



Equestrian Queensland Statewide Facilities Plan

2019 to 2028



EQUESTRIAN
QUEENSLAND

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This important document is the culmination of a significant project in partnership with consultants CPR Group – gathering and collating comprehensive data, consulting with affiliated clubs, show societies, associations and councils, and determining clear investment priorities in each region, at all levels of equestrian sport. I acknowledge and thank Melissa Driscoll from CPR Group for her diligence, passion and hard work.

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- Equestrian Queensland Statewide Facility Plan Steering Committee
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- Councillors and Council Officers who were consulted

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–Equestrian Queensland Chief Executive Officer Bristol Toft



This project was proudly completed by CPR Group, November 2019
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01 MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I am delighted to present the Equestrian Queensland Statewide Facility Plan 2019-2028. The Plan is the culmination of over 12 months work that clearly identifies and prioritises equestrian facility needs across Queensland based on data, member feedback and consultation with government.

Equestrian Queensland memberships continue to grow year on year and a key priority for Equestrian Queensland is to improve the services that are provided to our affiliates. This priority aligns to the Equestrian Queensland Strategic Plan and our organisational values of welfare of the horse and member safety, fair play, accountability, integrity and respect.

The Plan will enable Equestrian Queensland to ensure that future facility demands can be sustained, that the quality and safety of equestrian facilities in Queensland is improved and that facility developments are prioritised to optimise resource allocation.

A significant output from this project is the production of the Preferred Facility Standards. A document of this type is unprecedented, with no similar document published by other state equestrian organisations, Equestrian Australia or

internationally. The Preferred Facility Standards will support affiliates with a tool for evidence-based decision making and strategic planning for equestrian facility improvements or developments.

The Plan will generate momentum to support Equestrian Queensland and our affiliates to secure funding from government and the private sector through the clear identification of facility projects that provide the best possible opportunities for more participants of all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities to enjoy equestrian sport.

These are exciting times for all involved with Equestrian in Queensland and we look forward to implementing the plan and delivering on the outcomes that will provide improved equestrian infrastructure for Queensland over the next 10 years.

—Equestrian Queensland Chief Executive Officer Briston Toft

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02 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Equestrian Queensland (EQ) membership has grown consistently between 4-5% per year for the past 5 years. This is coupled with an increase in the number of competitions run under the EQ banner—a trend reinforced by the increasing number of international level events held Australia wide between 2009 to 2017¹.

This 10-year, *Equestrian Queensland Statewide Facilities Plan* makes recommendations that will enable EQ to ensure that future demand can be sustained, the quality and safety of equestrian facilities be improved and that facility developments are prioritised to optimise resource allocation. The plan provides a comprehensive understanding of the location, level and standard of equestrian facilities in Queensland by considering and confirming the data contained in the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool² and consulting with EQ affiliates, event organisers, facility providers and industry partners

Adoption of this plan will provide an evidence-based approach to the prioritised development of equestrian facilities across Queensland, to lead to increased participation in a sport known for its gender equality, very high female participation, economic impact, lifetime commitment, high engagement, all abilities inclusiveness and ability to improve mental wellbeing.

The most significant output from this Statewide Facility Plan is the production of the Preferred Facility Standards. A document of this type is unprecedented, with no similar document published by other state equestrian organisations, Equestrian Australia (EA) or internationally. The Preferred Facility Standards provide the ideal facility elements to deliver a competition at a certain level. By assessing a facility against the standards and then comparing the level of events being run at a facility, clear gaps in facility provision can be identified.

Across the entire network, this plan identified a gap of 31 facilities that are hosting competitions at a higher level than the facility's assessed standard. This is the case for all of Queensland's eight most used facilities which all host national and/or international level competitions.

The report clearly highlights the requirement to improve the quality and standard of equestrian facilities in Queensland. The fact that Queensland does not have a facility which meets the preferred facility standards for delivering international and national level events highlights the opportunities that exist in Queensland to improve facility outcomes in the short, medium and long term.

¹ FEI Events 2009 –2017 By Year, National Federation, Discipline and Level, <https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/publications/fei-annual-report/2017/feifactsandstats/>

² <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>

The timing of the report provides excellent opportunities to improve the equestrian facility network in Queensland as part of 2032 Olympic bid for south east Queensland. Importantly, EQ recognises the role that the Queensland State Equestrian Centre (QSEC) could play as part of the preparation for an Olympic Games in south east Queensland but EQ also recognises the significant constraints that exist with the QSEC facility which are detailed in the report and which make hosting national and international events from QSEC particularly difficult.

