



# **Baw Baw Shire Council**

## **Equestrian Facilities Plan**

**April 2007**

Prepared By Smart Connection Company

## Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>i</b>
Key Findings .....	ii
Key Directions .....	iv
Recommendations .....	vi
<b>Section 1: Understanding Equestrian Sports .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Background .....	1
<u>1.1.1. Introduction .....</u>	<u>1</u>
1.2. Equestrian Terminology .....	2
<u>1.2.1. Cross Country .....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>1.2.2. Dressage .....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>1.2.3. Equestrian Vaulting .....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>1.2.4. Endurance Riding .....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>1.2.5. Show Jumping .....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>1.2.6. Three-Day Eventing .....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>1.2.7. Gymkhana .....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>1.2.8. Camp Drafting .....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>1.2.9. Tent Pegging .....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>1.2.10. Polocrosse .....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>1.2.11. Team Penning .....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>1.2.12. Horse Showing .....</u>	<u>5</u>
1.3. About Equestrian Sports .....	5
<u>1.4.1. Facility Requirements .....</u>	<u>6</u>
1.5. Equestrian Activity in Baw Baw ~ An Overview .....	8
<b>Section 2: Setting the Scene for Equestrian Sport in Baw Baw .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1. Strategic Context .....	9
<u>2.1.1. Baw Baw Shire Council .....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>2.1.2. Equestrian Federation of Australia .....</u>	<u>10</u>
2.2. Consultation with Peak Equestrian Bodies .....	12
<u>2.2.1. The Future for Equestrian Sports .....</u>	<u>13</u>
2.3. Consultation with Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs .....	13
<u>2.3.1. Trends in Participation .....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>2.3.2. Future Plans of Clubs .....</u>	<u>16</u>

<u>2.3.3.Levels of Participation in Equestrian Activities Provided by Clubs.....</u>	17
2.4.Feedback on Draft Report.....	18
3.1.Equestrian Facility Provision, Needs & Constraints.....	20
<u>3.1.1.Review of Equestrian Facility Provision in Baw Baw .....</u>	20
<u>3.1.2.Appropriateness of Facilities &amp; Venues Used.....</u>	24
<u>3.1.3 Analysis.....</u>	30
<u>3.1.3.Alternative Sites for Equestrian Facilities in Baw Baw... </u>	31
3.2.Review of Equestrian Facility Provision in the Region .....	32
<u>3.2.1.Yarra Ranges Shire .....</u>	32
<u>3.2.2.Cardinia Shire .....</u>	32
<u>3.2.3.South Gippsland Shire .....</u>	34
<u>3.2.4.Latrobe City .....</u>	34
<u>3.2.5.Wellington Shire.....</u>	34
<u>3.2.6.Summary .....</u>	35
3.3.Consultation with Peak Equestrian Bodies.....	36
<u>3.3.1.Impact of Participation Trends on Facility Provision .....</u>	36
<u>3.3.2.The Future for Facilities .....</u>	36
<u>3.3.3.Regional Facilities .....</u>	36
<u>3.3.4.East Gippsland Region .....</u>	38
3.4.Consultation with Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs.....	39
<b>Section 4: Future Provision for Equestrian Facilities in Baw Baw .....</b>	<b>41</b>
4.1.Summarising Equestrian Facility Provision.....	41
<u>4.1.1.Key Considerations.....</u>	41
<u>4.1.2.Key Directions .....</u>	42
4.2.Future Provision of Equestrian Facilities in Baw Baw .....	43
<u>4.2.1.The Model of Provision.....</u>	43
<u>4.2.2.Options for Facility Provision in Baw Baw .....</u>	46
4.3.Recommendations.....	47
<b>Section 5: Appendices .....</b>	<b>50</b>
Appendix 1A: Inventory of Equestrian Facilities & Venues in the Baw Baw Shire .....	50
Appendix 1B: Facilities Located Outside of Baw Baw Shire Used By Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs.....	54

Appendix 1C: Proposed Requirements to Meet Needs of Users in Baw Baw .....	55
<u>Logan Park .....</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>Neerim Reserve .....</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Warragul Equestrian Centre (Lillico).....</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Drouin .....</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>Trafalgar Equestrian Park .....</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre.....</u>	<u>58</u>
<u>Pound Road Reserve .....</u>	<u>58</u>
<u>Cantani Recreation Reserve .....</u>	<u>58</u>
Sale	58
<u>Mansfield .....</u>	<u>58</u>
<u>Bachus Marsh .....</u>	<u>58</u>
Appendix 2. Inventory of Equestrian Facilities in Neighbouring Municipalities .....	59
Appendix 3. Summary of Public Feedback on Draft Report .....	76

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## Executive Summary

The Baw Baw Shire Council has initiated the preparation of a forward plan for the provision of equestrian facilities across the municipality. The Equestrian Facilities Plan reviews participation trends, facilities and venues in the Shire and the region, equestrian facility needs and constraints, and recommends a strategy for the future provision of facilities in a way that balances these demands in the context of the growing municipal population. The Plan also gives consideration to the demand and need for a regional level equestrian facility in Baw Baw.

The long term plan has been achieved through:

- Reviewing the strategic plans of Council and peak equestrian bodies to understand key directions and priorities;
- Detailed surveying with all equestrian clubs that use specific facilities for the conduct of club-based equestrian sports in the Baw Baw Shire, as per the scope of the study;
- Visual inspections of all equestrian facilities and venues located in the Shire, and collation of a facilities inventory;
- Meetings with representatives of the clubs at each facility to discuss facility issues, constraints and opportunities in detail;
- Interviews with peak equestrian bodies to identify requirements of different standard facilities to support different levels of participation (ie. elite to grass roots) and facility needs, land requirements, strategic directions of the disciplines, and participation trends; and,
- Discussions with Council staff and equestrian club personnel from each of the municipalities neighbouring the Baw Baw Shire to understand facilities provided in the region; their use, strategic directions for equestrian sports, planned facility developments and potential partnerships, and to identify the provision of regional facilities.
- Engagement of equestrian clubs and general public in gaining feedback on the draft report.

The scope of this study addresses venues and facilities that support club based equestrian disciplines of polocrosse, dressage, campdrafting, show jumping, cross country and events; plus the activities of adult riding, pony club and riding for the disabled. Trails located in open space and racing venues and clubs have been excluded. As such, the equestrian activities of trail riding, endurance riding and general recreational riding are recognised and, through discussions with participants of these activities, the report and action plan address some needs where possible.

## Key Findings

Pony clubs and adult riding clubs are the dominant providers of organised equestrian activities within local communities. These are supplemented by more widely dispersed Riding for the Disabled (RDA) clubs and equestrian sport specific clubs such as polocrosse, camp drafting and racing. The clubs generally offer riding tuition, dressage, show jumping, cross country and events (eg. gymkhana, eventing). It is ideal for clubs to have access to facilities that support all of these activities on a mix of sand and grass surfaces. Provision for camping by clubs at facilities is preferred, to enable participants of competitions and events to stay for weekend long events.

The scheduling of club events varies based on local needs, but generally includes one rally per month, and weekly lessons over the course of a year. Some clubs also offer casual riding. Zone / State competitions, carnivals and events are additional activities organised by clubs (sometimes with peak bodies) and are important as they can provide revenue raising opportunities.

As with most sports, the membership limit of a club is based on the scope and space of facilities, and availability of volunteers. Uniquely, equestrian sports disciplines tend to cater for low membership numbers as a result of the combined factors of scheduling, restricted volunteer availability and the space requirements to run activities.

Overall, participation in equestrian sports has increased in Victoria over recent years and is expected to continue to increase (nominated by clubs and peak bodies). Dressage is the discipline that attracts the most participants, followed by showing and horse trials. Participation is female dominated. The main area of growth is in participation by juniors, and this is seen as a major driver of a further increase in participation. In Baw Baw, participation has increased across most (not all) clubs; overall, there has been an increase of 49% since 2003/04. The general size of club memberships is small; with nine of the twelve clubs having 50 members or less. Those clubs that have seen memberships decline attributed the decline to facility constraints.

There are five venues used specifically for the conduct of club-based, organised equestrian activities in the Baw Baw Shire (including one privately owned) that cater for all twelve equestrian clubs, and are conveniently located across the main population centres. These include:

Facility/ Venue	Equestrian User Groups
Logan Park, Warragul	Warragul Pony Club Riding for the Disabled Warragul West Gippsland Adult Riding Club
Warragul Equestrian Centre (Lillico), Warragul	Lillico & District Pony Club (The Lillico & District Pony Club is relocating to facilities at Bunyip Recreation Reserve (Cardinia Shire).)
Neerim Reserve, Neerim	Neerim & District Pony Club Neerim Adult Equestrian Club ( <i>A public reserve that is used for the conduct of equestrian sports and activities by clubs and individuals, as well as other sports.</i> )
Trafalgar Equestrian Park, Trafalgar	Trafalgar Equestrian Park Trafalgar Adult Riding Club Trafalgar Pony Club Trafalgar Polocrosse Club Trafalgar Camp Draft Assoc
Bellbird Park, Drouin	Drouin Pony Club

A review of the facilities used by the clubs indicates that they are relatively well used, with scope for further use. The Trafalgar Equestrian Park is unique in catering for specialist equestrian sports which are not provided at any other facility in the Shire (eg. camp drafting, polocrosse and other large scale events). Baw Baw based clubs also use a number of facilities located outside of the Shire including Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre and Catani Recreation Reserve, as well as hiring other venues within the Shire to gain access to different standard facilities.

There are no minimum land area requirements for equestrian facilities. Minimum dimensions exist for various facility components, eg. arena sizes, jump heights and cross country course length, but there are no recommendations as to how these facility components interrelate or are configured, and the overall land requirement for an ideal facility set-up, nor any set requirements for facilities of different standards (ie. to cater for differing levels of competition).

Ideally a facility should cater for the disciplines of show jumping, dressage, cross country, trail riding, tuition and games to enable a pony / adult riding club to offer the diversity of experience expected by members / participants. The area should be a safe, flat and level surface (ideally an all-weather surface), be free of holes, foreign objects, signs etc. A range of facility components is required to provide for this diversity of activities, from car / float parking and arenas to club rooms, toilets, storage and holding yards.

A range of improvements was nominated by clubs to the facilities currently used, to better meet their needs, and enhance the efficiency and scope of



use. The improvements were similar across user groups and sites, and included safety (risk management), drainage, storage, some issues with shared use (between non-equestrian clubs competing for space) and the provision for more facilities such as amenities (toilets, showers, change rooms) and more elaborate facilities. None of the equestrian facilities in the Baw Baw Shire are well equipped for camping, which greatly inhibits the ability of clubs to cater for large events over weekends, for example.

There are few opportunities for the equestrian facilities in surrounding municipalities to service the needs of Baw Baw based clubs. There are however, some opportunities for the joint development of regional facilities in partnership with neighbouring councils, or for clubs to potentially use facilities in neighbouring municipalities that are of a higher standard than facilities offered within Baw Baw.

### **Key Directions**

The key directions that form the basis for the recommendations of the Equestrian Facilities Plan are:

As a minimum, facilities need to provide for riding tuition, dressage and jumping. The provision of a cross country course is desirable, but given the land area required for full courses, a precedent of providing smaller areas for local learning and practice has been set and this is considered to be acceptable.

There is a need to consider the development of facility(ies) that cater for a range of disciplines to broaden the opportunities that can be provided for Baw Baw residents (i.e. across a variety of disciplines, to participate at high levels).

To achieve this, a well-developed facility would be required. This would itself cater for events and competitions, and as a result, would attract participants from a regional catchment.

In addition to the above, facilities that support locally based clubs and competition at a local level are also important.

To this end, a hierarchy that nominates facility development standards to cater for various levels of equestrian would be beneficial.

A three tiered hierarchy of facilities is recommended to address the demand for participation in a way that is resource efficient and sustainable. The hierarchy should be based on different facility standards to cater for different needs and levels of participation. The proposed hierarchy of equestrian facilities for the Baw Baw Shire follows:

Regional (2 to 3 Council areas) - cater for events and competitions of up to 400 riders, a range of disciplines to a high standard; supported by buildings and amenities that can cater for elite level events (eg. State & Zone events, championships, multi-day events).

Total estimated land area – 6.6ha (excluding cross country).

A full size cross country course (Grade / Level 1) should be provided.

There are no facilities within the Baw Baw Shire that could be classed as regional. The Tonimbuk Equestrian Park would be regarded as a regional level facility that can cater to the needs of the surrounding communities for occasional large events, championships etc.



Municipal (one per Council area) - cater for events and competitions of up to 200 riders for the disciplines of dressage, show jumping and cross country to a high standard, plus other specialist disciplines that reflect the needs of participants across a Council area; supported by buildings and amenities that can cater for elite level events (eg. State events, championships, multi-day events).

Total estimated land area – 6.1ha (excluding cross country).

A full size cross country course to Grade / Level 2 should be provided.

The Trafalgar Equestrian Park is the only facility in Baw Baw that attracts the number of participants that would be associated with a municipal level facility (although the buildings and infrastructure at the site do not currently support this use well). To this end, the specialised activities and events catered for need to be accommodated within the municipality.

Local (depending on the demand and interest in equestrian within a Council area, it is likely that there would be several local level facilities provided, normally linked to townships) - cater for the disciplines of at least riding tuition, dressage and jumping, and potentially cross country (full size course not necessary).

The facilities at Neerim, Warragul and Drouin fit into the local level of the facility hierarchy.

Considering the proposed hierarchy of equestrian facility provision, and the placement of the highly developed Tonimbuk Equestrian Park as a regional level facility, it is suggested that only facilities of a municipal and local level should be provided within the Baw Baw Shire.

Three options are presented for the long-term provision of facilities in Baw Baw, with an overview of facility developments and utilisation for each. These are:

Option 1. Develop existing facilities as best possible

Option 2. Moderate improvements and changes to facility provision

Option 3. Significant improvements and changes to facility provision

These options have been determined on the basis that:

Zoning of the disused land at Logan Park (Urban Floodway Zone) doesn't lend itself to development;

It is anticipated that there will be increasing pressure from residents to use Logan Park and Bellbird Park for local sporting and recreational needs as residential development encroaches (although it is recognised that the clubs have strong affiliations with their home base sites);

The combination of facility options should provide for Neerim and Trafalgar separately, with the proximity of the Warragul and Drouin clubs lending themselves to being considered together;

Trafalgar Equestrian Park site has environmental (vegetation) significance that restricts development, the surface requires substantial improvement, and there is strong community will to act together which combined, supports co-location at the proposed Trafalgar Recreation Precinct.

## Recommendations

The following key recommendations present a long term plan for the development of equestrian facilities in a way that balances the changing population, with trends in participation and equestrian club needs:

- a. Council adopts the facility hierarchy and indicative development standards;
- b. An Equestrian Advisory Group comprising representatives of the equestrian clubs, Council staff and other interested community members, is established; with the purpose of sharing information and jointly contributing to the planning of equestrian facilities in the Baw Baw Shire in a coordinated matter;
- c. An inspection is undertaken of each equestrian venue to identify safety improvements, with a prioritised plan to address these.
- d. Facility upgrades, developments and utilisation are pursued according to Option 2, which based on; the need for only one municipal facility in the Baw Baw Shire, the proposed co-location of the Drouin and Warragul clubs supports the relocation of these clubs to the larger venue. Where possible, the municipal venue would ideally be located adjacent to bushland to also cater for trail riders. The proposed model of equestrian facility provision to be pursued in Baw Baw according to Option 2 includes:
  - o Minor improvements to Neerim Recreation Reserve as a local level facility
  - o No change to Warragul Equestrian Centre (privately owned)
  - o Relocate and co-locate the Drouin (Bellbird Park) and Warragul (Logan Park) equestrian clubs to a new municipal level facility at a site to be determined by the Equestrian Advisory Group; the municipal venue to consider the provision access for casual use, the appropriateness to accommodate Riding for the Disabled Warragul if the venue is in close proximity to Warragul and can meet the club's needs.
- e. A master plan should be prepared for the municipal venue when nominated, as well as a management plan and shared use agreement to formalise the roles, responsibilities and management considerations and requirements of each of the stakeholders. During the master planning process, the scope of facilities at the venue will be confirmed, following which the location of polocrosse and / or camp draft facilities can be finalised (at either the municipal venue, or the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve if this is not the municipal venue).
- f. Acquire approximately 5.5ha for the provision of new equestrian facilities for the Trafalgar based clubs at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve; incorporating the provision of an open grassed area for polocrosse and campdraft activities in the short term, to continue the conduct of these activities until the site for a municipal venue is nominated.
- g. Ensure public access remains at the local level facilities in Neerim and

Trafalgar to provide access for casual riders.

- h. In the event of a municipal venue not being appropriate for Riding for the Disabled Warragul, formalise the occupancy of the club at Logan Park through negotiating a license agreement with the Logan Park Committee of Management.
- i. Clubs to seek grant support from Council to contribute to the cost of running events, which may facilitate access to Tonimbuk through financial assistance for venue hire.
- j. Council to work with the Department of Sustainability and Environment during the planning of State forests to ensure that consideration is given to the provision of facilities for trail riding, as opportunities present.

## Section 1: Understanding Equestrian Sports

### 1.1. Background

#### 1.1.1. Introduction

The Equestrian Facilities Plan has resulted from a recommendation in Council's Recreation Strategy Plan 2005-2015, to...

