

Swan Valley Progress Association Inc.

A Community United

Equine Issues:

The Swan Valley Progress Association (SVPA) in partnership with the Henley Brook Locality Group (HBLG) and Henley Brook Rural Watch *network in the Swan Valley* (HBRW) with support from the Gidgegannup Progress Association (GPA) made the joint decision to:

- (a) *To Raise the profile* of the equine industry and horse recreation to the City of Swan, and
- (b) *To Inform the community*, of developing issues and policies that impact on the equine community and rural lifestyle.

(1): City of Swan AGM Electors Meeting 2005/2006

With these two objectives the SVPA, HBLG, GPA and individuals at the City of Swan AGM Electors Meeting 2005/2006 in March 2006 lodged a number of motions that were carried which directly impacted the community via equine issues.

The motions lodged:

- **Equine Needs Analysis Study linked to an Equine Economic Study**

- The study is required to enable the City of Swan to recognise the tremendous potential to improve its network of trails and routes for walking, cycling and horse riding. The City is to be encouraged to enhance its opportunities for high quality nature based recreation experiences, which will generate local and international tourism.

- The study is also required to capitalise on the potential of the horse industry and therefore the City will find it necessary to adopt a co-ordinated planning and implementation approach to provide adequate land for equine related facilities and prevent loss of existing riding areas and trails to suburban subdivisions.

- Furthermore the study will enable the City of Swan and State Government to recognise the positive economic extent and influence of the equine industry.

The study to also address safety issues as horse riders are forced to ride along narrow roads which are carrying more and more vehicular traffic with an increasing potential for road accidents.

Outcome: City of Swan has allocated \$20,000 to its 2006/2007 budget to conduct a Bridle Trails Study.

- **Area Speed Zone (Traffic Precinct) linked to extensive visual Horse Road Signage (Equine Precinct)**

- *This was due to the large volume of tourism traffic thru the Swan Valley and from surrounding urbanisation impacting on rural lifestyles.*

(The traffic precinct boundaries located at Reid Highway to the south, Lord St to the West, Gnangara Rd to the north excluding Morgan Fields, and to the River to the east with Harrow Rd being the commencement south of the equine signage).

With further highlighting of the issue, HBLG was asked to be a guest speaker on the Nightline Radio Show with Graham Maybry. The need for education of motorists and horse riding was highlighted with the amount of call-backs and email messages from all over the State to the show thanking for the awareness of the issue.

The issue further highlighted the lack of registered tracks and trails within the City of Swan boundaries.

- **Keeping of Livestock Policy (Are you aware of this policy and its impacts?)**

The City of Swans', " Keeping of Horses and Stabling Policy" was revoked and in its place was a "Keeping of Livestock Policy" adopted. The policy is confusing in its writing, and needs to be revised. Thru a motion lodged clarification was sort on some of the City's interpretation of its own policy.

Many rural residents and land owners did not and still do not have knowledge of the adopted policy. As I understand only some 15 submissions were lodged with the City of Swan on the Keeping of Livestock Policy.

The SVPA asked the GPA as its sister association to place the document and summaries on its website whereby over 600 hits and 71 postings to the issue have been received. Re: Policy and Dry Stock Rates.

The SVPA and GPA have asked the City of Swan to re-evaluate the issue of community consultation on issues impacting the rural communities thru a motion at the AEM.

In the long term the SVPA reviews that the Policy reduces stocking rates in the City of Swan. The Policy has the impact on how you use your land via Keeping of Livestock Policy and its policy Constraints.

- **Existing Bridle Trails being used for Bike Paths -**
(Are you aware of the City of Swan's planning options?)

The SVPA supported both the motion at the AEM Electors Meeting and the submission from both the HBLG and HBRW in their quest for the City of Swan' s five options of Bike Paths thru Henley Brook – West Swan locality whereby using registered bridle trails and roads for the use of cyclists, not be supported.

The rural community does not want the areas bridle trails and commercial horse racing industry impacted by the use of bridle trails substituted for bike paths.