The report provides details regarding the planning underway for new facilities and the delivery of prioritised projects identified within each of the eight identified reporting zones. Short, medium and long prioritisation has considered facility safety improvements, required surface upgrades, existing planning, the affiliate's ability to contribute financially, the gap identified between assessed facility tier and competition tier, the level of facility use, the facility tenure and the size of the project.

Using the data from existing equestrian competition and affiliates, Equestrian Queensland has identified six key priority projects that are most required to secure the statewide facilities network. The projects are:

- Master planning, surface and facility improvements at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre
- Master planning, surface and facility improvements at the Toowoomba Showgrounds
- Establishment of an equestrian facility on the Gold Coast that is capable of hosting state level events
- Planning to identify and develop a multi-use equestrian facility in Townsville to support existing activities and grow participation
- Planning to identify and develop a multi-use equestrian facility in Far North Queensland to support existing activities and grow participation
- Establishment of an equestrian facility in the Redlands that is capable of hosting state level events



The report also makes broader recommendations in response to the observations and findings of the Statewide Facilities Plan and specifically identifies the need for:

- The development of documented facility and strategic plans for event venues
- The capture of more comprehensive participation data, particularly for grassroots competition
- The creation of documented user agreements and policies for facilities and events (including private facilities)
- Increased multi-user arrangements to activate venues which are supported by user groups and master plans
- Planned and effective asset management to ensure facilities are maintained in a way that extends their life and provides a safe environment for participants
- Whole of horse sport facility networking in partnership with other industry organisations to understand and identify opportunities within the broader facility network

These recommendations are intended to support the implementation of the Statewide Facilities Plan in the next 10 years, resulting in a well-planned and understood, more fit-for-purpose network of secure well-used facilities, supported by comprehensive participation data.

These outcomes will well-position equestrian sport to attract additional investment in ideal equestrian facilities.



03 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

EQ is the state sporting organisation that administers equestrian sport in Queensland, under the rules and standards set by EA and the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).

EQ's role is to promote, develop and grow equestrian sport including but not limited to dressage, eventing, jumping, interschool, show horse, para equestrian, vaulting and carriage driving throughout Queensland and enable sport committees and more than 540 affiliates to deliver competition and education opportunities in a safe environment.

Equestrian events contribute to the economy, help connect communities and provide healthy and active participation opportunities for all ages with an emphasis on the following:

- Gender equality – the only Olympic sport where all genders compete equally against each other
- Longevity – enables a lifetime commitment with competitors from school age to seniors, and whole family involvement

- Active lifestyle – combining a love of animals and the outdoors with high engagement (frequency of activity higher than many top range sports evidenced in QSERSA Report³)
- Inclusivity of all abilities – includes para equestrian program included in regular club event programming and pathways to Olympics
- Mental health – horses and horse riding are well regarded for their role in improving mental health—both formally as a therapy⁴ and informally through general participation⁵

Participation in equestrian sport contributes to the economy directly and indirectly as a result of the costs of horse ownership and through the delivery of events and activities. Modeled health benefits gained from participation in physical activity by horse riders, can also be attributed to a financial value for the community.

EQ initiated this Statewide Facility Plan to provide an understanding of the existing equestrian facilities throughout Queensland to ensure that future demand can be sustained, the quality and safety of equestrian facilities be improved and that facility developments are prioritised to optimise resource allocation.

³ https://www.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/8671/active-qld-adult-participation-survey.pdf

⁴ <http://www.equineassistedtherapyaustralia.com.au>

⁵ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/au/blog/helping-kids-cope/201903/equine-assisted-therapy-unique-and-effective-intervention>

03.01 Strategic vision for the future of equestrian facilities across Queensland

The *Equestrian Queensland Statewide Facilities Plan 2019–2028* fits within EQ’s strategic objectives⁶ “To increase participation across all levels of the sport” and “To raise the standard of excellence in the sport” and seeks to deliver the association’s vision to see equestrian sport in Queensland thrive for generations to come.

EQ’s vision for the future of the statewide equestrian facility network is to:

Partner with affiliates, sport committees, facility operators and funding providers to supply facilities that increase participation across all levels of the sport by providing quality, safe, fit-for-purpose facilities that meet the demands of the modern user.

⁶ <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/content/strategic-plan>



04 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The Statewide Facilities Plan has employed a blend of consultation, data analysis and informed assessment to produce the outcomes documented within this report.

