alexandrina Council has been investigating the opportunity to establish an Equine Precinct (including undercover facility) and complement existing horse related facilities such as the racecourse. These investigations have in part been driven by the need for a Riding for the Disabled facility and the pressures being felt by other horse riding groups using the Strathalbyn showground where a lack of water for irrigation is adversely impacting the use of the facility. For Alexandrina Council, the establishment of an Equine Precinct can deliver a range of economic, environmental and social benefits including future proofing horse riding facilities in the area.

To further this objective the Alexandrina Council has an Agistment Zone which is a zone primarily for horse agistment adjacent the Strathalbyn racecourse.

In addition to Alexandrian Council's efforts regarding planning for horse riding facilities, the Strathalbyn Consultative Committee has also been progressing a proposal to rehabilitate the Terramin mine site at Strathalbyn for equestrian use. It is understood that this proposal seeks to establish a multi-use site which could incorporate horse and non-horse related activities. This project has insufficient information to provide specific direction about the different directions being pursued in the region, but can identify that the active planning for and accommodation of the needs of horse keeping and horse facilities is certainly a point of difference for the Council area. There is a unique opportunity therefore, to consider branding the region in a way that associates it with horses, as currently occurs with antiques - providing benefits to a region through tourism, employment, education, events and activities. The Scone Horse Festival is a model promoting clustering of existing activities and venues under one tourism banner²². <http://www.horsecapital.com.au/festival/>.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
26.	Continue to pursue the establishment of new horse riding facilities in Strathalbyn.	Alexandrina Council	Horse clubs and groups, Equestrian SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
27.	Consider branding the region in a way that associates it with horses.	Alexandrina Council	Horse clubs and groups, horse organisations, Tourism SA, RDA	Important

²² Refer <http://www.horsecapital.com.au/festival/>

7.2.3. City of Onkaparinga

The City of Onkaparinga is to be commended for taking a strong interest in horse riding activities within the Council, including the provision of public horse riding areas and a strong network of trails. Equestrian Park Aldinga is an important regional facility servicing dressage, riding club and western riding activities. Significant future housing development is planned to take place surrounding the sporting grounds will put pressure on this site for alternative use options of the land for oval based team sports.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
28.	If the equestrian clubs currently using the Equestrian Park Aldinga are required to relocate in the future, the alternative site should be located within the same region to ensure ongoing viability of the clubs, on the same or greater land size parcel, with same similar or greater standard infrastructure. To achieve this, the City of Onkaparinga may need to work with the State government to secure an appropriate land parcel, as public land is at a premium.	City of Onkaparinga	Horse clubs and groups (particularly existing user groups)	Important
29.	It has been identified that Kangarilla Pony Club may need to relocate in the future. Further investigation is required regarding the ability to reconfigure existing infrastructure or identify an alternative site that can cater for existing user needs.	City of Onkaparinga	Kangarilla Pony Club	Important
30.	Tangari Regional Reserve may have the option to increase use of the sand arena, however there are restrictions on the total number of times the rest of the grounds can be used over a year for environmental reasons. Increased use of the sand arena is an opportunity that could be investigated.	City of Onkaparinga	Horse clubs and groups	Important

7.2.4. City of Salisbury

The City of Salisbury is home to an important and concentrated area of horse activity and keeping at the Globe Derby Park Precinct. Over the past few years, harness racing has contracted and consolidated its racing to a centralised point at Globe Derby Park. The Globe Derby harness racing track is the busiest in Australasia with over 200 days of use a year through races and trials.

The precinct is likely to be impacted by further housing development and further work linking housing areas to the Northern Expressway. This may potentially isolate the precinct and restrict the ability to exercise horses.

Horse keeping within the precinct attracts residents with harness racing and equestrian interests, with many offering agistment to local residents in other parts of the Council area. Many small businesses, including fodder, transport and breaking are located here. Private stabling is utilised for overflow from the Royal Adelaide Show and horses travelling between Perth and Melbourne or other distant destinations.

Both the Northern Adelaide Regional Horse Centre and Globe Derby Park (Harness Racing) are used daily, supported by common land available to the public for horse exercise.