The community view is that they will support of Bike Paths constructed along (a)Gnangara Rd to West Swan Rd, (b) Lord St and (c) Henley Brook Ave and Dve (un-constructed) for Residents of Ellenbrook and future subdivisions for cycle use into the Swan Valley and Whiteman Park.

City of Swan

- Ø Workshops

Furthermore, the associations of SVPA, HBLG, HBRW, participated in the workshops for the Swan Valley. The workshops participated were for issues to be raised. In this case the Swan Valley Place Plan Workshop and the Swan Valley Community Facility Plan Workshop raised many equine issues including the lack of tracks and trails and horse recreational facilities. All issues raised go into the formulation of the Swan Valley Place Plan whereby public comments will be requested.

- Ø Horse Survey (Western Australian Tracks and Trails Horse-rider Survey)

By the community further raising equine awareness to the City of Swan thru workshops and submissions, the City in turn supported equestrian issues within their boundaries by posting the "Horse Survey" authored by Cyndi Mulder via a Lotterywest Commission Grant and support by the Department of Sport and Recreation and that of WA Horse Council Inc. to the City's website. The SVPA, GPA were also able to assist by promoting the "Horse Survey" to all Members, combined community groups and publication syndicates within rural regions of the State.

State Government

Recognising equine contribution in the Swan Valley

The State Government has also recognised the contribution of horses in the Swan Valley both commercial, recreational, equine sports, breeding, and support associations.

(Ms Jaye Radisich – Sitting Member for Swan Hills, and Mr Martin Whitely, Sitting Member of Bassendean).

- (a) Importantly, the State Government has in the Swan Valley Planning Legislation Amendment Act 2006 – Planning Bulletin No. 80, further recognised the horse contribution within the amended Act which expands the membership of the Swan Valley Planning Committee to include “*A person to represent equestrian interests in the Swan Valley*”
- (b) The government has also approved grants for Swan Valley’s Riding for the Disabled, and Perth Polo-cross Yards for the National Polo-cross Competition being played in 2007 within the Swan Valley region. Both groups need horse industry and community support.

State Government Policy – Draft Guideline

Further the State Government Draft for the Guide for the Determination of Wetland Buffer Requirements and Swan Coastal Wetland E.P.P is a document that you must make yourself aware as equestrian and recreational horse riders.

The horse riding constraints is that there is non-compliance of horse-riding in wetland areas or management buffers (C, R and M) on rural land. There are fines for non-compliance. When you refer to the City of Swan and all rural areas, you will note that vast amounts of rural land are on pallas plain which is categorised and described as a wetland.

Federal Government:

An Opportunity for your submissions to be heard in August 2006–

“Accessing Tracks and Trails in National Parks “

The Federal Government has an Inquiry into Australian National Parks, Conservation Reserves and Marine Protected Areas. There is a Hearing before the Senate Environmental Committee being conducted in Perth in late August. A Report of findings and recommendations will be submitted in late November 2006.

Riders who are having difficulty in regards to access into National Parks

Re: Use of Tracks and Trails should consider a written submission and request a deputation to the Committee, ecita.sen@aph.gov.au, Fax 02 6277 5818.

Conclusion:

The Swan Valley Progress Association and combined association partnerships' with HBLG, HBRW and GPA are working with their networks to raise awareness to all levels of government and to keep you the community informed of policies, and issues that may and will impact upon equestrian issues within the City of Swan.

The apathy of the property owners is destroying democracy and I am asking you to make a difference by speaking up, so that you can continue to enjoy an equestrian lifestyle close to the City of Perth.

What is required by you:

- § Is to make yourself aware of issues that will and do impact your lifestyle
- § Is your time, to make yourself available for writing submissions and to present deputations at all levels of government.
- § Is to join regional community groups such as the Swan Valley and Gidgegannup Progress Associations and your local community group such as those in Henley Brook, so that you can keep informed of policy and issues.
- § The SVPA and GPA will keep raising the awareness of equestrian issues within the City of Swan.

Presentation to WA Horse Council Inc. by Sue Hurt, (SVPA)
AGM – July 2006

Email Contact: svpa@inet.net.au, gpa@inet.net.au, hbrw@inet.net.au