"Review all pony club facilities and identify the needs of clubs across the Shire, evaluate pony club facilities and recommend a plan that considers a regional facility."

In addition to this, a number of individual equestrian clubs have been experiencing issues around the upkeep and development of facilities, and various site specific issues that may impact on the provision of facilities, and thus affect the growth and development of equestrian clubs. Rather than address these matters on a targeted basis in isolation, Council has initiated a Shire wide review of equestrian facilities to ensure that a strategic, coordinated and integrated approach is taken that is well informed by the key equestrian stakeholders. The facilities included in the review are those which support club based equestrian disciplines of polocrosse, dressage, campdrafting, show jumping, cross country and events; plus the activities of adult riding, pony club and riding for the disabled.

To this end, the Equestrian Facilities Plan has sought to:

- Identify the specific equestrian facilities used for organised club-based equestrian sports provided within the Baw Baw Shire, and the broader region;
- Ascertain the constraints of these existing facilities in Baw Baw;
- Understand the appropriateness of the facilities in meeting the needs of equestrian clubs, facility needs for the conduct of equestrian activities, and facility constraints;
- Prepare a model of facility provision to guide Council in supporting clubs to develop equestrian facilities in the future, in a way that is reflective of the changing population, sustainable, and an effective allocation of resources for facility planners, managers, maintainers and users;
- Identify opportunities to cater for broader equestrian needs (ie. those outside the scope of this Study discussed above), where appropriate; and,
- Consider the demand, and need for a regional level facility in Baw Baw, and potential partnerships.

The scope of this Study covers facilities that are developed and used for the conduct of organised, structured equestrian sports, and excludes trails located within open space. As such, the equestrian activities of trail riding, endurance riding and general recreational riding are recognised and, through discussions with participants of these activities, the report and action plan address some needs where possible. Competition racing clubs and facilities (e.g. horse racing, harness racing etc.) have also been excluded, as the issues are different for these larger organisations and highly developed facilities.

The project objectives have been achieved through:

Reviewing the strategic plans of Council and peak equestrian bodies to understand key directions and priorities;

Detailed surveying with all equestrian clubs based in the Baw Baw Shire;

Visual inspections of all equestrian facilities located in the Shire, and collation of a facilities inventory;

Meetings with representatives of the clubs at each facility to discuss facility issues, constraints and opportunities in detail;

Interviews with peak equestrian bodies to identify facility catchment hierarchies and facility needs, land requirements, strategic directions of the sports, and participation trends;

Discussions with Council staff and equestrian club personnel from each of the municipalities neighbouring the Baw Baw Shire to understand facilities provided in the region; their use, strategic directions for equestrian, planned facility developments and potential partnerships, and identify the provision of regional facilities; and,

Engagement of equestrian clubs and general public in gaining feedback on the draft report.

## **1.2. Equestrian Terminology**

The following definitions are provided to give guidance and build common understanding of the various equestrian disciplines provided in Baw Baw:

### **1.2.1. Cross Country**

Cross country tests a rider's ability to combine speed with accuracy and endurance over an outdoor course composed of fixed jumps.

Source: Cardinia Shire Council, Equestrian Strategy, 2000

### **1.2.2. Dressage**

Dressage is a method of training that develops a horse's physique and suppleness through gymnastic exercises. In dressage competition, horse and rider perform complex manoeuvres at the walk, trot and canter in front of judges. Riders give the horses subtle signals (through touch and pressure) to direct them. The horse should respond willingly and without hesitation to signals from the rider and should show complete acceptance of the rider's control.

The dressage arena measures 60 x 20 m and is flat and level with a sandy surface. There are 12 markers within the arena which act as reference points for various movements.

Sources: Cardinia Shire Council, Equestrian Strategy, 2000

### **1.2.3. Equestrian Vaulting**

Vaulting is gymnastics on horseback and combines the skills of both gymnastics and horsemanship. It is one of the most spectacular, and at the same time safest of the equestrian sports, and provides for both individual and team participation.

In competition (similar to skating and gymnastics) there are compulsory routines as well as freestyle and it is all performed to music, so musical interpretation is also important. The execution of the more difficult vaulting movements requires high levels of agility and rhythm as well as strength.

Source: Visit the [EFA National](#) website

#### 1.2.4. Endurance Riding

Endurance Riding is a test of the athletic ability of horse and rider over distances of 80 km and greater. The aim of the sport is to promote the highest ideals of horsemanship and sportsmanship. There is an element of freedom in dress, behaviour and riding attitudes in this sport.

Sources: Cardinia Shire Council, Equestrian Strategy, 2000

#### 1.2.5. Show Jumping

In show jumping, rider and horse are required to clear between 15 and 20 obstacles in a set order. The course may include water jumps, simulated stone walls, parallel rails and triple jumps and jumping takes place in the main arena of the equestrian centre, measuring 120 metres by 80 metres. Jumps are a maximum of 1.7 metres in height and water jumps can be no longer than 4.5 metres.

The objective for rider and horse is to complete the course within the specified time limit with as few faults as possible. Penalties are incurred if a horse refuses to jump an obstacle, knocks down a rail, takes the jumps in the wrong order or if time limits are exceeded.

#### 1.2.6. Three-Day Eventing

This event tests the obedience, jumping ability and endurance of both rider and horse. As such, it combines the other two equestrian disciplines of dressage and show jumping and adds cross-country for good measure.

The dressage part of the event takes a similar format to the dressage discipline, with competitors required to perform 20 prescribed movements.

Cross-country follows the dressage. The course with obstacles including water jumps with banks, drops and ditches. The show jumping part of the cross-country is not as rigorous as the show jumping event itself (horses and riders have to clear a number of obstacles).

The courses can be up to 25km long and is laid out in the natural terrain of the area, often with broken ground and obstacles being common features.

To maximise points, riders aim to complete the course without errors and within a prescribed time limit.

The arenas for the dressage and jumping sections of the cross-country are the same as for the dressage and jumping events.

#### 1.2.7. Gymkhana

An event based on the main disciplines of horse riding such as dressage and jumping, but with additional novelty activities added for young riders.

Source: Cardinia Shire Council, Equestrian Strategy, 2000

### 1.2.8. Camp Drafting

In its simplest form, camp drafting involves one mounted rider moving into a small yard (called a camp), and selects one beast from a small mob of cattle. The rider then proceeds to move the beast towards the camp opening - which is blocked by either men on horses or two gates with men holding them shut. The mounted rider blocks and turns his beast several times across the face of the camp (the single beast tries his hardest to get past the rider and back into the mob).

When the rider feels they have shown the Judge enough of the horse's ability to hold the beast clear of the mob, they calls for the gates to be opened so the beast can be led into a larger area to complete a course. The course consists of two pegs (usually small trees) set apart directly out from the front of the camp. Some distance out from the two pegs are two more – located closer together and represent the gate.

The rider will be asked to complete circles around the peg with a changeover in the middle, then drive the beast out behind the gate - and push it through the gap. This represents a full course.

Source: Visit the [Campdrafting](#) website.

### 1.2.9. Tent Pegging

Another equestrian sport with army origins is Tent Pegging, where riders gallop at full pelt with a raised sword, and have to pluck a peg out of the ground with the sword.

Source: Visit the [Ausport](#) website for more information.

### 1.2.10. Polocrosse

As a sport in its own right, polocrosse is a combination of polo, lacrosse and netball. It is played on horseback with 6 riders in each team which use a cane stick, with a loose twisted-thread net, to carry and pass the ball (approximately the size of a tennis ball) and score goals.

Polocrosse season runs from December to May and clubs travel to tournament locations, which rotate. Practice is conducted in the off-season. The game is played between 16 riders per team, with a number of grounds next to each other – each ground is rectangular in shape to dimensions 146.5m x 55m with goal posts at each end and side line distances of 15m at each end, and 6m between fields.

Source: Visit the [Polocrosse Association of Australia Incorporation](#) website.

### 1.2.11. Team Penning

Team penning is a fast paced event that gives a team of three riders 60 - 90 seconds (depending on the class) to separate three head of specifically identified cattle from a herd of around 30. Once they have been separated from the herd, the team aims to direct the separated cattle to the opposite end of the arena and in to the 'pen', hence the name Team Penning. All the while, no more than four head of cattle are allowed to cross an invisible line known as the time or foul line at one time or the result is automatic disqualification. The 'run' is the time it takes the team to perform all the tasks required in the event and the team with the fastest team wins.



### 1.2.12. Horse Showing

A horse show is a judged exhibition of horses and ponies. Many different horse breeds and equestrian disciplines hold competitions worldwide, from local to the international levels.

There are ten international disciplines run under rules established by the Fédération équestre Internationale (FEI). These are:

- Combined driving
- Dressage
- Endurance riding
- Eventing
- Horseball
- Paraequestrianism (Paralympic equestrian sport for athletes with disabilities)
- Reining
- Show jumping
- Tent pegging
- Vaulting

The rules of the FEI govern competitions open to riders from all nations, including the Olympic Games and the World Equestrian Games. Pony Clubs also sponsor horse shows. Riders can participate as an individual or part of a team.

Prizes (in the form of trophies, medals or ribbons) are usually awarded to competition place-getters in individual Classes.

Horse shows in Australia are governed by the Equestrian Federation of Australia.

Source: For more information visit the [Wikipedia Horse Show](#) website.

### **1.3. About Equestrian Sports**

Generally, at a local level pony clubs and adult riding clubs are the dominant users (i.e. most facilities are used by a pony club or adult riding club). The prevalence of specific Riding for Disabled (RDA) clubs is less, as well as more specialised sport specific equestrian clubs such as polocrosse, camp drafting and racing.

Pony clubs tend to focus on, and cater for juniors (generally up to the age of 25 years, but older age groups equally accepted). Adult riding clubs then cater for participants over the age of 25 years, once they 'outgrow' pony clubs. The clubs generally offer the activities of riding skills development, dressage, show jumping, cross country and events (eg. gymkhana, eventing). Ideally, a pony club / adult riding club would have access to facilities that support all of these activities and a mix of sand and grass surfaces. Provision for camping by clubs at facilities is preferred, to enable participants of competitions and events to stay for multi-day events.

The scheduling of participation varies according to localised needs and constraints of individual clubs and facilities, but generally includes one rally per month, and weekly lessons. Pony clubs and adult riding clubs tend to operate year-round and are not delineated by particular 'seasons'. Some clubs also offer casual riding. Zone / State competitions, carnivals and events are additional participation opportunities that are offered by clubs or peak bodies – these are important as clubs rely on events to generate revenue.

As with most sports, the membership limit of a club is based on the scope and space of facilities, and availability of volunteers. With the pattern of scheduling of equestrian sports and the space requirements to run activities, clubs can generally only cater for low membership numbers.

The National High Performance Program is the term used to cover programs funded by, and put in place by the Equestrian Federation of Australia (the recognised national body representing the planning, provision, development and management of equestrian sports) National Office for the three Olympic disciplines of eventing, dressage and jumping. High Performance relates to the 'elite' end of the sport and the program aims to assist riders and horses achieve international success both as individuals and as an Australian team.

Individuals and clubs that partake in forms of trail riding do so mainly on trails in open spaces such as bushland and forests.

#### 1.4.1. Facility Requirements

There are no set minimum land area requirements for equestrian facilities. Minimum dimensions exist for arena sizes, jump heights and cross country course length, and there are minimum standards for all levels of competition that allow for the conduct of various disciplines, but no recommendations as to how these facility components interrelate or are configured, and the overall land requirement for an ideal facility set-up.

Similarly, there are no set standards for facilities of differing catchment hierarchies - the Werribee Equestrian Centre is considered to be the State equestrian facility in Victoria.

The research conducted for this project has ascertained that, ideally a facility should cater for the disciplines of show jumping (jumping on a sand surface is preferable to grass), dressage (can be conducted on a sand or grass surface), cross country, trail riding, tuition and games to enable a pony / adult riding club to offer the diversity of experience expected of members / participants. The area should be a safe, flat and level surface (ideally an all-weather surface), be free of holes, foreign objects, signs etc.

Through discussions with equestrian stakeholders and a review of printed information, the following facility components and areas are considered necessary for a standard facility to cater for the desired equestrian activities:

- Parking for cars and floats (based on the number of members of clubs);
- A club room including a kitchen and kiosk, general purpose area for socialisation and meetings (the culture of equestrian sports does not necessarily require a bar at social facilities). Office space, change rooms, a first aid room, a separate judges room and verandah to provide all-weather shelter are desirable but not necessary.

- Toilets (showers and change rooms are not considered necessary, but ideal – especially for clubs wanting to cater for events);
- A flat, all weather surface (sand or drained grass) arena – minimum 50 metres x 60 metres (ideally the approximate size of a football oval);
- A sand ménage to cater for dressage (each arena measures 20m x 60m, plus 5m in between; an area of 100m x 60m would cater for four dressage arenas is considered to be ideal) with a low barrier to delineate the area, eg. sleepers);
- A show jumping arena measures 100m x 100m with a sand surface;
- Adequate storage for equipment is essential;
- Fencing (farm style fence to control wayward horses) around the perimeter of the site (including the car park) – 1.5m high farm type fencing is ideal;
- A cross country course with boundary fencing, forest / bush areas and water for jumps. The length of course to qualify for competition distances is between 5 to 7 kilometres, with natural obstacles in any configuration (20 acres (8.1ha) has been nominated for a full, Grade 1 cross country course - a smaller area can be used with fewer jumps, but would not qualify for competitions).  
(Cross country courses are graded from 1-5, whereby 1 caters to the highest level of participation.)
- Yards (safe areas to hold horses when not being ridden during activities) – solid wooden fenced areas (approximately 3 x 3 metres) in a grid pattern closed off by heavy chain. A minimum of 12 yards generally required, and ideally one per rider.

Trail riding does not require specific activity areas like some other equestrian disciplines. Facility requirements of recreational, trail and endurance riders include:

- Safe road verge access to reserves, bushland, forests and other open spaces;
- Secure, readily accessible areas for unloading horses and for leaving horse floats;
- Shaded tie-up rails and watering areas that are secure for horses and are safe (and have the potential to be used as meeting places or campsites);
- Cautionary signage to motorists along roads where appropriate; and,
- Ready access to shared paths and trails also used by walkers.

Due to these requirements, many trails used for horse riding tend to be located in bushland and forests owned and managed by the State Government. To this end, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (through Parks Victoria) is taking a more active role in the planning and development of horse trails in bushland to improve provision for recreational, trail and endurance riders. This is specifically occurring at the Bunyip State Park in the Labertouche / Jindivick area at present.

### 1.5. Equestrian Activity in Baw Baw ~ An Overview

There are twelve equestrian clubs that operate within the Baw Baw Shire and utilise specific facilities for the equestrian sports nominated in this Study.

These include (in no particular order):

- Warragul Pony Club – established around 1956, the club is operating to capacity and has a waiting list;
- Riding for the Disabled Warragul;
- West Gippsland Adult Riding Club;
- Lilloo & District Pony Club – membership of the club is limited to 45, the club is operating to capacity;
- Neerim & District Pony Club – established in 1972 – no limit on membership. The club has a strong focus on social participation and riding for enjoyment, and whilst riders compete, the focus is not as high on competitive achievement;
- Neerim Adult Equestrian Club – formed in 2005, no limit on membership;
- Drouin Pony Club – capacity is 50 members with a waiting list; the club actively participates in the competition circuit;
- Trafalgar Adult Riding Club – the club was formed in 1983; no limit on membership;
- Trafalgar Pony Club – formed in 1970; no limit on membership;
- Trafalgar Polocrosse Club – formed in 1946; no limit on membership. The club has successfully represented Victoria in National Championships.
- Trafalgar Camp Draft Association – formed in 2003;
- Trafalgar Equestrian Park – a management committee comprising representatives from each of the Trafalgar based equestrian clubs; the committee manages and coordinates the use and development of the facilities and organises large-scale events for fundraising. The Committee has a plan to improve the facilities that are incrementally being implemented through by volunteer labour and grants.

## **Section 2: Setting the Scene for Equestrian Sport in Baw Baw**

### **2.1. Strategic Context**

This Section provides an overview of the key strategic directions of the Baw Baw Shire Council and governing equestrian bodies, to understand how local clubs may be impacted by facility development plans, changes to the structure of the sports and population changes.

#### **2.1.1. Baw Baw Shire Council**

As outlined in the Corporate Plan 2003-2006 (incorporating Council Plan 2004-2008), the Baw Baw Shire Council seeks to foster a dynamic community enhancing the quality of life of residents and visitors through creative and responsible leadership, consultation and communication. More specifically, Council aims to develop an active and healthy community and provide a wide range of readily accessible facilities across the Shire (Recreation Strategy Plan, 2005-2015). It will take an emphasis on environmental sustainability, maximising public safety and ensuring equity of access, and achieve this through:

- Maximising the level of external funding for Council initiatives;
- Developing partnerships to promote regional cooperation;
- Providing and maintaining quality infrastructure that meets the needs of the community;
- Presenting public areas in an attractive and safe manner consistent with community expectations;
- Supporting and encouraging community groups in providing a wide range of community facilities and activities;
- Providing a range of well-planned and managed recreation and leisure services and facilities that are sustainable, and respond to community need; and,
- Supporting community groups in managing, maintaining and developing facilities and programs.
- Council's Recreation Strategy Plan (2005-2015) establishes a set of principles to guide recreation and sport related decisions. Those relevant to the Equestrian Facilities Plan include:
  - Encourage widespread participation in recreational activities within the Shire;
  - Work in partnership with local sport and recreation organisations and the community to support the development of a wide range of readily accessible facilities across the Shire;
  - Encourage practical multi-functional use of recreation and sporting facilities to maximise utilisation;
  - Support the development of multi-use facilities where possible; and,
  - Support community sporting and recreational clubs to ensure they have the necessary skills to efficiently administer their organisation and facilities.

