

Swan Valley Progress Association Inc.

A Community United

“Community Groups working supporting your equine sport and recreation”

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 inclusive of all levels of government and,
- (b) *To Inform the community*, of developing issues and policies that impact on the equine community and rural lifestyle from the City of Swan and State Government.

City of Swan:

City of Swan's Annual Electors Meeting (AEM) 2005/2006.

The combined community associations lodged motions that were carried that directly impacted equine issues:

- **Equine Needs Analysis Study linked to an Equine Economic Study** –
(Outcome: City of Swan has allocated \$20,000 to its 2006/2007 budget to conduct a Bridle Trails Study).
- 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.
- **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.)
- **Education of Public**
(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.)
- **City of Swan's "Keeping of Livestock Policy"** - *(Are you aware of this policy and its impacts?)*
- *Refer to City of Swan and Gidgegannup Websites for further information.*
- **Existing Bridle Trails being used for Bike Paths** – *(Are you aware of the City of Swan's planning options?)*
-: The community view is that they will support 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. This will support the Henley Brook rural community both commercial horse racing industry and recreational horse sports by allowing the continual use of bridle trails instead of the substitution of same with “bike paths”.

Workshops:

Equine issues raised and highlighted including: the lack of tracks and trails and the need of support of further horse recreational facilities within the:

- Ø Swan Valley Community Facility Workshops
- Ø Swan Valley Place Planning Workshops
- Ø Gidgegannup-Brigadoon Place Planning Workshops
- Ø Horse Survey (Western Australian Tracks and Trails Horse-rider Survey)
– (City of Swan supported tracks and trails issue by posting “Horse Survey” on the City's website)
- Ø Deputations to WA Horse Council Inc. (SVPA Members x 2 on WAHC Committee)

Recognition by State Government:

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

(Sitting Members for Swan Hills and Bassendean: Ms Jaye Radisich and Mr Martin Whitely)

(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. The government recognised their need.

(c) Draft Government Policy: - “Draft Guideline Guide for the Determination of Wetland Buffer Requirements”

The draft document is one 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. The Swan Valley Progress Association will be conducting another information evening to advise community about the significant impacts and cost that these guideline may have to your property. Please contact us so that we can notify you when the meeting will be held.

Recognition by 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.

Horse Riders (from rural regions of the Swan Valley-Gidgegannup-Mundaring 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.

Tracks and Trails:

The Hills and rural communities need support for recreational horse riding. If you wish to go on a committee with the objective of an integrated tracks and trails network, please forward your name to SVPA. You can also support a tracks and trails recreational buffer by supporting the Vision of “Save Perth Hills” and buying a car sticker.

www.saveperthhills.org

Conclusion:

The apathy of rural 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, the horse rider:

- § Is to make yourself aware of issues that will and do impact your lifestyle
- § Is your time to make yourself available for (a) writing submissions and to (b) 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.

Association contacts: svpa@iinet.net.au and hbrw@iinet.net.au phone: 9296 1369

gpa@iinet.net.au Website: www.gidgegannup.info/news200607.htm

Support recreational riding by supporting the “Vision of Save Perth Hills” visit www.saveperthhills.org