04.01 Consultation and engagement

To ensure the relevance and applicability of the *Equestrian Queensland Statewide Facilities Plan*, extensive internal and external consultation was conducted during the preparation of this report. Consultation steps summarised in the diagram (on the following page) included:

- Formation of a steering committee comprising representatives of EQ and Department of Housing and Public Works to confirm the project plan at inception and to monitor and guide the project's progress
- Consultation with the EQ Board and staff to establish the long-term strategic vision for the sport's facilities, access existing knowledge and data, gain input into project outcomes, develop the preferred facility standards, adopt the final plan and endorse its recommendations
- Consultation with sport committees and industry experts to gain their knowledge and input into project outcomes, especially the preferred facility standards
- Engagement with EQ affiliates through an online survey, by telephone and email and via media (including social media) to create project awareness and provide updates, source facility details and to justify facility improvement aspirations that may overcome barriers to participation and provide opportunities for the enhancement of athlete development pathways
- Communication with members and their families, officials, coaches, trainers and other stakeholders via media (including social media) to create project awareness and provide updates, identify opportunities for direct engagement and to release the draft and final report
- Communication with EA to confirm alignment to existing policies, source available standards, guidelines, rules, participation data and sport trends
- Meetings with Councils with high participation rates to discuss details of existing equestrian facilities, knowledge of proposed or under construction equestrian facilities and specific challenges regarding facility provision

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Figure 01: Consultation Steps

04.02 Surveys

The results from two distinct surveys have been included within this report, to inform the Statewide Facilities Plan.

In 2017, prior to the commencement of this plan, EQ affiliates were asked to complete a facility survey to inform the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷. The EQ office followed up with affiliates to maximise survey completion. Data was provided by affiliates for 69 facilities. Since this fell well short of the total 212 facilities that have been used by EQ affiliates since 2015 (based on competition data and calendar entries), some additional facility data was sourced to increase the number of facilities with full facility data to 88 facilities. Many of the facilities without facility data are showgrounds. Follow up to capture data for all 212 facilities was unfortunately outside of the scope of this project.

As part of the development of the Statewide Facilities Plan a survey was conducted to gain an appreciation for affiliates' use of facilities, how fit-for-purpose the facility is for their needs, suggested facility improvements based on need, the extent of facility improvement planning and the affiliate's ability to contribute financially to facility improvements. The survey was published on-line and affiliates contacted by email and some followed up by phone to encourage completion. After extensive follow up by EQ, 109 surveys were provided for 73 facilities.

04.03 Facility assessments

Based on the facility data provided and EQ's knowledge of facilities, each facility has been assessed against the Preferred Facility Standards (see section 10 Preferred facility standards on page 25 and Appendix 1) and provided with an assessed facility tier number (1 to 5). The assessed facility tier has been used to identify gaps, where facilities are hosting competitions at a higher level than the facility standard.

The assessment facility tier does not take into detailed account the standards of maintenance for a facility, rather the existence of usable facility elements.

⁷ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>

04.04 Project priorities

Survey respondents suggested projects that would improve facilities to more adequately meet their needs. These projects have been summarised and listed within each reporting zone (see Section 12 Reporting zones and development requirements on page 38). Projects have been given a priority (short (up to 3 years), medium (up to 6 years) and long (up to 10 years or more)). Prioritisation has taken the following into account:

- Project required for facility safety
- Surface upgrade required
- Planning already undertaken
- Affiliate's ability to contribute financially
- Gap identified between assessed facility tier and competition tier
- Level of facility use
- Facility tenure
- Extent of project (minor project or major project)

In some cases, it has been suggested that more planning is required before a prioritisation for a project can be given. This is typically because the project is strategic (impacting a whole region or discipline) and/or relates to a whole of facility upgrade. This planning should occur in the short term (up to 3 years).

Within the tables in Section 12 (Reporting zones and development requirements) a logo with hoof and helmet has been placed beside some facilities. This indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.



04.05 Data

The data outputs for this report have been delivered by a complex data model that links data from the following sources:

- EQ club and affiliate memberships data (2015 to 2019)
- EA membership data for Queensland (2019)
- EQ horse registration data (2015 to 2018)
- Facility data (adapted from the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁸ and sourced directly from clubs by EQ)
- Statewide Facility Plan facility user survey results (2019)
- EQ competition data (from Nominate and Global Entries) (2015 to 2018)
- EQ events calendar data (2018 only)
- Statewide Facility Plan Preferred Facility Standards (2019)

While the data sourced (listed above) is extensive, comprehensive participation and facility data that spans all levels of competition is not available. This is a limiting factor in providing full facility usage statistics.

EQ's current data capture processes (aligned with other state branches and endorsed by EA) does not gather all participation information in membership or competition entry data, therefore facility usage cannot be fully quantified. The data represents most comprehensively *Competitive* entries and participation. Data from grassroots participation (where participation is assumed to be higher) is less available.