A key priority of the Strategy Plan includes the establishment of a hierarchy of regional / local facilities. In particular, the Plan recommends the development of a hierarchy of sports facilities for each major sport to ensure that a regional quality facility is available for major sports in the Shire.

The Plan clarifies responsibility for the development of sporting facilities as resting with the clubs and organisations that use them. Council may choose to assist through the provision of land, funding, grant applications etc. It may also fully fund initiatives where it considers the project to be in the best interests of the broad community. *Council has recently reviewed its community grants program which provides a more streamlined process for clubs to gain financial support from Council for the upkeep of facilities.*

#### 2.1.2. Equestrian Federation of Australia

The Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA) is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission as the representative body for equestrian disciplines, and is governed by / represents dressage, jumping, eventing, vaulting, show horse and carriage driving. Other disciplines are affiliated eg. endurance riding. There are other peak bodies that represent equestrian activities, such as the Pony Club Association Victoria, and these are self-funded.

The EFA has recently undergone structural change with a view to bringing the equestrian disciplines together in a more coordinated manner.

The EFA works towards the following priorities:

- Inter-school program and development of young riders;
- Top International coaches for elite combinations;
- Securing additional funding;
- A club-based membership;
- Better marketing of the EFA to increase membership;
- Continued medal success, coordinated National / Branch planning and a revision of selection criteria and improved communication were also considered as important.
- The EFA aims to advance the sport in Australia through the following long-term objectives:
  - Effective governance and management to provide a sustainable organisation;
  - Maintaining and improving the success of Australian competitors at an International level;
  - Growing participation and spectator / media interest through a range of strong developmental programs that are implemented in partnership with EFA Branches and member clubs;
- A vibrant program of International events and domestic competition.

Relevant strategic objectives, rationale and actions of the EFA are categorised under key result areas, and include:

### **2.1.2.1. Governance and Management**

- Improve relationships and with key stakeholders;
- Work towards a common level of service quality and quantity;
- Explore options for a club-based membership model;
- Review matrix of insurance charges and further refine according to size of risk and level of affiliation with the EFA (aims to achieve more equitable insurance charges and lower costs to affiliates conducting EFA sports);
- Promote the disciplines.

### **2.1.2.2. High Performance**

- Improve success of the senior national team program;
- Provide access to international competitions and funding / support for riders;
- Development of Equestrian Institutes throughout Australia and formation of an Australian Institute of Sport program;
- Nurture and develop the National Young Rider program (through providing pathways for young riders via the National Young Rider squads) and International Competition.

### **2.1.2.3. Sport Development**

- Develop and adopt a member protection policy;
- Develop formalised training for officials and coaches relating to members with a disability;
- Support the role of clubs in building and promoting equestrian sport within local communities;
- Implement systems to assist club functioning, rider / official recruitment, attainment of sponsorship, governance initiatives, succession of committee representatives and growth strategies through the production of new resources;
- Further develop the inter-school competition program and have a national program;
- Promote access and opportunities for people with a disability through disability associations.

(Strategic Plan 2005-2009, Equestrian Federation of Australia)

There is clearly a strong emphasis on elite participation and rider development, supporting and developing clubs and risk management by the EFA. The Strategic Plan does not identify any role for the EFA in facility provision or development.



## 2.2. Consultation with Peak Equestrian Bodies

Interviews were conducted with peak bodies representing main equestrian activities at the State and national level to ascertain trends and strategic directions within the sport and its disciplines, to understand their relevance to provision for equestrian activities in the Baw Baw Shire. The following peak bodies were consulted:

- Equestrian Federation of Australia (Vic Branch) (EFA) – represents more experienced riders and those achieving high levels of participation through the elite athlete development program.
- Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria (HRCAV) – caters mainly for adults and all levels of riders. Runs a strong competition program that covers a range of disciplines with a strong social aspect. No coaching is offered.
- Pony Club Association of Victoria (PCAV) – represents children beginning equestrian disciplines and learning to ride.

A summary of the key findings relevant to participation in, planning for and developing equestrian from this consultation is provided:

### 2.2.1 Participation

- There has been an increase in participation across equestrian activities, although this is more pronounced in some Associations than others. Dressage is the discipline that attracts the most participants, followed by showing and horse trials. There are not as many show jumping events as other disciplines, reflecting lower participation levels.
- The main area of growth is in participation by juniors (particularly at the beginner and intermediate levels), and this is seen as the major driver of a further increase in participation.
  - Participation is female dominated.
  - There does not appear to be a high level of participation by people of any particular cultural background, besides Anglo Saxons.
  - Data obtained from the EFA Annual Report 2004/05 indicates that there are 4,554 members of the EFA Victorian Branch; membership was higher in 1991 (5,000) and declined to less than 3,000 in 2001, but has since increased again.
- Equestrian activity is ideal for people with disabilities as all riders are assessed according to ability. There are specific Riding for the Disabled clubs that cater for people with disabilities and run specialised events – these are well received but do not attract many competitors. Programs such as “Project Connect” have also increased access to and participation in equestrian activities for people with disabilities in some Associations.
- It is considered important for clubs to offer a range of participation opportunities and cater for varying ability levels to attract and retain

members, example cross country, dressage (on sand and grass ménages), jumping etc.

- A major impediment to participation within the EFA programs at present is the lack of officials.
- Difficulties with volunteer recruitment and retention is a barrier to clubs expanding beyond their current means (example spreading competitions over different times).

#### 2.2.1. The Future for Equestrian Sports

- Participation is expected to continue to increase.
- It is felt by some that there is a need for greater cohesion between the equestrian bodies as there are a number of separate organisations working independently toward the same objectives.
- It is anticipated that there will be an increasing decentralisation in the conduct of equestrian activities, with a move toward more regional centres; ie. the EFA is looking to provide a more comprehensive pathway from local competition, to regional and then State (currently participants enter directly in State competition from the local level).

#### **2.3. Consultation with Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs**

Equestrian clubs have contributed to the Equestrian Facilities Plan through providing information on membership, participation trends, facility needs and constraints, and opportunities for the future provision of the sport in the Baw Baw Shire, through surveys and meetings. In particular, the following clubs completed surveys:

- Trafalgar Pony Club
- Trafalgar Camp Draft Association
- Trafalgar Equestrian Park
- Trafalgar Adult Riding Club
- Trafalgar Polocrosse Club
- Riding for the Disabled Warragul
- Neerim & District Pony Club
- Lilloco & District Pony Club
- West Gippsland Adult Riding Club
- Warragul Pony Club
- Drouin Pony Club
- Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society – this club previously used a facility in the Baw Baw Shire, but now uses a facility located outside of the municipality

The following provides an overview of the key information obtained through the surveys:

### 2.3.1. Trends in Participation

Nine of the twelve clubs that returned surveys have experienced an increase in membership over the past two years. The most notable changes to participation have occurred in:

- 342 people are involved as members in equestrian clubs in the Baw Baw Shire in 2005/06. This has increased by 49% since 2003/04 (from 229 members). Membership is relatively equal across all age groups, comprising around 25% each of juniors, senior men, senior women and masters.
- The most significant increases have been with the West Gippsland Adult Riding Club, Warragul Pony Club and Trafalgar Polocrosse Club (experiencing an increase of 70% or over, although the membership numbers of these clubs are all relatively small – around 50 or less). Membership has remained stable at the Drouin Pony Club, as the Club is at capacity (and has a waiting list). Membership has also remained stable at Riding for the Disabled Warragul since 2003/04, and there has been a marginal decrease at the Lillico & District Pony Club.
- Membership size of equestrian clubs is small; with nine of the twelve clubs having memberships of around 50 or less.
- There are some equestrian activities held in Baw Baw that attract large numbers of participants. These include the Trafalgar Equestrian Park (an events organising body (in association with regional bodies such as Gippsland Campdraft) as opposed to a membership-based club). Events include an annual rodeo, campdraft and stockhorse show). Combined, these attracted 640 participants in 2005/06, an increase of 13% from 2003/04).
- There are no major trends in participation by members amongst the equestrian disciplines; for example, some pony clubs have increased in membership whilst others have remained stable or declined. The same applies for dressage.
- Junior memberships have increased by 27% from 2003/04 to 2005/06, representing growth across most clubs;
  - participation by junior members has remained stable at three clubs and declined at one (in show jumping),
  - the most notable increases have occurred within the Trafalgar Polocrosse Club (increased more than threefold – from 3 to 10 junior members) and the Warragul Pony Club (more than doubled since 2003/04);
- The smallest increase in membership has occurred amongst senior men – by just 6%. Four clubs have experienced an increase in participation by senior men;
  - the most significant being in the gymkhana section of the Trafalgar Adult Riding Club and participation in the Trafalgar Polocrosse Club,

- the dressage / show jumping section of the Trafalgar Adult Riding Club has experienced a decrease in participation by senior men;
- Generally, senior men members represent a very small proportion of most clubs (around 10% or less); but senior men represent a relatively high proportion of equestrian participants in Baw Baw overall (27%). This is attributed to the majority of participants in the rodeo organised by the Trafalgar Equestrian Park are men (over 60%), and male participation is also strong (around one third of participants) in the campdraft.
- Senior women represent the smallest membership group as a proportion of total (22%, or 270 members). Participation by senior women members has increased by 16% from 2003/04 to 2005/06. Four clubs have experienced an increase in participation by senior women;
  - participation has decreased in the Warragul Pony Club and membership has remained stable in four other clubs,
  - the most significant increases in memberships by senior women have occurred in the combined training and gymkhana sections of the Trafalgar Adult Riding Club, and the West Gippsland Adult Riding Club, and
  - the most significant decrease by senior women has occurred in the dressage / show jumping section of the Trafalgar Adult Riding Club;
- The most notable increase in participation overall has occurred by people aged over 40 years, which has grown by 40% since 2003/04. Four of the six clubs that have indicated membership by masters have experienced an increase in participation;
  - the greatest increases in participation have occurred within the gymkhana, show jumping and combined training sections of the Trafalgar Adult Riding Club, doubling the membership of this club,
  - membership in the remaining two clubs has remained stable, meaning that no clubs have experienced a decrease in participation by masters participants,
  - participation by people over 40 years is strong in the rodeo (26% of total participants) and campdraft (30% of total participants).

Note: The findings for the masters and senior participant categories are not accurate as some clubs have had to estimate the number of senior members that are aged over 40 years (as this information has not been collected by all clubs).

Reasons noted by clubs for the changes in participation included:

- Reasons for an increase in membership;
  - Increasing the standard of instruction and offering high quality instruction at monthly rallies
  - Offering a wide variety of activities and having space to cater for large scale events and competitions

- Running events that attract users to the facilities (including rallies, competitions and training days)
  - Attendance at training days has led to an ongoing interest in participation and resulted in membership growth of a club
  - The emphasis of the club on competition, and active participation in the competition circuit
  - Enthusiastic committees – good coordination and working together toward a common goal
  - Strong, positive reputation of the club
  - An increased interest in the specific activity (eg. harness driving harness – led by a desire for riders to maintain involvement with horses even though they can no longer ride)
  - Increased publicity of the club and promotion of improvements being made to facilities
  - Extending the hours of operation of the club
  - The family and community nature of the sport, and the club
  - Increased residential growth in the locality (Trafalgar, Drouin)
  - The leaving age of members of a pony club has increased from 21 to 26 as a result of the peak body aligning with the National structure for competitions;
- The reasons provided for declining memberships were all facility related and are discussed in Section 3.4.1.

Cost has not been particularly identified by clubs as a factor that prohibits participation.

In analysing the information from peak bodies and local clubs on participation trends, it is evident that a strong attribute of the sport is that it is equitable, as all of the disciplines cater for participants across age, gender and ability level. There does not seem to be a strong uptake of equestrian by people from a non-Anglo background, therefore a profile of the equestrian participant would be considered to be Anglo Saxon males and females, which live out of metropolitan areas. This profile matches very closely with the characteristics of the Baw Baw population.

### 2.3.2. Future Plans of Clubs

Clubs were asked to nominate their future plans over the short term (to 2008) according to a number of key areas. The directions of equestrian clubs in Baw Baw include:

#### 2.3.2.1. **Membership**

- Increase membership overall (males and females) / build membership to the maximum capacity of the club; achieve a goal of 30 children (pony club);
- Increase membership by targeted population groups (10 -15 year olds, juniors by the Pleasure Harness Racing Society, junior males and senior females by the Trafalgar Polocrosse Club;

- To increase participation by user groups, general community and recreational riding;
- Attract junior participants to events;
- Provide recreational activities;
- Increase in membership is subject to the availability of volunteers (Riding for the Disabled);
- Increase membership through events.

#### **2.3.2.2. Participation**

- Offer activities to cater for all levels (from beginner to elite), including riders of all ages, people with disabilities and riders without horses;
- Cater for people that want to get back into horse riding;
- Providing events to encourage beginners, training schools for beginners.

#### **2.3.2.3. Programs, Activities, Events**

- Continue training local riders and hosting inter club and zone competitions, State / national championships;
- Increase riding for the disabled use through the provision of ramps and fenced areas;
- Rider instruction days and inter-club competitions;
- All types of events, eg. dressage, horse trails, clinics, jumping, cross country, show driving, pleasure driving, open days, rodeo, ute muster, music entertainment, stud horse, cattle show, sales, gymkhana, horse sales, team penning;
- Social interaction, instruction at rallies;
- Day trips to equestrian themed features, eg. Mounted Police;
- Weekly riding sessions.

#### **2.3.2.4. Other**

- Social activities – with and without horses;
- Integrate Riding with Disabled participants into pony clubs or adult riding clubs.

#### **2.3.3. Levels of Participation in Equestrian Activities Provided by Clubs**

Opportunities are provided to participate in a range of equestrian disciplines across the clubs based in the Baw Baw Shire. The most opportunities are across the beginner and moderate levels of ability (comprising 34% and 33% of all opportunities). There are fewer opportunities offered for advanced levels of participation (23%), and fewest opportunities to participate at an elite level (10%).

There are few opportunities provided for participation in endurance riding by the clubs surveyed as defined by the scope of this Study (only one opportunity



provided at beginner level across all clubs) and some equestrian disciplines are not provided for at all (for example reining).

The greatest opportunities are provided in dressage, show jumping and pony club;

- The most opportunities for beginner level participation are provided in dressage, show jumping, pony club and showing
- The most opportunities for participation by people with moderate ability levels is in dressage, show jumping and pony club
- Dressage, show jumping, pony club and showing are the disciplines where the greatest opportunities are provided for participation at an advanced level
- The greatest range of opportunities for elite level participants are provided across the disciplines of dressage, camp drafting, polocrosse; with pony club activities also readily provided;

Few opportunities are provided across any level of participation in the disciplines of vaulting, tent pegging or carriage driving. The provision of opportunities however, needs to be balanced according to demand for participation, as these nominated activities are more highly skilled and complex activities, therefore it is anticipated that demand is not as great, and provision by all clubs could result in an oversupply.

When analysed by each discipline, there are few opportunities offered by clubs in Baw Baw for elite level participation in equestrian sports. This is not encouraged by those facilities in Baw Baw which provide basic level facilities only.

Additionally, a range of events are provided by clubs that cater for participants across all levels of ability – these are particularly provided for the areas of pony club, trail riding, pleasure harness riding and horse related show and feature events (example. rodeo, ute muster, horse shows, sales), mounted games and team penning.

Specific, elite level events (example. State, National and International) are only hosted by clubs at the facilities in Trafalgar and Warragul.

Opportunities for elite level participants are not provided by the West Gippsland Adult Riding Club, Trafalgar Pony Club, Lillico & District Pony Club or the Neerim & District Pony Club.

#### **2.4. Feedback on Draft Report**

Equestrian clubs, peak bodies and the general public were encouraged to review the draft Equestrian Facilities Plan and provide comment. Recognising the importance of building ownership of the equestrian community in the directions of the Plan and the need to reflect accurate data, combined with a commitment to ensuring the engagement of all stakeholders, the following extensive consultation was undertaken on the draft report:

- Specific meetings with the equestrian clubs at each venue to introduce and discuss the key directions of the draft report, including meetings at Neerim, Trafalgar, Drouin, Warragul;



- A meeting for interested members of the community to learn of the Plan and share their comments;
- Two workshops with a Group comprising members of each of the equestrian clubs included in the Study;
- The Group also jointly participated in a tour of various sites (existing equestrian venues, and potential sites) in the Baw Baw Shire;
- Copies of the draft report were also distributed to the peak equestrian bodies initially involved in the research consultation, and were asked to provide feedback.
- In total, sixteen submissions were received from equestrian clubs and / or individuals. A summary of the responses to the Study, and implications for the report is provided in Appendix 3. The key changes to the report based on stakeholder feedback include:
  - Ensure that the recommendations address casual access to equestrian facilities (i.e. for riders that may not be members of clubs, or club members that like to practice outside of nominated club sessions);
  - Clarify the recommendations around Riding for the Disabled Warragul (i.e. to stay at Logan Park; a municipal facility to consider provision for Riding for the Disabled where appropriate (i.e. where the needs of Riding for the Disabled can be fully met));
  - Clarify the issue of drainage at Bellbird Park (based on detailed site inspection by turf specialist);
  - Amend the provision requirement for a municipal level facility based on the agreed directions of the joint equestrian clubs, to include three polocrosse fields;
  - Acknowledge and incorporate provision for trail riding where appropriate, particularly in the facility provision model;
  - Amend / add new actions to the report (detailed in Section 4.3) including:
    - Formulation of an Equestrian Advisory Group
    - Broaden the investigation of sites for a municipal level facility
    - Outline the availability of support for clubs in running events (particularly to assist with venue hire)
    - Clarify the level of equestrian facility development at Trafalgar, particularly considering the needs of polocrosse and campdrafting
    - Incorporate an assessment facilities to address safety issues at each facility, and
    - Seek to formalise Riding for the Disabled Warragul's use of Logan Park.