The Northern Adelaide Regional Equestrian Centre has a planned program for continuous infrastructure improvements, including an indoor arena. The venue has already attracted a number of state level training clinics and horse events, including Riding for the Disabled and horse breed shows. The venue is available for hire by horse organisations from outside the precinct. The Northern Adelaide Regional Equestrian Centre is currently home to two horse clubs (Equus Horse and Pony Club and Riding for the Disabled Northern Area) and given the size/nature of the venue has capacity for increased use. In addition, given its location in the inner north, the venue could further consolidate its role as a regional horse riding facility through increased use by other user groups. Increased utilisation of this facility would benefit the existing two users.

Recommendation	Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
31. Actively recognise, maintain and support the important role of the Globe Derby Park Precinct in the inner north. Opportunities to reinforce this role include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an overarching brand for the Globe Derby Park Precinct incorporating all aspects offered from racing program of events, equestrian sport program, learn to ride and horse agistment service directory, linked with investment in public amenity upgrades. Investigating the potential for the impact of localised flooding on horses using the precinct. This includes developing a plan to support evacuation and temporary housing of large numbers of horses if required 	Globe Derby Park	City of Salisbury, Horse SA, horse clubs and groups	Important
32. Investigate opportunities for increased utilisation of the Northern Adelaide Regional Equestrian Centre by other user groups. An initial step may for Council, Equus Horse and Pony Club and Riding for the Disabled Northern Area to discuss current use and identify opportunities for increased use.	City of Salisbury	Existing user groups, Horse SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
33.	Work with the City of Salisbury to highlight how future impacts from housing developments and northern expressway expansion can be mitigated in relation to predicted displacement/impacts on horse activities and horse keeping.	Horse SA, Globe Derby Park	City of Salisbury	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
34.	Work with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure regarding options to ensure horse movement is not restricted as a result of changes to the Northern Expressway.	Horse SA, Globe Derby Park	DPTI	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.2.5. City of Tea Tree Gully

Horse keeping within the City of Tea Tree Gully is almost all concentrated around the Golden Grove surrounds. The very active Pegasus Pony Club is the sole community organisation that services the area. Over recent years, there has been a demand to provide marked horse trails to enable the exercising of horses, which are primarily confined to smaller yards and paddocks. The ability to exercise horses is an important aspect of welfare and horse keeping precincts providing trails and public exercise areas meet this requirement.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
35.	Maintain support for the Pegasus Pony Club which is the only public facility in the Council area.	City of Tea Tree Gully	Pegasus Pony Club	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.2.6. City of West Torrens

The opportunity to keep horses within inner urban areas is to be preserved, as once lost it is almost impossible to replace/replicate. There are still a number of horse keeping properties within the City of West Torrens and the adjacent Council of Marion which need places to meet as a club and exercise horses. Lockleys Oval and Wiegall Oval are located on government land, with the popular Metropolitan Show jumping Club on private land managed by Adelaide Airport. All of these facilities are well utilised for horse riding and club activities and exercise. Metropolitan Showjumping Club in particular hosts many State and occasional international level show jumping events. The site also provides overflow horse housing opportunities for the Adelaide Showground and has provided the venue for State and international pony club exchange events.

Recently Western Districts Riding Club was displaced from West Beach Trust land and further work needs to be undertaken to ensure a permanent local level facility can be found within close proximity.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
36.	Ongoing provision and access to horse riding facilities to be maintained and promoted within the City of West Torrens as a valuable community asset.	City of West Torrens	Horse SA, user groups	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.2.7. District Council of Mount Barker

The District Council of Mount Barker is under well-publicised pressure to provide public infrastructure, including sport and recreation facilities, for a rapidly expanding population base. The figures showing properties with horse ownership in section 4.3 of this report indicate that Mount Barker Council area has a high number of horse keeping properties.

Currently no public horse venues are provided within the District, with demand being part way met by private facilities. The future of the site of the Adelaide Polo Club is uncertain and Mount Barker Council is investigating opportunities for this area to become a sports and recreation hub. It is unclear as yet, whether horse riding will be part of this hub. It is reasonable to expect that this area will be ultimately surrounded by housing and therefore, horses may not be a part of this future.

Currently the horse program within the Mount Barker Show is not located on the same site as the rest of the Agricultural Show. A public or private venue to suit the show horse program (in the first instance) needs to be identified within close proximity to Mount Barker. Once a venue and usage rates are secured, horse activity groups are likely to hire the facility.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
37.	Investigate the opportunity for horse riding facilities to be part of the sports and recreation hub or an alternative location for a public horse facility in the Mount Barker Council area.	District Council of Mount Barker	Horse SA, user groups	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

7.2.8. Light Regional Council

Light Regional Council will be significantly impacted by housing development in the future. Coupled with the development to take place in adjacent councils and the easy access to the region provided by the Northern Expressway, horse facilities (including venues and trails) and horse keeping displacement need to be planned for as a matter of priority.