As in other states, EQ follows EA's membership structure⁹ where *Individual* members are either *Competitor*, *Participant* or *Supporters*. EQ also provides an additional *Recreational* category for members who enjoy riding a horse in equestrian activities for pleasure, riding out and may be a member of an equestrian club. *Affiliates* (known within the EA membership structure as *Groups*) are members are either *Clubs*, *Sport Affiliates* (Show Societies, Schools, Breed Societies etc.) or *Commercial*. It is not mandatory for individual members to be members of affiliates, nor do members of affiliates need to be individual members.

Furthermore, club member numbers are recorded by clubs on affiliation/insurance forms as a whole number rather than individual members. It is suspected that club member numbers are underestimated.

⁸ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>

⁹ <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/get-involved/structure>

Similarly, not all competition or activity entry data is provided to EQ (only data for *Competitive* competitions are provided). Whole numbers of competition entries are not provided to EQ either. An example includes the hundreds of competitors entering show jumping or show horse competitions that take nominations on the day, without any individual participation records being supplied to EQ.

Due to its incomplete nature, participation or membership data has not been measured as a percentage of population with comparison to national Ausplay participation data¹⁰. The January 2018 to December 2018 Ausplay data release shows national equestrian club or association participation at 0.3% of the adult population and 0.4% of the child population.

The calculated example below demonstrates that population percentage data is problematic. The estimated resident population of the Gold Coast City as at 30 June 2018 is 606,774. The estimated child population is 109,826 (at 18.1% of the total population) and the adult population is 496,948 (at 81.9%)¹¹. If the Gold Coast's participation in equestrian is at the national average, there would be 1,491 adults and 439 children totaling 1,930 participants. This compares to the actual 354 Individual EA members (2019), and 395 club members (in 2018). This highlights the potential gap in participation that is not being recorded or may indicate significantly lower participation than the national average.

Until a more complete participation data set is available, population based participation calculations and future demand due to predicted population increases is of little value. Within this plan, gaps in facility provision and demand for facilities have been identified using the Preferred Facility Standards (see Section 10 Preferred facility standards on page 25) and compared with the available data showing the level of competition being offered.



¹⁰ <https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/smi/ausplay/results/national>

¹¹ <https://profile.id.com.au/gold-coast/population-estimate>

04.06 Project scope

There are a large number of sports (known as disciplines) that involve horses and the industry that governs and administers horse sports is complex and somewhat disconnected. This report concerns itself with only EQ affiliated dressage, eventing, jumping, interschool, show horse, vaulting and carriage driving, and the facilities used by EQ's affiliates.

In some cases, equestrian sports with differing state or national affiliate bodies share the same venue. There are instances of facilities that appear underutilised or duplicated within close proximity to each other, but are used by disparate horse sports. This may be due to a specialist facility requirement, but largely this situation seems to be based on history and tradition.

Funding providers and government organisations should be aware that this report does not attempt to consider all of Queensland's horse sport facilities.

EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

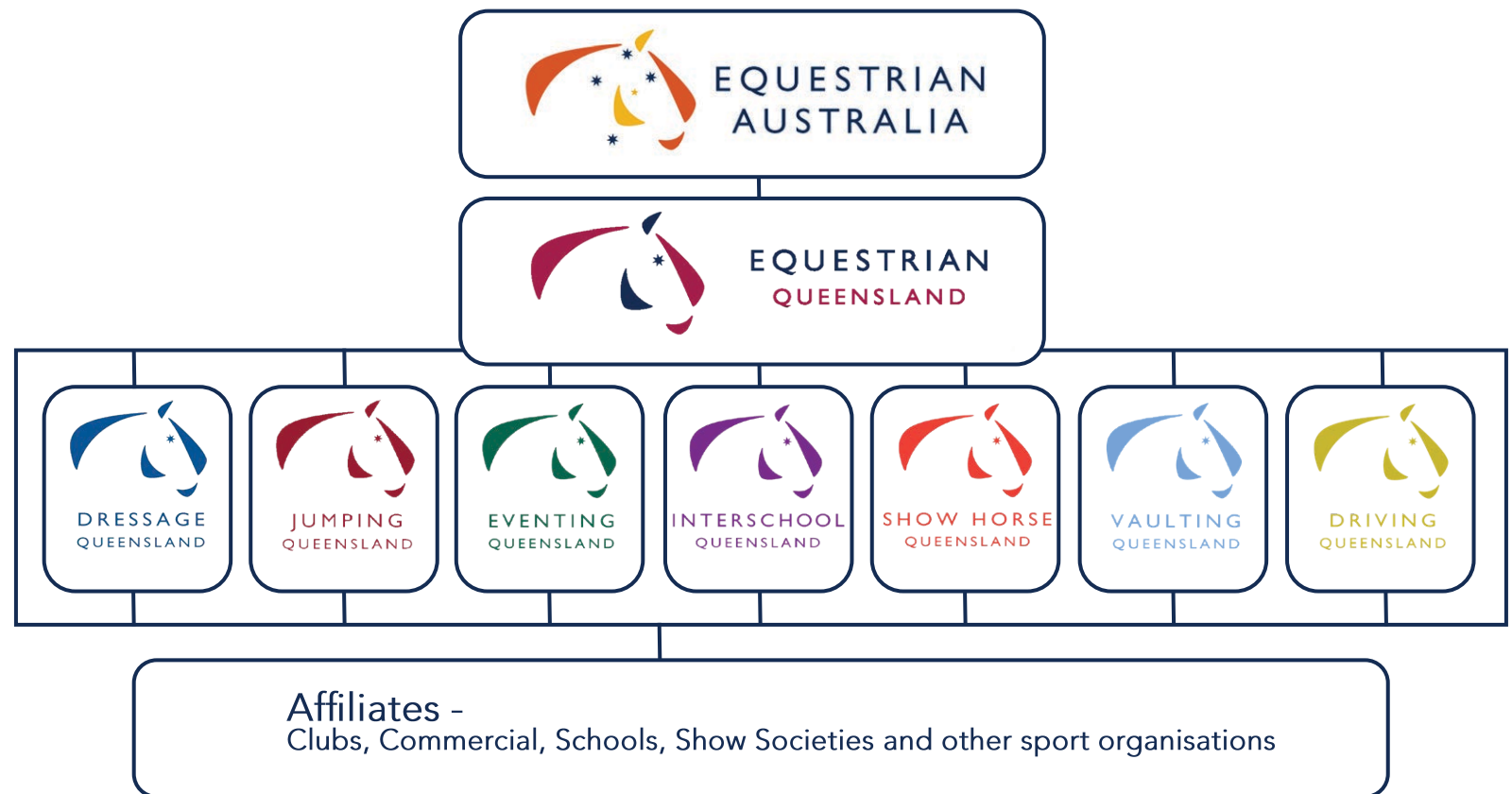
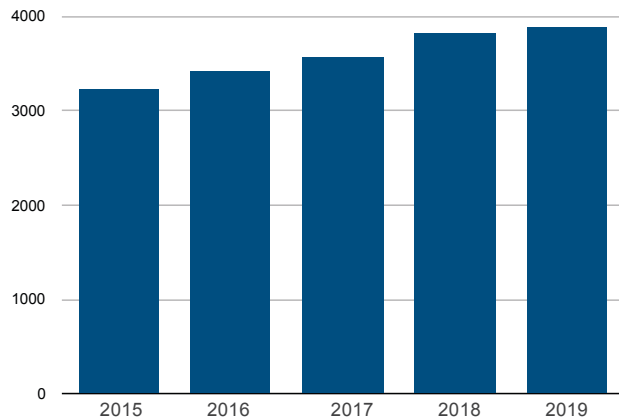


Figure 02: Equestrian Australian Organisational Structure



05 PARTICIPATION

EQ's *Individual* membership has had a growth rate of around 4-5% per annum over the past four years from 3,221 members in 2015 to 3,823 in 2018. 2019 had a membership of 3,883 before the membership year had ended.



*Note: 2019 is not the full year of data

Figure 03: Queensland's Individual Equestrian Australia membership

EQ estimates a total participation exceeding 16,800. This figure includes more than 1,550 volunteers, 186 accredited coaches and 240 accredited officials¹².

The vast majority of EQ members are female (90%), and the two main age groups of participants are 21 years and under (35%) and 35 to 54 years (30%)¹³.

While almost two-thirds of the state's participants are in south east Queensland¹⁴, affiliates are located across the whole of Queensland.

16,800
TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS

1,550
CLUB
VOLUNTEERS

186
ACCREDITED
COACHES

90%
FEMALE
PARTICIPANTS

¹² Equestrian Queensland Annual Report 2018

¹³ Equestrian Queensland Annual Report 2018

¹⁴ Equestrian Queensland Annual Report 2018

The facilities with the highest number of *Competitive* competition entries have been listed below. This facility data is collected from the Nominate and Global Entries competition management software systems.