## **Section 3: Understanding Equestrian Facility Provision**

### **3.1. Equestrian Facility Provision, Needs & Constraints**

#### **3.1.1. Review of Equestrian Facility Provision in Baw Baw**

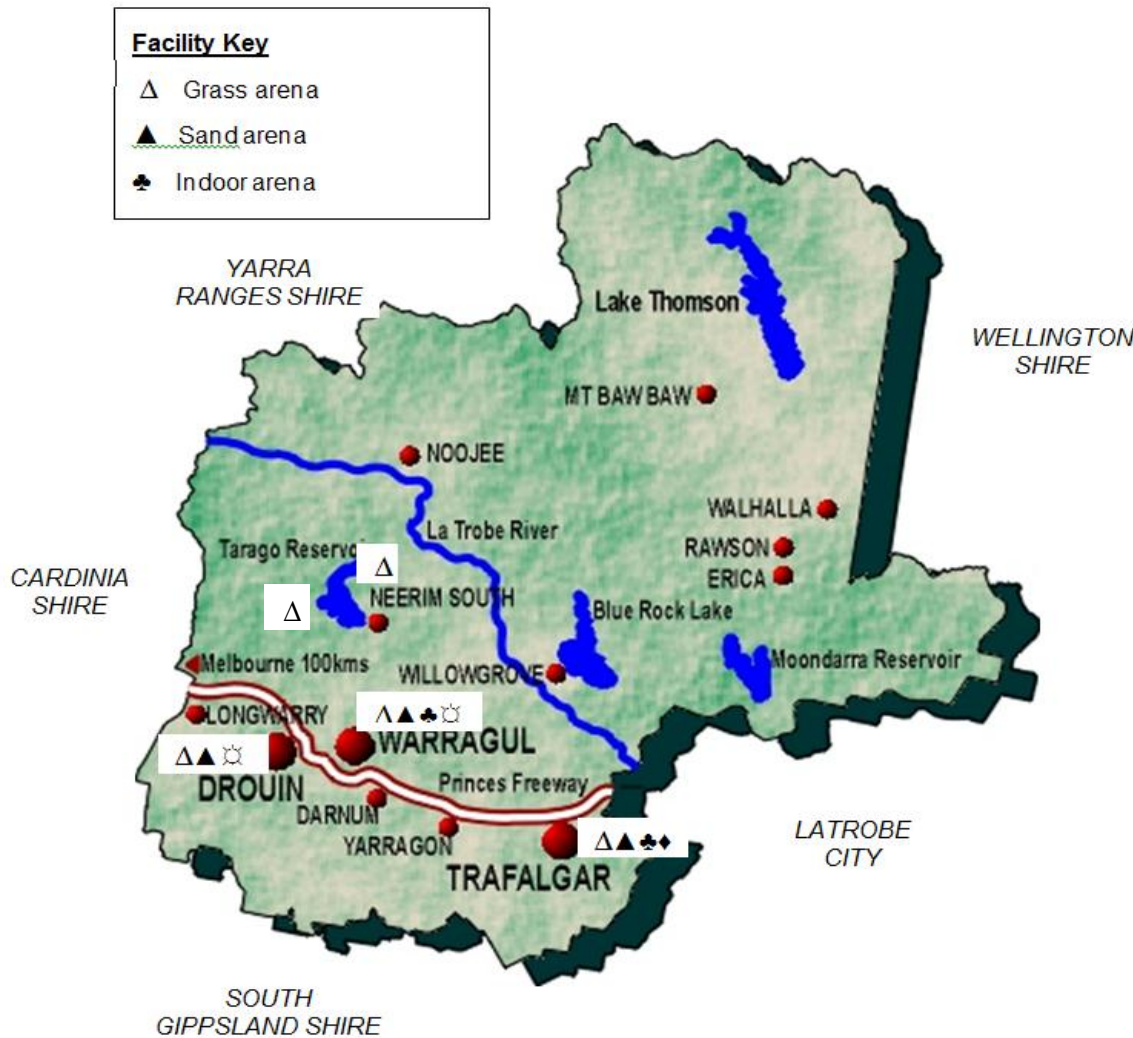
There are five equestrian facilities in the Baw Baw Shire (including one privately owned and one public sporting reserved used by organised equestrian clubs) that cater for all twelve equestrian clubs. A detailed overview of the scope, use and suitability of the facilities is provided in Appendix 1. The following pages provide a summary of the key elements and users of each facility, and a map illustrating the location and distribution of the facilities and dispersal across the Shire:

**Provision & Use of Equestrian Facilities in Baw Baw**

Facility/ Venue	Equestrian User Groups	Overview of Club	Use of Facilities
Logan Park, Warragul	Warragul Pony Club	Has been based at the Reserve for over 50 years and has a strong attachment to the site. Holds monthly rallies (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month), weekly to fortnightly team training (Jan-June) and annual competitions (state zone qualifiers, show jumping comp and instructional camp).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared between equestrian clubs</li> <li>• Shared with non-equestrian users</li> <li>• Riding tuition</li> <li>• Dressage</li> <li>• Show jumping</li> <li>• Competitions</li> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Rallies</li> <li>• Cross country</li> <li>• Other activities including State qualifying, games training, therapy sessions, horse mastership instruction, beginners riding instruction. Hired by Lillico &amp; District Pony Club.</li> </ul>
Logan Park, Warragul	Riding for the Disabled Warragul	Meet every Thursday during the day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared between equestrian clubs</li> <li>• Shared with non-equestrian users</li> <li>• Riding tuition</li> <li>• Agistment</li> </ul>
Logan Park, Warragul	West Gippsland Adult Riding Club	3-4 rider instruction days per month.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared between equestrian clubs</li> <li>• Shared with non-equestrian users</li> <li>• Riding tuition</li> <li>• Riding instruction &amp; coaching</li> </ul>

Facility/ Venue	Equestrian User Groups	Overview of Club	Use of Facilities
Warragul Equestrian Centre (Lillico), Warragul	Lillico & District Pony Club (The Lillico & District Pony Club is relocating to facilities at Bunyip Recreation Reserve (Cardinia Shire). This is a result of the club not having access to a full range of facilities for all equestrian disciplines at the Warragul Equestrian Centre.)	Only has access to the centre for Pony Club monthly rallies (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month), dressage and show jumping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared between equestrian clubs</li> <li>• Riding tuition</li> <li>• Dressage</li> <li>• Show jumping</li> <li>• Rallies</li> <li>• Programs conducted by the owner include school holiday riding programs, after school riding programs, and training of performance horses.</li> </ul>
Neerim Reserve, Neerim	Neerim & District Pony Club	Conducts monthly rallies, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month for show jumping, dressage, tuition activities. Hire Bellbird Park for 4 rallies per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared between equestrian clubs</li> <li>• Shared with non-equestrian users</li> <li>• Riding tuition</li> <li>• Dressage</li> <li>• Show jumping</li> <li>• Cross country</li> <li>• Agricultural Show runs annually in January.</li> </ul>
Neerim Reserve, Neerim	Neerim Adult Equestrian Club	Conducts monthly rallies, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month for show jumping, dressage and tuition activities, social riding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared between equestrian clubs</li> <li>• Shared with non-equestrian users</li> <li>• Riding tuition</li> <li>• Rallies</li> </ul>

**Location of Equestrian Facilities in the Baw Baw Shire**



**Facility Key**

- △ Grass arena
- ▲ Sand arena
- ♣ Indoor arena

**Warragul**

- Logan Park Φ ♣ Ω §
- Sand Menage
- 2 ovals
- Cross country
- Warragul Equestrian Centre Φ ♣ §
- Indoor sand arena
- Outdoor sand arena
- Cross country

**Neerim**

- Neerim Reserve Φ ⊖ § ♣
- General grass area

**Drouin**

- Bellbird Park Φ ♣
- Grass arena
- Sand ménage
- Cross country

**Trafalgar**

- Trafalgar △ Φ ⊖ ⊠ § ♣ \*
- Grass arena (open)
- Camp drafting arena
- Polocrosse

**Events Key**

△ Major events	Φ Pony club
⊖ Adult riding	Ω Cross country
* Camp drafting	⊠ Polocrosse

This information indicates that the facilities cater for a range of disciplines and are relatively well used, but have scope for further use. The Trafalgar Equestrian Park is unique in catering for more specialist equestrian sports which are not provided at any other facility in the Shire.

The facilities are conveniently located across the population centres in Baw Baw. No facilities are provided in the north / north-east of the Shire, but these areas are less populated and largely parkland. Warragul appears to be a central point amongst the townships. Neerim is the only venue not located within easy access of the Freeway.

Baw Baw based equestrian clubs also use facilities located outside of the Shire on occasions. These include:

- Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre (Cardinia Shire) has been hired by Drouin Pony Club, Lillico & District Pony Club, Neerim & District Pony Club and Trafalgar Adult Riding;
- The Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society has relocated from within the Baw Baw Shire to Catani Recreation Reserve (Cardinia Shire). This is due to the club not having a home facility in Baw Baw, and the opportunity to establish a home base at Catani Reserve. Activities conducted at the centre include driving competitions, show and pleasure riding;
- The Trafalgar Camp Draft Association competition rotates around facilities, therefore the club uses facilities based in Sale, Mansfield and Bacchus Marsh as well as the home facilities in Trafalgar.

Clubs also hire facilities within the Shire when their home facilities are not available, or to give riders different experiences (e.g. different surfaces, different configuration etc.).

### 3.1.2. Appropriateness of Facilities & Venues Used

There were shared views between clubs that share facilities, as to the degree to which their home facilities were meeting the user group needs. Each facility was rated and improvements nominated, according to the following:

#### **Logan Park, Warragul (6.1ha, Council & Crown land)**

##### **Overview**

The site has a local catchment and is fully publicly accessible. Overall, safety is the biggest concern, as the facility is not enclosed and horses can easily escape / impact on other users. Require fencing around the grassed area to control horses.

The sharing of facilities also impacts on the activities of the clubs, and requires some coordination (i.e. some rallies are relocated to other facilities when racing is scheduled, competition for car parking between soccer and equestrian users).

Part of the site (cross country area) is a floodway which greatly restricts use.

The Harness Racing Club would like to expand facilities. Logan Park user groups have requested that a master plan of the whole site be prepared.

Facility/ Venue	Appropriateness to Equestrian Needs	Requirements to Meet Equestrian Club Needs
Grass arena	Just meeting needs	Needs enclosing with a fence for safety Area too small – need an undercover area of 20x40m with tie up stalls. Priority for all-weather surface.
Sand Ménage	Meeting needs	No improvements necessary
Sports Ovals	Just meeting needs	Can't always access the facilities, as they are shared and impacts on car parking (for the sporting clubs as well as the equestrian clubs)
Cross Country	Not meeting needs	Use is limited as the area requires drainage. Site is not large enough for competitions.
Storage Shed	Meeting needs	Require more storage space as equipment is large. Shed is owned by the Pony Club and shared with other users.
Club rooms, toilets	Meeting needs	Ideally would include change rooms, and toilets located closer to the equestrian facilities
Dairy shed-indoor arena	Just meeting needs	Too small (17mx23m). Toilets are too far away for disabled children.
Holding yards	Meeting needs	Require more holding yards to cater for all members.

### Comment

A specific planning study commissioned by the Baw Baw Shire and the Department of Sustainability and Environment to prepare development options for the Warragul Transit Precinct identified strong population growth in Warragul which has stimulated demand for residential accommodation that is suggested to continue. The Transit Precinct includes Logan Park, the site of the Warragul Equestrian Clubs, and identifies that the site will come under pressure to accommodate higher order uses more complementary to the town centre over time (to be more compatible with the increasing density of housing activities encroaching around the Reserve).

The Plan presents three development options for Logan Park, but the endorsed version is limited to identifying the potential for improvements to sporting and aquatic facilities and infrastructure in Logan Park.



### **Warragul Equestrian Park (Lillico), Warragul (privately owned)**

#### **Overview**

The facility offers the only indoor arena in the Baw Baw Shire but is considered to cater for a local catchment. Being privately owned, access is restricted and exclusive.

The Lillico Pony Club's growth has been limited by facility constraints, and therefore it will cease using the centre in 2006 and use the Bunyip Recreation Reserve in the Cardinia Shire to access larger facilities that are more freely available. The Centre will not be available for use by equestrian clubs following this, as the owners plan to increase the level of privately delivered programs.

The owner has numerous long term development plans (these are not definite), including extending & improving facilities, catering for spectators, developing the cross country course.

<b>Facility/ Venue</b>	<b>Appropriateness to Equestrian Needs</b>	<b>Requirements to Meet Equestrian Club Needs</b>
Indoor arena (sand surface)	Not meeting needs	Issue is not with the quality of facilities, but related to the desire for more space to conduct a greater range of activities by the pony club. Would like more times of access for the club. There is a need to access a grassed surface.
Outdoor arena	Not meeting needs	Issue is not with the quality of facilities, but related to the desire for more space to conduct a greater range of activities by the pony club. Would like more times of access for the club. There is a need to access a grassed surface.
Cross country	Not meeting needs	Course is not useable due to drainage issues and not large enough for competitions
Toilets	Meeting needs	No improvements necessary
Access road, car and float park	Not meeting needs	Access road is difficult (narrow and rutted).

#### **Overview**

The site caters for a local catchment; and the grounds are grazed by cattle (the site is enclosed and locked – user equestrian clubs have access to the grounds) and shared with the Show Society and cricket club. Facility limitations inhibit the growth of the clubs. There are constraints to the development of facilities to expand the equestrian activities offered, including the facilities being shared between different committees and different sports.

The site has some environmental overlays.

Equestrian clubs would like to develop a sand ménage, but have not been given approval by the Committee of Management.

**Neerim Reserve, Neerim (3ha, Crown land)****Overview**

The site caters for a local catchment; and the grounds are grazed by cattle (the site is enclosed and locked – user equestrian clubs have access to the grounds) and shared with the Show Society and cricket club. Facility limitations inhibit the growth of the clubs. There are constraints to the development of facilities to expand the equestrian activities offered, including the facilities being shared between different committees and different sports.

The site has some environmental overlays.

Equestrian clubs would like to develop a sand ménage, but have not been given approval by the Committee of Management.

Facility/ Venue	Appropriateness to Equestrian Needs	Requirements to Meet Equestrian Club Needs
Grassed Area	Not meeting needs	Would like to develop a sand ménage. There is no room for a cross country course. No horse yards or tie up rails are provided.
Shed	Not meeting needs	Owned by the Show Society and used for equestrian club storage, meetings and a kitchen. Needs to be vacated once per year for the Show which is a large exercise for the Show Society and equestrian clubs. Does not comply with health regulations.
Toilet block	Not meeting needs	Water to be pumped in, toilets often block and need modernising (i.e. enclosed and improved)

**Bellbird Park, Drouin (approx 8ha, Council land)****Overview**

The site caters for a local catchment.

Access is restricted (ie. enclosed and locked), thus making the site safe and therefore appealing to young riders. Residential development in the area is encroaching toward the site and it is anticipated that there will be increasing pressure for access and use of the Reserve for recreational purposes, eg. walking dogs.

The site can accommodate some camping, although there is no provision for change rooms, showers, lighting or hot water.

The site has some vegetation overlays.

Facility/ Venue	Appropriateness to Equestrian Needs	Requirements to Meet Equestrian Club Needs
Club rooms/ Shed	Not meeting needs	Need a larger area with windows, heating and insulation to make the facility conducive for meetings, tuition classes and social lunches
Car and float parking	Not meeting needs	The club used an abutting site (privately owned paddock) for overflow car parking, which is now subdivided for residential development and there was inadequate space for car parking for events. But recent car parking development has increased car parking capacity on site for approximately 110 participants. However there are drainage issues and planning overlays restrict development.
Grassed area	Not meeting needs	Need to address drainage – restricts use, impacts directly on membership and casual riding, reduces private instruction and prohibits events and clinics.
Sand ménage (100 x 30m)	Meeting needs	Ideally would fence off the area to control horses.
Holding Yards	Not meeting needs	Existing yards are meeting needs, but need more and there is no room for expansion
Cross Country	Meeting Needs	Grade 2 level course – there is not enough room to develop the course into a Grade 1. Competitions are held at the course.

