



UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Upper Hunter equine infrastructure under the microscope

With the recent formation of the Upper Hunter Equine Infrastructure Working Party the group is now looking at what the shire currently has to offer the wide range of horse related activities and what changes or improvements can be made to improve the experience for both competitors and spectators alike.

"There is such a wide variety of horse sports and activities undertaken throughout the year in the Upper Hunter" Mayor Lee Watts said "and it is important that we continue to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all involved."

"Currently the working group is contacting as many of the horse sports and user groups of public and private facilities as it can to gauge current and future needs and how we may be able to incorporate this information into future plans for certain locations" she added. "If a common facility can be provided for a number of user groups then it represents good value and ensures ongoing use" Mayor Watts added.

"Some groups such as the Australian Stockhorse Society, Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Scone Jump Club and Inglis Sales have already provided information through other committees and this feedback will be used during the current project. We do not want to keep going over the same ground, it is time to make some real decisions and move forward if we are serious about supporting our Horse Capital status" she said.

The information collected by the working group members will be collated and discussed by the group to determine priorities for investment in equine infrastructure, especially anything that can be utilised by a range of user groups throughout the year. Cr Watts said "we do not want to invest in facilities that are used once or twice a year, we want projects that support a number of sports or activities and even the broader public."

A report will be prepared for Council once all responses have been collated.

Lee Watts
MAYOR

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