Facility Name	Total Entries (2015 to 2018)	Assessed Facility Tier	Local Government Area
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	17029	3	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Toowoomba Showgrounds	9465	3	Toowoomba Regional Council
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds	6608	3	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Morgan Park	4772	3	Southern Downs Regional Council
Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds	4738	3	Brisbane City Council
Skerman Park	4276	4	Logan City Council
Mudgeeraba Pony and Hack Club Grounds	3990	4	Gold Coast City Council
Cedar Grove District Riding Club Grounds	3772	4	Logan City Council
Nambour Showgrounds	3527	3	Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park	3507	3	Fraser Coast Regional Council

Facility Name	Total Entries (2015 to 2018)	Assessed Facility Tier	Local Government Area
Tamborine Equestrian Group Grounds	3123	3	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Pinklands Sports Complex	3065	4	Redlands City Council
Black River Pony Club Grounds	2992	4	Townsville City Council
Caboolture Showgrounds	2689	4	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Samford Showgrounds	2285	4	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Beaudesert Showgrounds	2041	4	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Burpengary Equestrian Centre	1734	3	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Logan Village Riding Club Grounds	1465	4	Logan City Council
Dalby Showgrounds	1436	4	Western Downs Regional Council
Elysian Fields	1306	3	Scenic Rim Regional Council

Table 01: Facilities with the highest number of *Competitive* competition entries



06 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT OF EQUESTRIAN

In 2017 EA commissioned Street Ryan to report on the community impact of equestrian in Australia¹⁵. The findings from the report, “Equestrian in Australia: Community Impact Study”, are summarised below:

- In total, Equestrian in Australia contributes \$1.143 billion in benefits to the community. This is made up of \$1.130 billion in economic contributions and \$12.7 million in health contributions
- Equestrian club participants contribution is the highest at \$676.4 million (maintenance of horses is the most significant input at \$352 million), followed by horse breeding (\$169 million), event participation (\$106 million), club and association input (\$93 million) and equipment retailing, training and coaching (\$84 million)
- New South Wales has the highest contribution of any state or territory, contributing \$347 million (31% of the national total), followed by Victoria (\$265 million / 24%), Queensland (\$212 million / 19%), Western Australia (\$158 million / 14%), South Australia (\$108 million / 10%), Tasmania (\$31 million / 3%) and Northern Territory (\$10 million / 1%)

- Whilst most sports make many positive contributions to the community through social capital and social cohesion, this study found that equestrian has a number of unique social strengths:
 - Lifelong participation opportunities
 - Strong family and female participation
 - Structured, disciplined and selfless mindset
 - Outdoor recreational outlet and escape
 - Personal purpose and fulfilment

These outcomes align with the 2019 Queensland Government’s Active8 program, part of whole-of-government plans to deliver their 2029 vision — to enrich the Queensland way of life through physical activity and provide more opportunities for Queenslanders, of all ages and all abilities, to be physically active.¹⁶

Modeling of the health benefits of regular participation in physical activity via equestrian sport within the “Equestrian in Australia: Community Impact Study” demonstrates significant health benefits to individuals from both a physical and mental perspective to the value of \$10 million per year. The physical health benefits analysed in this study are derived from the prevention of chronic diseases. The mental health benefits are derived from the prevention of anxiety and depression. The value of Equestrian’s health

¹⁵ Sports Business Partners and Street Ryan (2017), “Equestrian in Australia: Community Impact Study”, Equestrian Australia, Sydney, <https://www.equestrian.org.au/news/equestrian-brings-more-1billion-economy>
¹⁶ <https://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/Active8SportRecreationStrategyActionPlan.pdf>

contribution has been estimated based on the prevention of these selected physical and mental diseases amongst the total Equestrian participation base.¹⁷

06.01 Expenditure

The approximate costs of owning a horse were estimated by Regional Development Australia (RDA) Ipswich and West Moreton in their 2012 Equine Report¹⁸. Whilst recreational horses (competition and pleasure) rarely generate income, owners spend a significant amount of money pursuing their equine hobby. It is estimated that it costs on average \$2,800 a year to keep a recreational horse, rising significantly for horses that are competing or kept on full agistment. The table below demonstrates the minimum and the maximum cost per annum. The average of \$2,800 was drawn from these two benchmarks.

Expense	Yearly Cost Minimum (approx.)	Yearly Cost Maximum (approx.) ¹⁹
Feed	\$0	\$1664
Hay/Chaff	\$180	\$3380
Supplements	\$0	\$1200
Farrier	\$100	\$1200
Worming	\$80	\$120
Vaccination	\$32	\$100
Teeth Care	\$80	\$200
Veterinarian	\$0	(depends on health status) \$300
Saddlery/Rugs	\$0	(only limited by income) \$1000
TOTAL	\$472	\$9164

Table 02: Approximate costs per annum of keeping a horse on own property

17 Lifetime Health Contribution is calculated based on the yearly health benefits multiplied by the average number of years of Equestrian participation remaining for each age/gender segment. The key valuation approach is similar to many previous whole of sport industry studies, and includes data input related to the reduction in Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALY) from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Government Department of Health.