## Comment

In June 2006, Council commissioned an assessment of the surfaces at Bellbird Park by an independent turf specialist. All sports surfaces at the Park were inspected; the findings relevant to the equestrian area include:

- The surface is extremely wet, moist and boggy; with the current grass surface being of average quality, and thinning;
- Current utilisation (ie. the conduct of equestrian activities) and usage levels are detrimental to the surface;
- The surface is rutted which causes water pooling;
- The soil type is not conducive to good drainage; this condition could adversely affect the usage levels that the grounds can tolerate before the surface deteriorates further.

As a result, the report nominates an upgrade of the equestrian area as not being feasible at present due to budget constraints. It is identified that, to improve the surface quality and address the drainage issues at the site would require considerable earthworks which would require great expense.

## **Trafalgar Equestrian Park, Trafalgar (5.8ha, Council & Crown land)**

### Overview

The equestrian Park is publicly accessible. Because of the mix of equestrian uses and the initiative of the Trafalgar Equestrian Park, the centre caters for large scale events and is considered to have a municipal catchment. The Trafalgar Equestrian Park has plans to upgrade the centre with a portable amenities block, and plans to install a public address system. The site is considered to be a high risk area due to the poor drainage and surface quality. Part of the site has environmental overlay and areas of significant vegetation.

Facility/ Venue	Appropriateness to Equestrian Needs	Requirements to Meet Equestrian Club Needs
Buildings	Not meeting needs	Buildings are very poor standard and some are condemned. Buildings need to be consolidated and upgraded / replaced. Need change rooms, toilets, showers.
Open grassed area	Not meeting needs	Surface needs upgrading as the quality is poor - the ground is hard and filled with remnant soil (that has large rocks that rise to the surface) that presents a safety risk for horses and riders. Facilities have not been used by polocrosse for the past 2 years due to the surface not being safe. Need drainage and new lighting.
Camp drafting	Not meeting needs	Requires lighting. There is demand for the camp drafting club to run a school. The camp draft facilities are used once a year for a major event.

Facility/ Venue	Appropriateness to Equestrian Needs	Requirements to Meet Equestrian Club Needs
Tie-up rails & holding yards	Meeting needs	Require more areas to cater for large numbers of users during events.
Storage	Not meeting needs	Buildings are interspersed. Additional storage is required (area the size of a 6 car garage)
Car & float parking	Meeting needs	Designated car parking is not provided, but there is adequate space to cater for car parking needs.

### 3.1.3 Analysis

The areas identified for improvement to better meet the needs of the equestrian users were similar across user groups and sites, and included safety (risk management), drainage, storage, some issues with shared use (between non-equestrian clubs competing for space) and the provision of more facilities such as amenities (toilets, showers, change rooms) and more elaborate facilities.

There are no facilities in the Baw Baw Shire that are equipped to cater for camping, which greatly inhibits the ability to cater for multi-day events.

After reviewing the needs of each facility, the following summary identifies the priority development needs that will enable the user clubs to continue to occupy and operate from the facilities and cater to the needs of their members:

### Improvements Required to Existing Facilities

Facility/ Venue	Minimum Development Needs to Enhance Operations at the Facility	Future Plans of Clubs for Facilities
Logan Park, Warragul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address Safety through fences</li> <li>Improve drainage</li> <li>Increase storage area for all clubs</li> <li>Upgrade bridge over creek to provide safe access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a safe, all weather arena</li> <li>Utilise the full extent of space available (currently limited by poor drainage), to develop a cross country course</li> <li>Provide a safe venue</li> <li>Upgrade/ develop the club room to include toilets</li> </ul>
Neerim Recreation Reserve, Neerim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade toilets</li> <li>Provide permanent storage</li> <li>Provide meeting space, kitchen</li> <li>Develop a sand ménage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade toilets</li> <li>Provide permanent storage</li> <li>Provide meeting space, kitchen</li> <li>Develop a sand ménage</li> </ul>

Facility/ Venue	Minimum Development Needs to Enhance Operations at the Facility	Future Plans of Clubs for Facilities
Bellbird Park, Drouin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase car parking area</li> <li>• Address drainage</li> <li>• Increase the shed size</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add an all-weather sand arena</li> <li>• Upgrade the cross country course to Grade 1</li> <li>• Provide floodlighting</li> <li>• Upgrade car parking to provide all weather access</li> </ul>
Trafalgar Equestrian Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New surface to address safety and risk management</li> <li>• Consolidate buildings – provide buildings for meeting space, kitchen, toilets, showers</li> <li>• Upgrade floodlighting</li> <li>• Address drainage</li> <li>• Increase storage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide floodlighting</li> <li>• Upgrade / develop the club room to include toilets, kitchen, storage</li> <li>• Upgrade ground surface to address safety (irrigate to reduce hardness)</li> <li>• Provide horse yards, powered camping sites, a new horse wash for camp drafting facilities</li> <li>• Develop a large embankment for public view</li> <li>• Provide a ground for dressage and jumping</li> <li>• Establish a cross country course</li> </ul>

### 3.1.3. Alternative Sites for Equestrian Facilities in Baw Baw

A number of greenfield sites have been identified in the Baw Baw Shire, which provide an alternative for the development of equestrian facilities should the need for a new facility be identified. An overview of the sites is provided:

- Darnum (5.6ha) – Crown land, former tip site, zoned farming
- Rear Bennett Street Tennis Courts, Drouin (3.1ha)
- Rokeby – A Crown land site north of Stoll's Mill abutting State forest

Of these options, it is considered that the Drouin site is too small, and Darnum would most likely present risk management issues for the ground surface being an old tip site. The Rokeby site may present as an option for development if the Department of Sustainability and Environment is agreeable. A benefit of this site is that it could also provide for trail riding due to its proximity to the forest.

Council is also considering acquiring land for the development of a recreation precinct in Trafalgar. The opportunity exists to consider acquiring additional land to that required for the precinct, should a new equestrian facility be deemed necessary in Trafalgar.

### 3.2. Review of Equestrian Facility Provision in the Region

An inventory was collated of all of the known publicly and privately owned / managed equestrian facilities in each of the municipalities bordering with the Baw Baw Shire Council. These areas included:

- Latrobe City
- Wellington Shire
- Cardinia Shire
- South Gippsland Shire
- Yarra Ranges Shire

The inventory records the ownership, use and management of the facilities, based on the knowledge of Recreation Officers from each of the Councils and some club personnel. The inventory of information is provided in Appendix 2. An analysis of the information available has informed this Plan of the following:

#### 3.2.1. Yarra Ranges Shire

There are 27 clubs using 21 facilities (10 of which are owned / managed by the Shire and occupied by equestrian clubs through a lease) in the Shire.

All facilities are of a local level catchment.

There is considered to be scope for additional use of facilities, particularly during the week when they are not being used by clubs.

There is an issue with clubs restricting access to facilities to public riders due to public liability risks for the clubs.

Some facilities provide poor access; a lack of car parking and poor vehicular access.

There are issues with sharing between pony clubs and adult riders.

There is a focus by clubs on upgrading facilities to minimise risks and improve safety.

There is a conflict in balancing the use of facilities for equestrian purposes with environmental preservation, with some facilities containing valuable vegetation and the growth of weeds needing to be managed.

#### 3.2.2. Cardinia Shire

There are a large number of facilities and clubs in the Shire, including a number that are privately owned.

A number of facilities are located within comfortable driving distance (around 30 minutes) from areas of the Baw Baw Shire. Besides local level facilities, the type of facilities that participants would be prepared to drive to (ie. there is perceived benefit in travelling further to access) include larger, higher quality facilities and indoor facilities. These may include Cannibal Creek Reserve and Byerley Equestrian Centre, Tonimuk Equestrian Centre, Yarabubba Horse Riding Reserve.

Some equestrian groups are lobbying Council for a regional facility in the Shire, however Council does not have land available for such a development.



There is a possibility that Council may consider a partnership development with the Baw Baw Shire Council for a regional equestrian facility.

The South East Victoria Equine Network incorporating the Cardinia Shire area has initiated an investigation into the equestrian facility needs in the south east region of Victoria, to consider provision of a regional facility. It is anticipated that, if found to be feasible, a regional facility will also cater for residents of the Baw Baw Shire.

### **3.2.2.1. Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre**

Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre is privately owned and located in Bunyip North.

The facilities provided at the Centre include:

- Indoor arena (main) – 90 x 40m, fully lit, viewing gallery and function room
- Indoor arena (second) – 90 x 40m, fully lit, shared viewing gallery with main arena, cattle yards for cutting shows
- Stabling and yards – 16 stables attached to indoor school, 15 stables in car park, 56 stables in camping area, 100 portable stables which can be erected in different areas, 56 outdoor yards
- Cross country course – catering for all EFA grades
- Show jumping equipment
- Camping and accommodation – powered sites, water, toilets and showers, self-contained units

Fees to hire the venue are:

- Main indoor arena \$300 p/day without lights, \$350 p/day with lights
- Second indoor arena \$250 p/day without lights, \$300 p/day with lights
- Both indoor arenas \$575 p/day with lights
- Outdoor arena – price not disclosed
- Cross country – price not disclosed
- Stables @\$22
- Undercover yards @\$16.50
- Self-erected temporary yards @\$5
- Show jumping \$275
- Individual arena hire \$15
- Individual cross country hire \$20

The Centre has been hired by the Lillico & District Pony Club, Drouin Pony Club and Trafalgar Adult Riding Club for the purposes of eventing, jumping, showing, show jumping, clinics, casual riding, private instruction, events and competitions, and rallies.

### 3.2.3. South Gippsland Shire

It appears that facilities in South Gippsland have some scope for development as they are located on large parcels of land.

Three of the seven facilities identified in South Gippsland have plans for upgrades.

A number of facilities in South Gippsland are located within comfortable driving distance from parts of Baw Baw, and may offer access to different equestrian activities than those provided in Baw Baw, eg. Korumburra (new dressage arena and further plans to upgrade / expand), Leongatha (plans for major upgrade).

There is a possibility that Council may consider a partnership development with the Baw Baw Shire Council for a regional equestrian facility.

### 3.2.4. Latrobe City

All except one facility provide for local needs only – with the other catering for a municipal-wide catchment (that is, the facilities are developed to a slightly higher standard and cater for a wider range of equestrian activities).

The facilities are mainly occupied by pony clubs, with little use by adult riding clubs or Riding for the Disabled.

All facilities are well used, and some to capacity – indicating that they are in high demand.

There are some plans to further develop the facilities in Latrobe amongst equestrian clubs. The Hazelwood Pony Club is seeking a better standard facility to be able to cater for more riders, and has ambitions to build a new facility in Hazelwood North (Hazelwood / Hazelwood North are localities that are experiencing residential development for farmlets). Another Pony Club (Toongabbie) has just relocated to a new facility, so it is expected that the club will implement improvements to those facilities over time. Most equestrian clubs are in the process of developing club rooms as they have outgrown the existing facilities, and also need more space for meeting and administration purposes.

It is considered that the equestrian facility needs are generally being met (or have capacity to meet) in Latrobe. Council does not experience many requests from equestrian clubs for the provision of additional facilities or facility developments.

It is considered that there is an opportunity for a regional facility in the City, as clubs want to run large events and the current facilities do not allow for this. To this end, the City of Latrobe would be interested in a partnership for a regional facility development, on the basis that demand is sufficient.

### 3.2.5. Wellington Shire

There is a mix of facilities in the Wellington Shire; in terms of ownership of land (Crown, private and Council), use by equestrian clubs, sharing with other sporting clubs, catering for a range of participation levels and equestrian disciplines.

Utilisation varies; from being used to capacity, to having some scope for further use. In some cases, the limitations of facilities are inhibiting the growth of clubs.

Without having undertaken a visual inspection of the facilities, on the basis of discussion with staff at the Shire Council there seems to be a number of well-developed facilities, that each cater for a range of equestrian disciplines.

Some facilities are being developed further, and some are prevented from being upgraded due to site constraints.

There is considered to be interest in, and a place for a regional facility, and that patrons would be prepared to travel to access a high standard facility and pay for use.

Facilities in the Wellington Shire appear to contain infrastructure for a number of equestrian disciplines. As a result (particularly if the facilities are developed to a high standard) the demand and need for a regional facility within the Shire may not be as high. Clubs have expressed differing views towards a regional facility; from there being interest, to needing to market any regional facility heavily as a previous regional facility was not used effectively.

#### 3.2.6. Summary

There are some limitations with the information gathered, whereby not all information was available.

Overall there appears to be few opportunities for equestrian facilities in surrounding municipalities to service the needs of Baw Baw clubs, particularly as nearly all of the facilities cater for local catchments only, and therefore do not offer any additional experiences that are not provided for within the municipality.

There are some opportunities for the development of regional facilities in surrounding municipalities, or the use of facilities that are developed to higher standards than that offered within Baw Baw (more regional level facilities). These seem to lie with the municipalities furthest away from Melbourne, as there is a trend to land being more scarce in council areas that are closer to the city as they are more highly developed.

There are also some opportunities for partnerships for the shared development of a regional facility with other councils.

### **3.3. Consultation with Peak Equestrian Bodies**

Interviews with the Equestrian Federation of Australia (Vic Branch), Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria (HRCAV) and Pony Club Association of Victoria (PCAV) unveiled the following directions and opinions regarding facility provision for equestrian activities (where possible the needs and opportunities for facility provision in the East Gippsland region have been investigated):

#### **3.3.1. Impact of Participation Trends on Facility Provision**

As a result of an increase in the number of competitions being offered, there is a greater demand for facilities – both new facilities and increased use of existing facilities through sharing between disciplines.

It is important for clubs to offer a range of opportunities and cater for varying ability levels to attract and retain members, eg. cross country, dressage (on sand and grass ménages), jumping etc.

A lack of ‘all weather’ surface impacts upon the use of facilities.

The Victorian Polocrosse Association is looking for a ground to host State events.

#### **3.3.2. The Future for Facilities**

There is considered to be a need for the provision of regional level facilities, as many clubs are not equipped to cater for competitions due to facility limitations.

Facilities should be made available for hire by all clubs and not be dominated by a tenant club to the restricted access of others.

All clubs should have access to quality facilities that meet usage and safety requirements.

It is anticipated that in the future, equestrian facilities will be assessed by peak bodies more regularly to ensure safety.

#### **3.3.3. Regional Facilities**

Facilities are predominantly provided to cater for local needs, and are occupied by tenant clubs (that may be shared between equestrian disciplines). Where there are regional facilities, they tend to be developed by the tenant clubs through adapted buildings, volunteer labour and donated materials. There is considered to be a need for more regional facilities that should cater for events and be accessible to any equestrian groups. In addition to a local facility, a regional facility is considered to require the following elements;

Cater for 100 cars and floats (intra-club rallies attract 30-40 cars and floats)

Provision for camping – open area with a few powered sites; adequate toilet facilities and access to water, and ideally showers

At least 50 holding / day yards

A spectator area – viewing mounds with seating (approximately 20 metres away from the arena)

The PCAV works towards a hierarchy of local, zone and State facilities; whereby local facilities are occupied by tenant clubs (through a lease), with all improvements being funded by the clubs; whereas zone facilities are larger and more highly developed to cater for larger clubs or to be hired by clubs. There are ten zones with the PCAV in Victoria. (This description would address the definition of a regional level facility also).

It is felt that availability of volunteers need to be considered in determining the appropriateness of a regional facility (under a community management model), as it would take more human resources to manage – and add to the responsibilities of volunteers if managed by clubs.

There is considered to be a need for a Grade 1 cross country facility in Baw Baw as none of the facilities currently provide for this. Grade 1 facilities are provided at Bunyip and Tonimbuk (not used by many clubs as this facility is considered to be too expensive to hire). The Bunyip Recreation Reserve is considered to be a regional facility.

Suggested sites for a regional facility is on Western Port Road between Drouin South and Ripplebrook, and at Lardner Park.

### **Victorian State Equestrian Centre, Werribee Equestrian Park**

The Werribee Equestrian Park is owned by the Victorian Government as it is based on a Crown Land site. The Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre is the managing organisation that has been contracted (under a lease) to manage and operate the centre on behalf of Parks Victoria (representing the State government). The Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre is run by a Committee of Management.

has been used by a number of clubs (for eventing, showing, dressage, polo, show jumping). The Centre includes:

- Indoor arena (main) - 90m x 40m
- Indoor arena (second) – 67m x 27m
- Day yards for 391 horses
- 2 x polo fields – 183m x 274m
- A field named the Chirnside Field (no dimensions provided)
- 2 x show jumping arenas – 250m x 100m
- Warm-up areas
- 3 x stable blocks (can accommodate 146 horses)
- General purpose area (can cater for 4 x polocrosse fields) - measuring 146m x 255m
- Second general purpose area – 200m x 90m
- 5 x sand dressage arenas - @ 20m x 60m
- Full size cross country course including obstacles
- Central amenities block (meeting rooms, toilets, showers)
- Conference room

- Camping area (128 powered sites, 300 unpowered sites and toilet / shower block)
- Car parking

The facilities have exceeded club needs when hired for clinics, casual riding, private instruction, events and competitions. Other events held at the Centre have included:

- Royal Melbourne Horse Show
- Saddle Horse Championships
- National Reining Clinic
- Riding for the Disabled – State and National Championships
- Barastock – Horse of the Year
- Young Rider State Dressage Championships
- Show Horse State and National Titles

The Centre is considered by clubs to be very expensive to hire. The hire fees are:

- Dressage arenas \$100
- Show jumping arenas \$450 (both), \$250 (single)
- General purpose area \$695 (full), \$495 (half)
- Indoor arenas \$450 (main), \$300 (second), \$600 (both)
- Cross country course \$1,200
- Facility fee of \$11 per horse
- Stable \$25 per day per horse
- The conference room, equipment, PA system, cleaning and camping are also available for a fee.

