



The ACT Equestrian Association Incorporated

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2018-19 Budget Consultation Process

This Association welcomes the opportunity to make suggestions for consideration in the preparation of the ACT Government Budget for 2018-19.

This Association is a peak umbrella group representing recreational and sporting equestrian organisations in the ACT and capital region. Our affiliated clubs and associations organise pony club activities, showjumping, dressage, eventing, trail riding and endurance riding for their members, many of whom are users of the ACT Government Horse Holding paddocks and ride on the multi-use trails of the ACT. Our objectives include the promotion of horse riding as a healthy recreational activity and the development of equestrian sporting and recreational facilities in the ACT. Through Sport and Recreation Services this Association manages, under Licence, Equestrian Park Yarralumla where, with Government support, high level competition facilities for dressage, showjumping and cross country eventing have been developed.

In the forthcoming Budget process we would like finance made available to relevant Government authorities for the following works.

1. Maintenance of open space and Canberra Nature Park. Open space, shared use paths and some road verges and Canberra Nature Park areas provide relaxed horse riding areas for Canberra horse owners. We would like adequate Government finance available for Parks and Conservation Service and Roads ACT to maintain these areas in good condition free from weeds and vertebrate pests such as rabbits. Drought conditions of recent months have made for reduced weed growth but conditions may be quite different next year.

2. Open space infrastructure. There has been recent development of signage for shared paths and trails through the municipal infrastructure program. This program has the aim of making all users, equestrians, cyclists, walkers and motorised wheelchair drivers aware of each other. Signage has been installed in some areas but more is needed. Allowance in Budget planning is needed for manufacture and installation of signage in open space.

ACTEA supported by funding from Sport and Recreation Services ACT

3. Maintenance of the Bicentennial National Trail. You will be aware that the ACT Government, this Association and the Board of the Bicentennial National Trail are party to a Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the Bicentennial National Trail, a multi-use recreational route for trekkers from Cooktown to Healesville which circumnavigates Canberra. Presently there are campsites at Hall Showground, Equestrian Park, Namadgi Visitor Centre and Mt Clear. For those travelling with horses or donkeys, or walking, the distances between these campsites is too great for a one day journey. As urban development in the ACT spreads making the distances between campsites greater there is a need for more campsites. We would very much like to see development of an off-road campsite in the north near the ACT/NSW border and in the south, possibly just north of Pine Island homestead. These are suggested as simple campsites capable of shared use with horse riders, cyclists and walkers.

Thankyou for this opportunity to comment. We believe equestrian facilities and opportunities in Canberra make it special and make it more liveable!

Beth Stone
Secretary
ACT Equestrian Association Inc

23 October 2017