18 Regional Development Australia - Ipswich and West Moreton. 2012. "Equine Report." Regional Development Australia Ipswich and West Moreton Inc. <https://rdaiwm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Equine-Report-2012.pdf>

19 Regional Development Australia - Ipswich and West Moreton. 2012. "Equine Report." Regional Development Australia Ipswich and West Moreton Inc. <https://rdaiwm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Equine-Report-2012.pdf>

20 —. 2015. "Horse activities make a huge contribution to the economy." Australian Horse Industry Council. May.

21 Hritz, Nancy, and Craig Ross. 2010. "The Perceived Impacts of Sport Tourism: An Urban Host Community Perspective." *Journal of Sport Management* 119-138.

22 Deloitte. 2015. Economic impact of Sport in Dubai. Dubai: Dubai Sports Council.

23 Hritz, Nancy, and Craig Ross. 2010. "The Perceived Impacts of Sport Tourism: An Urban Host Community Perspective." *Journal of Sport Management* 119-138.

Recent data published by the Australian Horse Industry Council (2015) from a sample of 3,054 horse owners, confirms that the equine industry continues to grow with a reported spend of over \$40 million per year from survey respondents on horse activities.²⁰ The reported horse related spend of over \$40 million annually from just a fraction of the horse owners in the country is further evidence that the horse industry continues to contribute billions of dollars to the Australian economy. In breaking down the spend, respondents nominated horse feed, professional assistance, tack, clothing and safety equipment and transportation as their top five horse related costs.

06.02 Event contributions

Sport tourism is one of the largest and fastest-growing segments of the travel and tourism industry and is receiving increased attention for its social, environmental and economic development opportunities²¹. Events form a key part of the sport tourism landscape and it is widely understood that major sporting events contribute significantly to the economic development and tourist traffic in a city or region^{22 23}.

In Australia there is a variety of organised equestrian events ranging from major international events to local gymkhanas. These events have a solid history of successfully drawing visitors to an area and contributing to the economy through:

- Event organisation, promotions, venue preparation and maintenance
- Local participants, day trips and overnight visitors
- Transport expenses for both people and horses

EQ has identified 416 *Competitive* and *Non-competitive* events (from the 2018 event calendar and event data generated by 2018 *Competitive* events). The actual number is expected to be much higher as many grassroots events are *Non-Competitive*, without any data recorded.

A report into the economic contribution of the Australian Interschool Championships²⁴ held at Toowoomba Showgrounds 25–29 September 2017 reported:

- 6,297 total attendances and 1,400 individual attendances across 5 days
- 29.2% intrastate and 61.3% interstate visitors
- Total overnight visitor expenditure of \$887,121 (\$105.24 average daily spend for intrastate visitors)
- Total day tripper expenditure of \$42,048 (\$265.20 average spend per visitor)
- Total direct and incremental expenditure for Toowoomba region \$905,892

When assessing ‘community pride’, the Australian Interschool Championships rates high to very high on all indicators. The highest levels of agreement were recorded for the statements ‘Local residents should feel proud of Australian Interschool Championships’ (4.2/5).

06.03 Creation of social capital

While the most tangible economic benefit of equestrian sport is in the tourism industry, there are also significant intangible benefits that contribute to the economy in less obvious ways. Research indicates that across Australia, all levels of government and sports are regionalising services and planning and prioritising investment in regionally significant projects that produce a broad range of community benefits²⁵.

Community facilities such as equestrian centres provide a focus for community-building activities, enhancing the connections and relationships among people to strengthen common values and promote collective goals.²⁶ Many studies refer to these benefits collectively as social capital, bringing attention to the positive impact that investing in social capital will have on a community and the economy.^{27 28}

“Social capital is the glue that holds societies together and without which there can be no economic growth or human wellbeing... it is the internal social and cultural coherence of society, the norms and values that govern interactions among people and the institutions in which they are embedded.”²⁹

Social capital has been recognised as a driver of economic growth, resulting in greater economic efficiency.³⁰ At a community level, it can be argued that improving social capital can lead to economic savings in the form of reduced health costs, lower criminal justice system costs, reduced welfare system outlays, reduction in children and young people needing access to specialist educational support, and increased tax revenue resulting from increased workforce participation.^{31 32 33}



24 Australian Interschool Championships 25-29 September 2017 Economic Impact Report

25 Local Government Recreation Forum, Local Government Association of South Australia and the Office for Recreation and Sport. 2016. South Australian Regional Level Recreation and Sport Planning Guidelines. Adelaide: Government for South Australia.

26 Local Government Association of South Australia. 2012. "Implementation Guide." Planning for Social Infrastructure and Community Services for Growth Areas. Local Government Research and Development Scheme, February.

27 Grootaert, Christiaan, and Thierry van Bastelaer. 2001. Understanding and Managing Social Capital: a synthesis of findings and recommendations from the Social Capital Initiative. Washington DC: Social Development Department Publications.