#### 3.3.4. East Gippsland Region

The PCAV considers there are inadequate or sufficient facilities for higher level competition in the Gippsland region. This is supported by;

- State qualifiers are run in the region each year and have difficulty in finding a facility to meet the needs of the event
- Adequate space and a quality ground surface are often the elements that are missing
- There is a lack of facilities that can be used in all weather conditions, ie. indoor
- The Tonimbuk Equestrian Park (located in North Bunyip) is often used as a venue, but it is a private facility and considered expensive to hire. Tonimbuk is regularly used by pony clubs in Gippsland for zone events and other large scale events.
- There is an impression by the PCAV that local facilities are underutilised.

The EFA considers that facility provision in the Region is sufficient to meet usage requirements, and that facilities are fully utilised for EFA events at required times.

Existing utilisation;

- Most facilities are regularly used and on occasions clubs have to go elsewhere for some events
- As with most sports facilities are in high demand over weekend and are often vacant for most of the week

Participants are willing to travel 30 minutes to an hour to access quality facilities.

### **3.4. Consultation with Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs**

Facility needs and constraints were investigated through the surveys and face-to-face meetings with a number of equestrian clubs. In relation to the facility issues, the following provides an overview of the key information obtained:

#### **3.4.1 The Impact of Current Facilities on Provision for Equestrian Activities**

A number of facility related factors were attributed to increasing club memberships, including:

- The central location and accessibility of facilities;
- Having space to cater for large scale events and competitions;
- Hiring other facilities to run club activities (for clubs with poorer quality / lower standard facilities or facilities with limited access, thus giving members access to higher quality facilities);
- Offering facilities that are unique (eg. camp drafting is the only facility in Baw Baw and Drouin is the only club with ready access to a cross country course and two sand arenas);
- For clubs with poorer quality / lower standard facilities or facilities with limited access – hiring other facilities to run club activities (thus giving members access to higher quality facilities).

Importantly, a number of facility limitations (especially health and safety issues like lack of fencing, for example) were attributed to patron dissatisfaction.



### 3.4.2 Funding Priorities for Facilities in the Baw Baw Shire

Clubs were asked to prioritise funding on facilities to address the needs for equestrian across the Baw Baw Shire. The following lists the funding tasks according to priority (there may be some overlap of tasks across different priorities as they were rated by clubs):

Highest priority:	Second priority:	Lower priority:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of all-weather arenas</li> <li>• Large, multi-purpose arena servicing different disciplines</li> <li>• Extra yards to accommodate more members</li> <li>• Complete all weather parking upgrade</li> <li>• Secure fencing of equestrian arena when in use</li> <li>• Development of a regional equestrian facility similar to Tonimbuk Equestrian Park, for use by multiple user groups</li> <li>• Sufficient area to work horses</li> <li>• Bore (Irrigation)</li> <li>• New toilets / shower facilities</li> <li>• Bigger shed. Need new undercover shed at least 20m x 40m which could be shared between user groups.</li> <li>• Complete upgrade or relocation to a new site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of all-weather cross country course</li> <li>• Showers / change-rooms</li> <li>• Provision for overnight campers at events, ie. electricity and lighting</li> <li>• Sensor activated boom gates at each entrance of Logan Park to address safety</li> <li>• More toilets close to club rooms</li> <li>• Drainage and improved surfaces to facilities (polocrosse, Warragul), to enable year-round use</li> <li>• Upgrade kitchens / canteens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage for equipment</li> <li>• Upgrade cross-country course to Grade 1</li> <li>• Undercover arenas, stabling or undercover yards at one major venue in Baw Baw, to cater for equestrian events and clinics</li> <li>• A venue to cater for large scale events that can accommodate 100-500 floats, 6-8 dressage arenas and show jumping arenas</li> <li>• Erect lighting at grounds for events</li> <li>• Improve access between paddocks and safety of bridges.</li> </ul>

The priorities reflect the key common facility constraints and needs of drainage, storage, all weather surface, cross country provision, a desire for undercover / indoor provision, amenities close to arenas and safety.

## **Section 4: Future Provision for Equestrian Facilities in Baw Baw**

### **4.1. Summarising Equestrian Facility Provision**

#### **4.1.1. Key Considerations**

Analysis of the research and consultation findings has enabled formulation of the key considerations relevant to the future provision of equestrian facilities in the Baw Baw Shire. The following constraints, issues and factors inhibit participation in, and the development of the sport, and need to be carefully planned around:

- It is critically important for clubs to be able to offer opportunities across a range of equestrian disciplines (at least dressage, jumping, riding tuition, and ideally cross country);
- There is a strong interest in dressage by participants, therefore it is important to provide for this discipline;
- There are few opportunities for participation in higher levels of competition in Baw Baw – this is not encouraged by facilities that are not conducive to catering for higher levels of participation, events etc;
- There are few opportunities in neighbouring municipalities to cater for the needs of Baw Baw clubs, as most facilities cater to a local level catchment;
- The provision of locally based equestrian activities is important to attract juniors, as this is the area of greatest growth in participation (reflected by State and local participation trends). It is also anticipated that provision at a local level would be more conducive to encouraging participation by people with disabilities (nominated as a future area of focus by a number of clubs);
- There is a strong desire amongst clubs for regular access to all-weather arenas / surfaces, and indoor or undercover facilities, and to provide for travellers to events (ie. camping);
- Facilities in Baw Baw mainly cater for local needs. The growth in participation, and increasing residential development of the area supports the development of fewer, but well equipped and high standard facilities that can be a central point for larger scale events and elements of equestrian sports that require too much land to provide at a local level (ie. cross country).
- The trend toward decentralisation of participation will emphasise the importance of regional centres to cater for higher levels of participation, as the hierarchy of competitions changes to include a regional layer;
- Safety is a key consideration for the management of equestrian facilities;
- Mitigating environmental impact and protecting the environment is a consideration in the provision and management of facilities;
- Participation has increased significantly in Baw Baw over a 12 month period – particularly markedly in Trafalgar;

- Equestrian facilities require large areas of land. As a result, it is prudent for land owners / managers (such as local government) to seek efficient methods of provision to avoid duplication and maximise use when catering for needs across a large area (such as a municipality). Options may include sharing of facilities, catering for multiple activities, different development standards.
- Membership sizes of clubs are generally small – around 50 people. Given the large allocation of land required for equestrian activities, this highlights the high consumption of land, and therefore inefficiency of the sports (in terms of use of space) for providers of venues (especially when compared to the land area to participant ratio of other sports).
- The absence of facility size / land area guidelines presents difficulties for the future planning of facilities that allow for current need and future growth;
- The natural travel flow from clubs in Baw Baw seems to be directed toward the Cardinia Shire.

#### 4.1.2. Key Directions

A number of key directions have evolved from the key considerations. These are considered to represent the crux of the research in moving forward, and will provide the basis for the development of the Equestrian Facilities Plan:

- As a minimum, facilities need to provide for tuition, dressage and jumping. The provision of a cross country course is desirable, but given the land area required for full courses, a precedent of providing smaller areas for local learning and practice has been set.
- There is a need to consider the development of facility(ies) that cater for a range of disciplines to broaden the opportunities that can be provided for Baw Baw residents (ie. across a variety of disciplines, to participate at high levels).
- To achieve this, a facility with a range of infrastructure to support a number of equestrian sports would be required. This would lend itself to catering for events and competitions, and as a result, would attract participants from a regional catchment.

In addition to the above, facilities that support locally based clubs and the different emphasis of competition at a local level are also important.

To this end, a hierarchy of facilities that clarifies development standards to cater for various levels of equestrian activity would be beneficial.

## **4.2. Future Provision of Equestrian Facilities in Baw Baw**

### **4.2.1. The Model of Provision**

To address the demand for participation in a way that will cater for the future anticipated directions of equestrian sports and, needs of the Baw Baw based clubs, that is resource efficient and sustainable, a three tiered hierarchy of facilities is considered relevant and appropriate. The hierarchy identifies that, in order to provide variation of opportunities in Baw Baw, facilities need to be developed to different standards and cater for different needs. The proposed hierarchy of equestrian facilities for the Baw Baw Shire follows:

Hierarchy Level	Function	Facility Mix and Land Area	Management Considerations	Provision in Baw Baw
Municipal (ie. one per Council area)	A Municipal Level facility should cater for events and competitions of up to 200 riders, the disciplines of dressage, show jumping and cross country to a high standard, plus other specialist disciplines that reflect the needs of participants across a Council area, supported by buildings and amenities that can cater for elite level events (eg. State events, championships, multi-day events).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 x dressage arenas (consider an all-weather surface) (0.45ha)</li> <li>• General purpose area x 1 (equivalent 3 x polocrosse fields – to include show jumping (requires 1ha)) (3.4ha)</li> <li>• Specific camp draft x 1 (est. 0.8ha)</li> <li>• Pavilion including change facilities, toilets, kitchen / kiosk, meeting / social space, storage (0.02ha)</li> <li>• Car and float parking x 200 (30m<sup>2</sup> per car &amp; float park) (0.6ha)</li> <li>• Overflow / events parking x 50 car parking spaces (0.15ha)</li> <li>• Holding / day yards x 200 (12 m<sup>2</sup> per yard) (0.25ha)</li> <li>• Full fencing</li> <li>• Periphery (paths, landscaping, circulation etc) (0.4ha)</li> </ul> <p>Total estimated land area – 6.1ha (excluding cross country). In addition, a full size cross country course (Grade / Level 2) should be provided – to cover 3km lineal. This can vary in configuration according to the site characteristics, and may make use of abutting land (eg. farms etc). Only one size cross country course should be provided at the municipal level.</p>	Preparation of a management plan to address; shared use, equitable allocation of revenue to clubs, maintenance schedule and responsibilities, fees & charges. May be appropriate to convene a Committee of Management to ensure a coordinated approach that involves all stakeholders.	The Trafalgar Equestrian Park is the only facility in Baw Baw that attracts the number of participants that would be associated with a municipal level facility (although the buildings and infrastructure at the site do not currently support this use). To this end, the specialised activities and events catered for need to be accommodated within the municipality.

Hierarchy Level	Function	Facility Mix and Land Area	Management Considerations	Provision in Baw Baw
Local (depending on the demand and interest in equestrian within a Council area, it is likely that there would be several local level facilities provided, normally linked to townships)	Cater for the disciplines of at least riding tuition, dressage and jumping, and potentially cross country (full size course not necessary).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x dressage arenas (0.3ha)</li> <li>• General purpose area x 1 (1.2ha)</li> <li>• Clubhouse with toilets &amp; kitchenette / kiosk, meeting / social space, storage (0.012ha)</li> <li>• Car and float parking x 30 (0.09ha)</li> <li>• Overflow / events parking / temporary holding / day yards x 50 car parking spaces (0.15ha)</li> <li>• Holding / day yards x 40 (0.05ha)</li> <li>• Partial fencing to allow public access</li> <li>• Periphery (paths, landscaping, circulation etc) (0.3ha)</li> </ul> <p>Total estimated land area – 2.1ha (excluding cross country) A cross country course should not be provided at a local level.</p>	Occupancy by clubs via a license agreement that stipulates times of access, maintenance responsibilities and shared use, fees and charges.	The equestrian venues at Neerim, Warragul and Drouin fit into the local level of the facility hierarchy.

The land area requirement for a municipal facility is not much less than a regional level facility due to the inclusion of polocrosse and campdraft facilities that are not provided for in the regional facility.

Underpinning all developments is the need to address safety through, at a minimum, providing flat, level, unobstructed surfaces, fencing, lighting, traffic flow etc.

Considering the proposed hierarchy of equestrian facility provision outlined above, and the location of the Tonimbuk Equestrian Park as a regional level facility, it is suggested that only facilities of a municipal and local level should be provided within the Baw Baw Shire.

#### 4.2.2. Options for Facility Provision in Baw Baw

A number of options for the provision of equestrian facilities and venues have been prepared to reflect the proposed Model of Provision (Section 4.2.1). Each option aims to provide a long term plan for the enhancement and development of facilities for equestrian in the Baw Baw Shire, and is based on consideration of; the type of equestrian activities provided by clubs and facilitated by facilities, the future plans of clubs, and the limitations and potential of facilities.

The options, presented below, address the facilities at Logan Park, Bellbird Park and Trafalgar Equestrian Centre. Recommendations are made regarding all facilities (including Neerim and the Warragul Equestrian Centre), and these are addressed in Section 4.3.

##### **Option 1. Develop existing facilities as best possible (i.e. Do Nothing)**

The facility development needs have been outlined in Section 3.1.3 – these should be matched against the guidelines for a local level facility according to the hierarchy presented in Section 4.2.1.

##### **Option 2. Moderate Improvements & Changes (Scenario 1)**

Warragul – upgrade the facilities according to the local level hierarchy; particularly the identified minimum development needs outlined on page 34;

Drouin – Retain at local level facilities Bellbird Park; **or**

Drouin - Relocate to local level facilities to an alternative site.

Trafalgar – develop a municipal level facility at the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct.

##### **Option 3. Significant Improvements & Changes (Scenario 2)**

Co-locate the Warragul and Drouin equestrian clubs to a site to be determined (to be developed to a municipal level facility) – (note: this option suggests the clubs share the facilities only, and not amalgamate or merge in any way).

Trafalgar - Develop local level facilities at a new site at the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct and relocate the Trafalgar based clubs from the Trafalgar Equestrian Park.

These options have been determined on the basis that:

- Zoning of the disused land at Logan Park (Urban Floodway Zone) doesn't lend itself to development;
- It is anticipated that there will be increasing pressure from residents to use Logan Park and Bellbird Park for local sporting and recreational needs as residential development encroaches (although it is recognised that the clubs have strong affiliations with their home base sites);
- The combination of facility options should provide for Neerim and Trafalgar separately, with the future anticipated constraints on the Warragul (Logan Park) and Drouin based clubs, and their close proximity lends to them being considered together;



- Trafalgar Equestrian Park site has environmental (vegetation) significance that restricts development, the surface requires substantial improvement, and there is strong community will to act together which combined, supports co-location with other sporting venues at the proposed Trafalgar Recreation Precinct.

### 4.3. Recommendations

The following recommendations have been prepared for the Baw Baw Shire Council to present a long term plan for the development of equestrian facilities in a way that will balance the growing population, trends in participation and equestrian club needs.

The plan represents a partnership between Council, private providers and the community, and should be implemented through a coordinated approach. A priority has been allocated to guide each action, according to the following:

- High – 0 to 3 years (i.e. 2007/08 to 20010/11)
- Medium – 4 to 6 years (i.e. 2011/12 to 2013/14)
- Low – 7 to 10 years (i.e. 2014/15 to 2017/18)

Action	Priority
Council adopts the facility hierarchy and indicative development standards.	High
Establish an Equestrian Advisory Group comprising representatives of the equestrian clubs, Council staff and other interested community members, with the purpose of sharing information and jointly contributing to the planning of equestrian facilities to address provision of equestrian in a coordinated matter across the Shire (per the recommendations of this Strategy). Council to coordinate and administer the Group.	High
Council to inspect each equestrian venue to identify improvements (and responsible parties) required to address safety, and prepare a plan to address these. Address high priority issues.	High
Council works toward Scenario 2 as the model of equestrian facility provision in Baw Baw based on; the need for only one municipal facility in the Baw Baw Shire, and the proposed co-location of the Drouin and Warragul clubs supports the development of more significant facilities to cater for the various needs of these numerous groups at one venue, thus being prioritised as a municipal facility. Where possible, the municipal facility would ideally be located adjacent to bushland to also cater for trail riders. Where this can be achieved, there is a need to include provision of safe drop-off areas for horses.	High
Upgrade the Neerim Recreation Reserve including; develop a sand arena, provide permanent storage for the equestrian clubs, providing access to kitchen facilities for the equestrian clubs, upgrade the toilets, formalise agreement for the sharing of the Show Society Shed with the equestrian clubs for the purposes of meetings, social occasions and kiosk	High

Action	Priority
Consider provision of tie rails to meet the needs of user groups at the Neerim Recreation Reserve, without impacting on the playing field space used by other sporting groups.	Medium
Warragul Equestrian Centre – no further options (the facility will cater to the market of casual equestrian participants through the specialised programs offered and indoor arena use).	N/A
Relocate and co-locate the Drouin and Warragul based equestrian clubs to a municipal facility (of size minimum 6.1ha) at a site to be determined by including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• potential sites to be explored and determined by the Equestrian Advisory Group, to consider Lardner Park amongst others</li> <li>• prepare a master plan of the identified site prior to any development, to achieve the best layout of facilities and design to enable effective sharing by the user groups; during this process, determine the scope of facilities to be provided at the municipal venue (per the nominated facility components as per the Model of Provision); in particular, determine whether the venue will include provision for polocrosse and campdraft</li> </ul>	High
For the relocation and co-location of the Drouin and Warragul based equestrian clubs consider provision of access for casual use at the venue during the master planning process outlined above and consider the appropriateness of the nominated venue for Riding for the Disabled Warragul, and discuss the potential relocation of the club to the municipal venue (ie. where the site is in close proximity to Warragul township and the needs of the club can be fully catered for)	Medium
For the relocation and co-location of the Drouin and Warragul based equestrian clubs seek funding to contribute to any such development, through exploring partnerships with land owners, and grants, prepare a management plan and shared use agreement as appropriate to the site; to ensure the identities of the Warragul and Drouin clubs are maintained, address management and maintenance responsibilities between all stakeholders, nominate use and access to the site, fees and charges, booking of use, and formalise the occupancy status of the tenant clubs and following the relocation of the Warragul and Drouin based clubs to a municipal venue, prepare a master plan of Bellbird Park and Logan Park individually to ascertain use and development needs following the vacancy of the equestrian facilities.	Low