The University of Adelaide is currently constructing a \$10M equine hospital due for completion late 2013. This will increase demand for local support services, including rehabilitation and spelling properties and sites which offer overnight accommodation for horses and owners travelling to receive referral specialist hospital services. In addition, horse enthusiasts who have chosen to work or study at the University, may wish to keep their horse, or access horse activities within the Light Regional Council area.

Currently some horse events are held at the venue with limitations on access and parking. There is opportunity to further discuss with the University of Adelaide what scope may exist to enhance the current horse facilities to cater for either a permanent club or to facilitate additional hiring within the restraints of a working University and biosecurity considerations. Installation of an indoor arena and grassed areas could be considered.

Kapunda Harness Racing Club has a venue that currently supports a range of horse related activities in addition to trotting, including Agricultural shows, breed shows, rodeos and a Kidman Trail trail head. With investment in infrastructure, including that for water, additional horse events or a permanent horse club could be accommodated.

The need to “get in early” in planning processes and plan for horse riding facilities has already been discussed. In Light regional Council there is the opportunity to consider planning for horse riding opportunities as part of the Roseworthy Garden Town Planning Project. This project identifies green belts as an important aspect of the Garden Town’s development. These green belts could provide horse trail opportunities. Related to this, is the ability to keep horses in the surrounding area and ensuring appropriately zoned land is available for agistment to occur.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
37.	Initiate discussions with the University of Adelaide regarding what scope exists to enhance the current horse facilities to cater for either a permanent club or to facilitate additional hiring within the restraints of a working University and biosecurity considerations. Installation of an indoor arena and grassed areas could be considered.	Light Regional Council	RDA Barossa, University of Adelaide, horse groups and clubs, Horse SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable
38.	Investigate the opportunity for investment in infrastructure, including that for water, additional horse events or a permanent horse club at the Kapunda harness racing track.	Light Regional Council	Horse groups and clubs	Important
39.	Work with Light Regional Council to identify opportunities for integrating horse riding (including trails) as part of the Roseworthy Garden Town Planning Project and opportunities to link Roseworthy Trails to other trails through rail corridors	Horse SA	Light Regional Council, horse groups and clubs	Important

7.2.9. Horse activity groups

There are over 32 different horse activities undertaken in South Australia, including dressage, carriage driving, eventing, vaulting and hunting. To add to the layers of complexity for planners, the sport of dressage for example can be provided by Equestrian South Australia, Pony Club South Australia, Riding for the Disabled, Adult riding clubs and some breed groups.

There is already extensive shared use by different activity groups taking place across the study area. Whilst overall membership levels of horse organisations may fluctuate in the next five years, the clubs located around the peri-urban fringe of Adelaide will always have healthy numbers while located within easy travel distance to horse keeping and agistment opportunities.

As non-horse sport and recreation activities continue to reinvest in modern facilities, collect data and introduce new grass roots programs there is a need to continually review and improve how horse related activities are also delivered, data collected and volunteers trained. Each horse activity group is encouraged to develop written plans which outline the future requirements for modernising horse venue infrastructure investment and to record horse use by venue type and location which will underpin funding applications for upgrades or relocation to new sites.

Recommendation		Lead Responsibility	Other stakeholders	Priority
40.	Horse activity groups to develop written plans which outline the future requirements for modernising horse venue infrastructure investment and to record horse use by venue type and location which will underpin funding applications for upgrades or relocation to new sites.	Horse groups and clubs		Critical, urgent and/or achievable
41.	Develop and implement a consistent process for horse riding clubs and groups to collect participation/membership numbers and other useful data. These numbers could be incorporated into the Facility and Groups Database on an annual basis, thereby developing time series data that can be analysed over time.	Horse clubs and groups, horse organisations	Horse SA	Critical, urgent and/or achievable

Insert map 4

8.0 Appendices

Appendix A

Glossary

Agistment: Agistment is the keeping of horses on a property for a fee. Many people live in residential areas and keep horses in the first available country side interfacing with urban areas. There is a high need to retain any agistment in urban areas coupled with horse exercise areas.