Action	Priority
<p>Prepare a master plan for the Trafalgar Equestrian Park and the new local level facilities for the Trafalgar based equestrian clubs at the proposed recreation precinct at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve, incorporate the provision of an open grassed area for polocrosse and campdraft activities in the short term to continue the conduct of these activities, until the site for a municipal venue is nominated, plan for the shared use of the buildings and car park with the other user groups at the Trafalgar Recreation Reserve where possible, acquire approximately 5.5ha (being 2.1ha for local facilities, plus 3.4ha for campdrafting and polocrosse fields) for the provision of the equestrian facilities in Trafalgar as outlined in the points above, incorporate the equestrian clubs into the formulation of a management plan for the Trafalgar Recreation precinct, upon determination of a site for a municipal venue, confirm the most appropriate site for the permanent location of the polocrosse and/or campdraft facilities (ie. at the municipal venue or the Trafalgar venue) that has sufficient space and provision of all required supporting infrastructure for the large scale events, and best achieves the integrated provision of equestrian activities (for the conduct of large-scale polocrosse events, the intention is not for the relocation of the polocrosse club away from Trafalgar)</p>	High
<p>In regards to the Trafalgar Equestrian Park liaise with the Department of Sustainability and Environment regarding the future use of the site vacated by the Trafalgar equestrian clubs.</p>	Medium
<p>Ensure public access remains at the local level facilities in Neerim and Trafalgar to provide access for casual riders.</p>	High
<p>In the event of a municipal venue not being appropriate for Riding for the Disabled Warragul, formalise the occupancy of the club at Logan Park to secure the club's tenure at that venue, through negotiating a license agreement with the Logan Park Committee of Management.</p>	High
<p>Clubs to seek grant support from Council to contribute to the cost of running events, which may facilitate access to Tonimbuk through financial assistance for venue hire.</p>	High
<p>Council to work with the Department of Sustainability and Environment during the planning of State forests to ensure that consideration is given to the provision of facilities for trail riding, as opportunities present.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Establishing and formalising management agreements with equestrian clubs at existing (and then new) facilities; to clarify maintenance roles and responsibilities, and formalise facility sharing relationships (even those occupying Crown land) between clubs;</p>	High
<p>Promote funding opportunities to clubs (eg. grants) to assist in the development of facilities;</p>	Ongoing
<p>Ensure that all equestrian clubs are given the opportunity to partake in any relevant training / development opportunities offered through Council.</p>	Ongoing

## Section 5: Appendices

### Appendix 1A: Inventory of Equestrian Facilities & Venues in the Baw Baw Shire

Facility	Area (hectares)	Zoning	Scope of Facilities	Scope (current use)	Non-equestrian Facilities	Shared Use	Equestrian users	Siting	Expansion
Logan Park, Warragul (Council and Crown land)	6.1 (but 3.4 is cross country, hardly used)	Public Park and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area south of track and 2<sup>nd</sup> Oval</li> <li>Sand Ménage</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ovals</li> <li>Pony Club Shed</li> <li>Toilets and clubrooms</li> <li>Cross Country Arena</li> <li>Dairy Shed (used by RDA)</li> </ul>	Includes: show jumping, rally days, pony club, monthly rally, In-house competitions, games, training, inter-club competitions, open competitions, weekly therapy sessions for RDA, dressage, state qualifying and inter-club competitions, horse mastership. Instruction, cross country, agistment of RDA horses, National Prince Phillip Mounted games, beginners riding instruction.	Soccer pitches and velodrome	With other equestrian and non-equestrian clubs. Also used by the Lillico and District Pony Club but has limited access and use due to facility and fees	Warragul Pony Club, Riding for the Disabled Warragul, West Gippsland Adult Riding	H profile site with large prominent reserve, no abutting neighbours and easy highway access.	No

Facility	Area (hectares)	Zoning	Scope of Facilities	Scope (current use)	Non-equestrian Facilities	Shared Use	Equestrian users	Siting	Expansion
Neerim Reserve, Neerim (Crown Land)	3	ESO2 – Environmental Overlays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grass Paddock</li> <li>Public Toilet block</li> <li>Storage Shed (doubles as a kitchen and meeting space)</li> </ul>	Includes Pony Club and Adult Riding	Cricket Wickets in arena and shed is used by the Show	With non-equestrian clubs including local cricket, car rally and show society.	Neerim District Pony Club and Adult Riding Club	Medium profile in a small town. Abutted by farm land, public hall, road reserve and road.	No, cannot expand cross country due to space and facilities limit club growth
Warragul (Lillico) Equestrian Centre, Warragul (Private land)	Not advised	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross Country</li> <li>Indoor arena (sand)</li> <li>Outdoor arena (sand)</li> <li>Car Parking</li> <li>Toilets</li> </ul>	Includes: pony club monthly rallies, School Holiday Program, After School Courses run by the centre train performance horses, dressage and show jumping.	None	With other equestrian users	Lillico and District Pony Club	Low profile and complicated to access via local roads but has no abutting residents	Yes, owners have a future plan for upgrades and extension of facilities

Facility	Area (hectares)	Zoning	Scope of Facilities	Scope (current use)	Non-equestrian Facilities	Shared Use	Equestrian users	Siting	Expansion
Drouin (Council owned)	Approximately 8	Public Park and Recreation with Vegetation overlays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubrooms</li> <li>• Car Parking</li> <li>• Grass Area</li> <li>• Sand Menage</li> <li>• Holding yards (10)</li> <li>• Cross Country</li> </ul>	Including: theory sessions, social lunches, wet weather timetables, kiosk, hire to other clubs, pony club, competitions, events, private instruction, casual riding, pony club clinics and dressage.	None	None	Drouin Pony Club	Part of a larger reserve but delineated by creek. Residential development is encroaching on surrounding areas that used to be farms	No

Facility	Area (hectares)	Zoning	Scope of Facilities	Scope (current use)	Non-equestrian Facilities	Shared Use	Equestrian users	Siting	Expansion
Trafalgar Equestrian Park (Crown and Council Land)	5.8	ESO1 with Environmental Overlays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings including condemned toilets, portables, sheds for storage and meetings, secretary hut for polocrosse, portable building with a meeting room and change rooms</li> <li>Open grassed area</li> <li>Camp drafting area</li> <li>Tie up rails and holding yards</li> </ul>	Includes: Pony Club, dressage, polocrosse, events, rallies, show jumping, training days, camp drafting, team penning and horse sales	None	No	Trafalgar Equestrian Park, Trafalgar Adult Riding Club, Trafalgar Polocrosse Club, Trafalgar Camp Draft Association	N/A	N/A



**Appendix 1B: Facilities Located Outside of Baw Baw Shire Used By Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs**

Facility	Scope (current use)	Equestrian users
Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre, Bunyip North	Includes: eventing, showing, show jumping, clinics, casual riding, private instruction, events and competitions, rallies	Hired by Lillico and District Pony Club, Drouin Pony Club and Trafalgar Adult Riding.
Pound Road Reserve, Bunyip	Monthly rallies and events, access for members and regular use	Lillico and District Pony Club
Catani Recreation Reserve	Driving Competitions, show and pleasure riding	Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society
Sale	Campdrafting	Trafalgar Camp Drafting Association
Mansfield	Campdrafting	Trafalgar Camp Drafting Association
Bachus Marsh	Campdrafting	Trafalgar Camp Drafting Association

## **Appendix 1C: Proposed Requirements to Meet Needs of Users in Baw Baw**

### Logan Park

Logan Park is leased under the Committee of Management. Requirements to meet needs include:

- Need to fence the area south of track and 2<sup>nd</sup> oval for safety and also a covered area of 20 x 40m with under cover tie up stalls, current this is just meeting needs and the Harness Racing Club is seeking to expand
- All user groups have requested a master plan be prepared for the sand ménage, this is currently meeting needs.
- Parking facilities need to be improved around the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ovals as there isn't always access due to shared facilities, this is just meeting needs at the moment.
- The toilets and clubrooms are currently meeting needs however a new kitchen to meet health regulations is to be fully funded by the Warragul Pony Club through funds and labour
- The cross country arena is not meeting needs and areas south of Hazel Creek need upgrading to all-weather surface as it is subject to flooding in winter and spring (so currently can only be used three months of the year). The area is not large enough for competitions as it can only cater to lower grades at present, Hick's lead competitions). The RDA agistment area has too much weed and needs drainage alongside with new fencing, pasture improvement, flattening and access between paddocks needs a bridge
- The dairy shed is currently just meeting needs as the indoor arena is smaller in size but is suitable for occasional we weather use. The shed itself is too small (17 x 23m), the waiting area is dirty and dusty, in need of insulation and is vermin infested. The toilets are also too far away for disabled children/ adults to access and are not disabled friendly.

Risk management is the primary concern of the clubs and ensuring that the facilities are safe. Main concerns include the necessity of fencing around the grass area to control horses, all weather arenas, all weather cross country course, storage facility for equipment, weather shelters around the site, another 10 holding yards and that the bridge access the creek to the cross country are is not sound.

Main comments of the site include that clubs can't access the ground when the harness racing is in progress as it is used for car parking, the clubs want to be able to develop the cross country facilities further but can't due to drainage issues, there is not enough parking for the site, camping occurs 3-4 times per year and the Pony Club is 50 years old and has a very strong attachment to its heritage at the site.

### Neerim Reserve

Neerim Reserve is leased under the Committee of Management. Requirements to meet needs include:

- The grass paddock is currently not meeting needs, it is a major concern as the grounds are grazed by cattle (making manure another issue). The clubs have made a submission for funding to develop a sand menage which has been designed not to impact on the local cricket and would also benefit the annual Show.
- The public toilet block currently is not meeting needs and needs addressing still
- The public storage shed which is owned by the Show Society is currently not meeting needs as it is infested with vermin and needs water to be pumped in which doesn't comply with health regulations, this is currently being address by the Show Committee

Main comments about the reserve are that the facility limitations inhibit the growth of the club and range of facilities/ activities that can be offered. They also need approval from the Show Committee which can be an issue. A neighbouring farmer has just claimed part of the Reserve (road reserve) and fenced the area off reducing the overall space. Once each year the grounds need to be cleared for the annual show which is exhaustive for the equestrian clubs. The Show Committee has also asked that the clubs vacate the shed, despite it only used by them for two days of the year. There is a willingness of the Show Society to work with the clubs.

### Warragul Equestrian Centre (Lillico)

The club hires the Warragul Equestrian Centre from a private owner. Requirements to meet needs include:

- The site overall does not meet needs as more space is needed to conduct a greater range of activities and more regular access for club members (not just once a month)
- The cross country course is not meeting needs due to drainage issues and lack in size. A useable cross country course is required.
- There is a need to use grass arenas and not just sand as provided both inside and out.
- Car parking is not meeting needs due to the road being rutted making it difficult for horse floats.

Main comments about the reserve are that the Pony Club is relocating to Bunyip in the Shire of Cardinia as the centre has larger facilities. The Pony Club approached the committee there to share the facilities and the extra 20 minute travel time is not an issue for members. The Pony Club was losing members due to the limited space. Once the pony club leaves it will not be available to another club as the owner will be commencing a Sunday club for casual riders that can use the School's horses.

### Drouin

Drouin is leased under the DSE Committee of Management. Requirements to meet needs include:

- An upgrade to the clubrooms to improve kitchen to meet regulations, have windows, heating and insulation, incorporate change rooms and a hot water service. The Shed is not big enough for use (i.e. for in wet weather)
- Parking facilities are not meeting needs as there is inadequate space on the well-drained surface
- The grass area is not meeting needs as it needs to have drainage issues addressed. This has impacts directly on membership and casual riding, reduces private instruction and prohibits events and clinics
- The sand ménage is currently meeting needs but ideally could use with fencing around the area.

Main comments of the site include that there is overall poor drainage however the clubs want to be a regional facility to cater for State and Zone competitors, but recognise the limitations of the site and the need to consider a possible alternative site as events attract up to 200 riders. The site can accommodate camping although there is no lighting; this is not required at present as the car parking is not adequate for large events. For parking a neighbouring reserve previously was used for car parking has been developed the current area is only servicing members and isn't enough for visitors. The facilities are safe as they are fully enclosed (fenced) this makes the club appealing for young riders, and also makes the facilities inaccessible to the public. The grounds and clubrooms are also used by the West Gippsland Adult Riding Association when Harness Racing Events are held at Logan Park, the facilities meet the needs of the club.

### Trafalgar Equestrian Park

The Trafalgar Equestrian Park is leased under the DSE Committee of Management. Requirements to meet needs include:

- The building on site are currently not meeting needs (meeting needs of the Polocrosse members) as facilities are of a very poor standard and need new buildings, toilets, showers, canteen, change rooms and a storage shed the approximate size of a six car garage.
- The open grassed area is not meeting needs (except for the Polocrosse members) as the ground are too hard and soil quality is very poor as the ground has been filled with remnant soil and rocks break the surface which is dangerous for both the riders and horses; drainage is also necessary. The area is in need of lighting and a new surface/resurfacing
- The camp drafting area is not meeting needs as lighting is necessary
- Tie up rails and holding yards are in need of an extra 300 yards for events

Main comments about the site include the poor drainage is a major issue for the site and is a high risk area due to poor quality soil, there is no designated parking area so riders park in the reserve, the bush block on site cannot be used due to environmental reasons, a plan is necessary to adapt a second hand amenities block for use by the club an speakers and wiring for PA across the grounds.

### Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre

The Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre meets and exceeds the needs of Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs however the distance to venue is a problem for some members of the Trafalgar Adult Racing Club.

### Pound Road Reserve

The Pound Road Reserve is meeting needs of Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs as it has a more professionally built and designed cross country course. It does need clubrooms, canteen and storage for equipment, improvements to drainage over flat areas and surfaces for arenas and jumping areas.

### Cantani Recreation Reserve

The Cantani Recreation Reserve is currently meeting needs of Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs as it has ample room to set up one or two 100 x 400m arenas and a 60 x 50m space for cone driving

### Sale

Sale is currently not meeting needs of Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs as it needs new toilets and a canteen and the next closest facility is the Trafalgar Equestrian Park.

### Mansfield

Mansfield is currently meeting needs of Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs and the next closest facility is the Trafalgar Equestrian Park.

### Bachus Marsh

Bachus Marsh is current meeting needs of Baw Baw Equestrian Clubs and the next closest facility is the Trafalgar Equestrian Park.

## Appendix 2. Inventory of Equestrian Facilities in Neighbouring Municipalities

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Wellington	Gippsland Equestrian Centre	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	No
Wellington	Briagolong and District Pony Club (Briagolong Recreation Reserve)	Leased from Council	Local (unless a large event)	Pony club, Adult Riding Club, Also a shared facility with football, cricket and tennis clubs.	Lease	Not Advised	Very high and would like to use it more but can't due to restriction as it is a shared facility. Sharing is a barrier to further use.	High Demand	The club has grown and the facilities can't cope with the demand especially because its shared	Can't upgrade as surrounding land is part of a reserve and is protected	Th en req int ad es the fac is pri ow

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Wellington	Longford Horse and Pony Club Grounds	Leased from Council	Local	Longford Horse & Pony Club, Adult Riding Club	Lease	Not Advised	Twice monthly by Pony Club for most of the year, daily in school holidays. Adult riding club has just started this year and will run for six months over winter	Medium	Limbs falling off tree	Slow. Continual upgrade of cross country and outdoor arena	Re fac ne wo be pro the on pre tha us eff an me ca



Council	Facility Details	Owner-ship	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Wellington	Sale	Not Advised	Not advised	Polo Club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two lit polocrosse arenas</li> <li>• Camp drafting arena</li> <li>• Yards</li> <li>• Undercover social area</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Satisfactory Parking</li> <li>• Old woolshed</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Owner-ship	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Wellington	Stratford (The Knob Reserve)	DSE	Local	Stratford Pony Club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross country jumps (not full size course)</li> <li>• Gymkhana</li> <li>• Combined Training</li> <li>• Two Sand Ménage</li> <li>• Club rooms</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Parking – Overhanging Trees</li> <li>• Present Safety Concern</li> </ul>	Public Share facilities so has been booked out most weekends	DSE looking to close facility	No power, easy access	Not advised	Fu inc (ha fro be loc rec cro co ha sin on by loc ga

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Wellington	Rosedale (speedway arena)	Not advised	Not advised	Pony Club and Adult riding	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross country course</li> <li>• Fenced area</li> <li>• Flat area for dressage</li> <li>• Adequate car parking</li> <li>• Large site: Host State Horse Trials</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• No yards or power</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Storage Sheds</li> </ul>	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	No
Wellington	Bushy Park (Wandock a Reserve)	Not Advised	Not Advised	Pony club and RDA	Not Advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arenas – jumps and gymkhana</li> <li>• Show jumping</li> <li>• Shed</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Car parking</li> </ul>	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Wellington	Sale showgrounds and greyhound club	Not Advised	Not Advised	Pony Club	Hires and reports to the Showground Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main arena – fenced grass, gymkhana, shows</li> <li>• Clubroom</li> <li>• Equipment Shed</li> <li>• Show jumping</li> <li>• Ample parking</li> <li>• Yards</li> <li>• Grandstand</li> </ul>	Not Advised	Not Advised	Not Advised	Improvements to showground facilities for the show based on addressing safety	Th ne all un ve ca by tha a r dis Th fev op for ev co reg Co pe pa ac qu fac

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Latrobe	Hazelwood	Crown	Local	Pony Club	Not advised	Not advised	Full	Not advised	Not advised	Need a better facility to cater for more riders, building a new facility at Hazelwood North on council land but no plans as of yet	Eq ne me hu re de Ha No to fro Ha Ha No De are city far
Latrobe	Boolarra	Crown	Local	Pony Clubs	Not Advised	Not Advised	Full	Not Advised	Not Advised	None	No
Latrobe	Toongabbie Recreation reserve	Crown	Local	Pony Club	Not Advised	Not Advised	Full	Not Advised	Not Advised	Have just moved to site so imagine they would like to develop the facilities	Cl run bu cu fac ca ma

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Latrobe	Moe	Crown, managed by council	City-wide	Pony Club, RDA	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buildings – change room facilities</li> <li>• Host events</li> <li>• Round and holding yards</li> <li>• Parade ground</li> <li>• Large car park (200)</li> </ul>	Full – well used	Not advised	Not advised	Developing club rooms – outgrowing and need more room for administration and meetings	No
Latrobe	Yallourn North	Power company land	Not advised	Pony Club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treed, hilly site</li> <li>• Club rooms</li> <li>• Parade grounds</li> <li>• Cross country</li> <li>• Car park</li> </ul>	Well used	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Yarra Ranges	Lilydale to Warburton Equestrian Trail (2.5 kilometre trail made from compacted ballast of old train sleeper)	About 27 clubs with 21 dedicated facilities and 10 council owned facilities	All club level facilities	Not advised	Leased by council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some adjustment</li> <li>• Some pony clubs full and not taking more member</li> <li>• Problem for access from older riders</li> </ul>	Scope for more use as all want to use it at the same time. No clubs are interested in using the trail during the week, Often the public cannot use facilities due to needing public liability insurance	There is no real additional demand for use as some clubs are moving forward while others are not. Risk management upgrades are needed	Environmental management issues. Some found native vegetation within grounds that have led to a management problem. Also weed management issues	Only considered if there is a submission by clubs to do so. Only 3 projects were done last year, despite a capital works fund being set up for it not many clubs bother in applying for funds.	Big pro the the wh the wil tra Eq Str loc We fac fou be co av



Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Cardinia	2,000 facility plan	Some on DSE	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Development of a couple of horse friendly trails within the area but capital funds are a problem	Pu re ce lan av Ve inv by du an av su
Cardinia	Josie By South Reserve, Cockatoo	Council land	Not advised	Cockatoo and District Pony Club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Dressage areas</li> <li>• Corrals</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Recommends upgrading facilities to district level horse riding arena as per Council's Recreation Plan	No
Cardinia	Kooweerup Recreation Reserve	Council	Not advised	Kooweerup Horse riding club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riding arena</li> <li>• Large fenced area</li> <li>• Equipment shed</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Cardinia	Huxtable Road Horse Riding Reserve, Pakenham Upper	Council	Not advised	Pakenham Pony Club and Pakenham Upper Riding Club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three riding arenas</li> <li>• Cross country club</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve	Council	Not advised	Upper Beaconsfield Pony and Riding Clubs	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Dressage and jumping arenas</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Cannibal Creek Reserve, Garfield North	Council	Not advised	West Gippsland Quarter Horse Association and Cannibal creek Pony Club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three arenas</li> <li>• Holding area</li> <li>• Corral</li> <li>• Cross Country Course</li> <li>• Bush trails</li> <li>• Sheds</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Catani Recreation Reserve	Council	Not advised	Catani dressage Club	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding area</li> <li>• Open space</li> <li>• Shed</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Cardinia	Bunyip Recreation Reserve	Council	Not advised	Gippsland regional Appaloosa Club	Not advised	• Horse riding area	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Lang Lang Showgrounds reserve	Council	Not advised	Port Phillip Show Jumping Club	Not advised	• Practice area for show jumping	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Yarrabubba Horse riding reserve, Nar Nar Goon North	Council	Not advised	Nar Nar Goon riding Club and Nar Nar goon Pony Club	Not advised	• Two Informal riding arenas • Open space • Public toilets	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Recommends upgrading facilities to district level horse riding arena as per Council's Recreation Plan	No
Cardinia	Berwick and District Dressage Club	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	• Training • Competition • Social activities	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Byerley Equestrian Club, Officer	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Cardinia	Gembrook Riding Club	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	• Horse Riding Ares	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society, Narre Warren	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	• Pleasure and competition riding	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Indoor Equestrian Centre	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Obeme Park, Gembrook	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	• Riding lessons • Horse training • Agistment	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Officer Pony club	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	• Open space • Club rooms	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Rolling Hill Park Horse Training Centre, Upper Beaconsfield	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	• Agistment • Lessons • Training	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
Cardinia	Sherbrooke Equestrian, Clematis	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stables</li> <li>• Agistment</li> <li>• Trail rides</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Tonimbuk Equestrian Park, Bunyip North	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two indoor arenas</li> <li>• 180 stables</li> <li>• 56 yards</li> <li>• Cross country course</li> <li>• Show jumping equipment</li> <li>• Camping facilities and accommodation</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No
Cardinia	Victorian Equestrian Centre, Upper Beaconsfield	Private	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stables</li> <li>• Showjumper arena</li> <li>• Dressage</li> <li>• Agistment</li> <li>• Lessons and competitions</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
South Gippsland	Korumburr a Pony Club	Private Trust and Council	Local	Club	Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dressage ring</li> <li>• Significant land</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Funding is a problem. Such a large spread of facilities over a large area making it hard for clubs to survive	Received recent significant funding to improve dressage ring	Co to up Re Pla de co No wo ag pa wit Ba Co re fac

Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
South Gippsland	Nyora Pony Club	Crown Land	Local	Not advised	Not advised	• Land and club rooms	Not advised	Speedway there that they are talking about converting into a regional equestrian area. May need to look into Government funding	The club is growing very fast and is the only one in the area that is becoming self-sustaining	Possible plans for development	No



Council	Facility Details	Ownership	Catchment Hierarchy	User Groups	Occupancy	Purpose for use	Level of Utilisation	Demand for Use	Major Issues	Development Plans	Ne Mu
South Gippsland	Leongatha and District Pony, Woorayle Dressage Club	Council	Local	Not advised	Not advised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant amount of land</li> <li>• Greenwedge open space area</li> <li>• One dressage area</li> <li>• Clubhouse</li> <li>• Cross Country Course</li> </ul>	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Looking at major facilities upgrade but low on the list for council funding. Likely to do a feasibility study before anything goes ahead	No
South Gippsland	Mossvale park	Not advised	Not advised	Berries Creek Pony Club	Not advised	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Be Po
South Gippsland	Bennison Recreation Reserve, Foster	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Corner Inlet Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Berries Creek Pony Club	Be Po
South Gippsland	Stony Creek Recreation Reserve, Leongatha	Crown Land	Not advised	Meeniyon Pony Club	Not advised Club house	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	Not advised	No

**Appendix 3. Summary of Public Feedback on Draft Report**

<b>Comments received by...</b>	<b>Summary of comment</b>	<b>Amendments to Report</b>
Ms Mary Hughes, resident	Editorial comment on draft report. Highlight need for inclusion of trail riding and the facility needs of these and recreational riders. Highlights deficiencies of Lardner Park as a potential venue, in not adequately servicing the needs of trail riders.	Trail riding was not a specific element of the scope of the Study. The report has been amended to acknowledge the facility needs of trail, endurance and recreational riders and has incorporated these into the action plan where appropriate.
Ms Wendy Gilbert, resident	Highlights that the Study does not represent the unaffiliated amateur equestrian riders and suggests that the provision of casual access at venues is included.	Report has been amended to include actions based around ensuring that casual access for riders is included at some facilities.
Ms Wendy Gilbert, resident	Outlines her use of Logan Park and highlights the benefits of the venue in particularly catering for 'green' horses, and in being publicly accessible for non-club based riders to use. Suggests that Lardner Park is not a suitable venue that will provide for such casual access by the public.	Report has been amended to suggest that Lardner Park is considered as one alternative site for a municipal venue, amongst the consideration of other sites.
Ms Wendy Gilbert, resident	Suggests that Lardner Park is not a suitable venue for unaffiliated riders due to a number of facility constraints.	No action required.
Ms Wendy Gilbert, resident	Suggests that the mapping exercise in the Study should not hold strong emphasis on private venues as adding to the facilities model for the Shire.	No action required.
Ms Wendy Gilbert, resident	Nominates some facility components that should be considered.	The facility hierarchy addresses the facility components raised.
Warragul Riding for the Disabled	Provides a background to RDA Warragul's use of Logan Park and activities, and outlines specific facility requirements.	No action required.

Comments received by...	Summary of comment	Amendments to Report
Combined response from Trafalgar Clubs	<p>Suggests the report does not reflect campdraft and polocrosse as equally as pony clubs and adult riding clubs, and stockhorse and rodeo are not mentioned – and should be expanded to reflect these. The peak bodies from these organisations should have been consulted.</p> <p>The link between the local facility provision for Warragul and Drouin based clubs at a recommended municipal level facility is not clear.</p>	<p>Report sufficiently addresses provision for the annual events of campdraft and rodeo through a proposed specific facility allocation for campdraft and incorporation of rodeo and stockhorse activities in the general purpose area.</p>
Combined response from Trafalgar Clubs	<p>Suggests adding a new recommendation to the report for a 'superior' level facility to meet the requirements of polocrosse, campdraft, stockhorse and rodeos, by incorporating the requirements of both regional and municipal level provision; size 20ha to provide for 1,000 riders, 2,000 horses and 10,000 spectators. The 'superior' facility be located at the Trafalgar Recreation Precinct to accommodate State and National events. The report does not acknowledge the large number of spectators that attend the events organised by the Trafalgar Equestrian Park.</p>	<p>Provision for polocrosse at a municipal level facility has been increased.</p> <p>Amendments to the Model of Provision have been made as determined by the combined group of equestrian club representatives. This did not include provision for a superior facility that combines municipal and regional facility requirements.</p> <p>Spectators were taken into consideration in determining the likely number of participants and type of activities that each level of facility in the hierarchy should cater for. Large scale events with many spectators have been nominated for a regional venue.</p>

Comments received by...	Summary of comment	Amendments to Report
Combined response from Trafalgar Clubs	The report does not include economic benefit contributed by the equestrian clubs to Baw Baw.	This was not a requirement of the Study.
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	Highlights the benefits the clubs have provided to the community. Highlights technical deficiencies with the report.	Detailed comments on language and application to equestrian terminology have been made through public consultation – and report has been amended to reflect these changes to be more ‘technically’ correct.
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	Highlights deficiencies with Lardner Park as a proposed venue for a municipal level facility, including site constraints, location, management considerations and a concern over the ownership of the Park.	Report has been amended to suggest that Lardner Park is considered as one alternative site for a municipal venue, amongst the consideration of other sites.

Comments received by...	Summary of comment	Amendments to Report
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	<p>Suggests that the site size nominated for a municipal level facility is not large enough (compared to some areas the clubs currently use).</p> <p>Nominates issues with the proposed Model of Provision, in particular facility components and the suggested surfaces and sizes. Highlights the lack of provision of horse wash areas or stalls.</p> <p>Criticises that there is no commitment to clubrooms, storage or cross country facilities.</p>	<p>Amendment to size of sites nominated in Model of Provision based on agreed directions of combined equestrian club consultation workshops. This included changes to Municipal level only – to add area for three polocrosse fields, increase car and float parking, delete camping and area for stables and temporary holding yards, and increase provision for permanent holding yards. Provision for clubrooms, storage, toilets and other buildings within the Model remains.</p>
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	<p>Indicates that sharing a municipal level facility based at Trafalgar would be difficult given that the clubs are in different PCAV zones.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	<p>Nominates a preference for clubs' to stay at respective venues, and for retaining local facilities in the Drouin / Warragul area through either upgrading existing clubs' grounds, or relocate to a common new greenfield site in close proximity to Drouin and Warragul.</p>	<p>No change to recommendations to relocate and co-locate Drouin and Warragul based clubs to a municipal venue in the Warragul / Drouin area – site to be determined.</p>
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	<p>Highlights the importance of Riding for the Disabled Warragul continuing use of Logan Park.</p>	<p>The report provides for RDA to stay at Logan Park if the club's needs cannot be sufficiently met at a new municipal venue.</p>

Comments received by...	Summary of comment	Amendments to Report
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	Believes a municipal level facility should be centrally located within the developed areas of the Shire.	No action required.
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	Outlines facility requirements at existing sites.	No action required.
Combined response from Drouin Clubs	Nominates facility requirements of a greenfield development – suggests 10ha required for municipal level facility, and 8ha for a new local level facility in the Drouin / Warragul area.	No amendments to Model of Provision.
Member of Drouin Pony Club	No longer refer to warm up, roads and tracks warm up, steeplechase and obstacles in Three Day Eventing.	Delete this detail from Section 1.2.6
Warragul and District Trail Horse Riders Club	Expresses interest in being involved in Council planning for equestrian sports and seeks that the club is consulted on the Study. Provides membership details and an overview of activity schedule.	Trail riding was not a specific element of the scope of the Study.
Warragul and District Trail Horse Riders Club	Clarifies facility requirements of trail riders and seeks that the Study includes trail riders. Highlights deficiencies of Lardner Park as a potential venue, in not adequately servicing the needs of trail riders.	The report has been amended to acknowledge the facility needs of trail, endurance and recreational riders and incorporated these into actions where appropriate.
Neerim Recreation Reserve Inc	Raises disappointment with the Neerim Recreation Reserve Committee of Management not being specifically informed of the Study or consulted as part of the process.	No action required – the equestrian clubs that use Neerim Recreation Reserve and contribute to the Committee of Management were involved in the Study.
The Gippsland Field Days	Provides the basis on which 'in principle' agreement to the use of Lardner Park for a municipal facility will be considered, and support and willingness to work with Council and the community if such a direction is pursued.	No action required.

Comments received by...	Summary of comment	Amendments to Report
Equestrian Federation Victoria	Acknowledges that the EFA has been consulted in the research of the Study.	No action required.
Gippsland Campdraft Association & Delegate to National Campdraft Council of Australia	Provides membership details of Gippsland Campdraft, and overview of annual event schedule, including nomination of facilities used.	No action required.
Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria	Clarifying that HRCAV clubs do provide coaching tuition in the detailed table under Section 3.1.1.	Report amended
Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria	Recommends increasing the size of the general purpose area to around 3ha.	In providing for three polocrosse fields as part of the general purpose area, the size of this area has been amended to 3.4ha, thus reflecting the suggestion made.
Pony Club Association of Victoria	Support the concept of 'mini' cross country courses. Suggest adding a description on the discipline of Horse Showing. Clarifies that some Pony Clubs are also called 'saddle clubs' or 'riding clubs' and they cater for people of all ages, not just under 25 years.	No action required.  Description of Horse Showing added to Section 1.2. Broaden indicative age of Pony Club participants in general description under Section 1.3.

Comments received by...	Summary of comment	Amendments to Report
Polocrosse Victoria	Support the provision of five polocrosse fields at a facility in Trafalgar to allow the club to host State Championships, and anticipate that other clubs would also use the facilities.	Provision of the general purpose area of land at a municipal level facility has been increased to provide for three polocrosse fields as this is considered sufficient provision to support the club use in Baw Baw and still be able to cater for some events. Hosting National Championships would require competing with four other adequately sized venues for an event that occurs in Victoria one in seven years.
Department of Sustainability and Environment	Provides information on the work being undertaken by DSE and Parks Victoria in planning the use of the Bunyip State Park (the Labertouche / Jindivick area), including mapping and identifying tracks and trails in the forest, and designing these to improve routes and safety, including unloading areas. A key element is the provision of non-motorised zones.	Report amended to reflect the work being undertaken by DSE and Parks Victoria as this will be particularly beneficial for trail riders.
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Formal response to an enquiry regarding the flooding status of the land below Logan Park, Warragul. The report confirms that the site forms part of the Hazel and Spring Creeks floodway – defines floodway land as the component of the floodplain required to provide adequate flood conveyance and storage, and should remain free from obstruction during major flood events, and is generally the high hazard portion of the floodplain and confirms that the placement of buildings and infrastructure on the floodway should be avoided. In summary, the correspondence indicates that proposed use of the area for equestrian (or other sports) is inappropriate.	No action required.



Combined response from Trafalgar Clubs included: Response from Trafalgar Recreation Precinct Committee, Trafalgar Equestrian Park, Trafalgar Campdraft Club, Trafalgar Polocrosse Club, Trafalgar Pony Club, Trafalgar Adult Riding Club, West Gippsland Australian Stockhorse Club, Trafalgar Recreation Reserve committee of management, Trafalgar Community Development Association.

Combined response from Drouin Clubs included: Drouin Pony Club, Warragul Pony Club, West Gippsland Adult Riding Club, Riding for the Disabled.