Australian Stock Horse: Australia has developed a unique riding style, with associated horse training and events.

Cross country: Cross-country riding as a competitive sport is one of the phases of the sport of eventing. The most famous of these in South Australia being the Australian International Horse Trials held in the Adelaide parklands each November. Riders and horses compete over a set course of different obstacles, in undulating terrain at an optimum speed according to their level of experience. Carriage Driving, when undertaken as the sport of combined driving, has a similar requirement for cross country as one of the phases, with dressage and cone-driving being the other two

Dressage: A test of the ability of a horse and rider combination to successfully complete a ridden test in a standardized arena, designed to demonstrate the training and athletic ability of the horse. This sport is conducted as a stand-alone event or as a component of the Three Day Event, One Day Event, Prix Caprilli (Flat and Jumping Test) and Masters Games. A wide range of organisations conduct Dressage, or include informal obedience tests in regular programming.

Dressage is also a Para-Olympic event. Equestrian Australia is the governing body for the highest level of this sport.

Driving: Horses in draught (pulling) is an ancient practice. Modern horse driving activities revolve around combined driving (dressage, cross-country & cones) show driving (light & heavy horse), harness racing (pacers & trotters, pony trots), driving for work (weddings, breweries, films) and driving for pleasure, endurance events or on trails. Equestrian Australia is the governing body for the highest level of Combined Driving.

Equestrian Vaulting: is gymnastics on horseback. The horse is controlled by an independent handler and the vaulter is judged on their gymnastic skills, in the same way as the more familiar floor gymnast. Competitions exist for teams, which are also judged on their marching skills and freestyle. Equestrian Australia is governing body for the highest level of this sport.

Harness racing: Harness racing is a form of horseracing in which the horses race in a specified gait—either the trot or the pace. They also usually pull two-wheeled carts called sulkies, although races to saddle are still occasionally conducted.

Horse racing: Horse racing is a sport where horses are ridden at speed with a rider astride mainly as a competition.

Mounted Games: A set skills & agility course, conducted as a team or individual, usually judged against the clock. Games are popular in both English and Western riding styles, with barrel racing featuring in the latter as a regular part of rodeos.

Polo: is played by two teams of four players on a field measuring 274 m x 182 m. The objective is to hit the ball with precise blows through goal posts. The game is divided

into brackets (called chukkas) of 7 ½ mins each. After 8 – 10 chukkas the team with the most goals wins.

Polocrosse: is a combination of polo, lacrosse and netball on horseback. Each team of 6 riders use a cane stick with thread net, to carry, pass the ball and score goals.

Pony Club: Is a youth movement that promotes horsemanship, sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty through learning to ride and riding related activities. There are over 50 clubs in South Australia servicing around 800 members. Pony Club Australia is a member of Pony Club UK, and regularly conducts exchange events with countries such as Canada, UK, USA, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Adult membership is now available.

Riding club: Riding clubs are open to members of all ages. Each club develops an annual program of events based on member's interests including dressage, showing and fun days.

Riding for the Disabled: Riding for the Disabled Association SA Inc is a voluntary, not for profit, organisation providing horse riding and related activities as sport, active recreation and basic therapy for people with disabilities.

Riding school: A riding school is where a person can learn to ride. The horse, equipment, riding facilities and coaching instruction are provided within the hourly rate.

Showing/Showmanship/Saddle Horse: A test of the ability of a horse and/or rider/leader combination to successfully display a horse against set judging criteria. Showing horses is one of the most popular activities. Showing is a broad term which covers a range of led, ridden, driven, long-reined or other method of presenting a horse against pre-set criteria. The South Australian Country Show circuit has a strong history of show horse classes.

Show jumping: A test of the ability of a horse and rider combination to successfully jump a set course of artificial obstacles. This sport is conducted as a stand-alone event, or as a component of the Three Day Event, One Day Event, Prix Caprilli (Flat and Jumping Test) Modern Pentathlon and Masters Games. A wide range of organisations conduct Show jumping, or include informal jumping, in regular programming. Equestrian Australia is the governing body for the highest level of this sport.

Western Riding: is a style developed through the working classes of USA. It is a collective term for the style of riding and horse training methods. The competitive events developed through the day to day working tasks undertaken on a ranch.

Appendix B

Survey of clubs and groups

Appendix C

Summary of facility requirements by different user groups