28 Sieglar, Veronique. 2014. "Measuring Social Capital." London: Office for National Statistics.

29 Grootaert, Christiaan, and Thierry van Bastelaer. 2001. Understanding and Managing Social Capital: a synthesis of findings and recommendations from the Social Capital Initiative. Washington DC: Social Development Department Publications.

30 Sieglar, Veronique. 2014. "Measuring Social Capital." London: Office for National Statistics.

31 Aguilera, Michael Bernabé. 2002. "The Impact of Social Capital on Labor Force Participation: Evidence from the 2000 Social Capital Benchmark Survey." Social Science Quarterly (Volume 83, Issue 3) 83 (3): Pages 853–874.

32 Grootaert, Christiaan, and Thierry van Bastelaer. 2001. Understanding and Managing Social Capital: a synthesis of findings and recommendations from the Social Capital Initiative. Washington DC: Social Development Department Publications.

33 Sieglar, Veronique. 2014. "Measuring Social Capital." London: Office for National Statistics.



07 TRENDS

The following trends impact participation and facility provision.

07.01 Female participation

Through its AusPlay survey, the Australian Sports Commission revealed that participation in sport and physical activity among women and girls is strong and growing. 63% of Australian women aged 15 years and over participate in sport and physical activity at least three times a week, compared with 60% of men³⁴. Whilst adult female participation is still focused primarily on non-organised physical activities rather than club sports, this tendency is starting to change.

EQ reports an overwhelming majority of female participants (90%). This trend is reinforced by Australia wide participation studies³⁵, and growth is evidenced within equestrian sport by EQ's consistent 4-5% growth in *Individual* membership.

Equestrian is the only Olympic sport where all genders compete directly against each other, and also in many competitions down to grassroots level. At Olympic level, trends in female participation are increasing. Since the 1970s, the majority of Olympic dressage participants are female, but they have always been underrepresented in Olympic showjumping³⁶.

Facility operators can cater for high levels of female participation through the adequate provision of female/male or unisex amenities, and by ensuring that equipment and facility features can be easily operated and utilised by women without the risk of injury.

³⁴ Australian Sports Commission 2017, AusPlay Focus: Women and Girls Participation.

³⁵ https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/564093/ABS_Childrens_Report_-_Horse_Activities_Final.pdf

³⁶ <https://theconversation.com/equal-but-not-the-same-equestrian-sports-unisex-approach-hides-inequity-64054>

07.02 Adult amateurs versus juniors

Horse Canada Magazine explored the future of equestrian sport and suggested that “if adult amateurs are the backbone of equestrian sports today, junior riders are the foundation without whom there is no future”.³⁷ With EQ’s high membership numbers in the under 21s (35%) and 35 to 54 year old (30%) age groups, it appears both foundation and backbone membership are well balanced.

EQ’s Interschool program is important for keeping junior rider numbers high and retaining school access to facilities, often in a shared or multi-use arrangement, which is an important facility provision consideration.

07.03 Number of competitions

EQ’s competition data shows a greater number of consistently run Tier 4 (Regional) level events. The most complete data is available for 2018, showing greater than 4 times the number of Tier 4 events than any other level. This data demonstrates the higher demand for facilities at this standard.

Competition Tier	No. Competitions
2	9
3	68
4	290
5	49
Total	416

Table 03: Number of competitions in 2018 for each Tier levels

Queensland currently holds few Tier 2 (International/National) and no Tier 1 (Olympic/WEG) level events. It is worth noting however that nationally, the number of FEI level (Tier 2) events being held in Australia has progressively increased, seen in the table below³⁸. This is a trend expected to also occur in Queensland.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. events	121	127	128	125	128	134	132	140	144

Table 04: Number of FEI level events held in Australia from 2009 to 2017

07.04 Safety and standardisation

Safety has always been of the highest importance within organised equestrian sport as evidenced within historical accounts of horse riding instruction.³⁹ Even so, new safety rules are implemented almost every year, with periods of increased scrutiny the result of serious or fatal accidents involving high profile athletes or under highly scrutinised circumstances.

EA provides extensive safety resources for clubs and event organisers⁴⁰. These resources support each discipline’s rule book which includes safety provisions and guides clubs, event organisers, and facility operators to provide safe participation spaces.

Facility upgrades which increase safety should be given highest priority and in some cases will be necessary for continued use of facilities when new standards are mandated. An example includes the installation of frangible devices to cross-country fences for eventing. Whilst falls cannot be completely prevented, the use of such devices allows the fence to drop on contact, helping to prevent a rotational fall. Upgrades to significant infrastructure such as cross country courses is costly and should be prioritised by funding providers.

³⁷ https://horse-canada.com/magazine_articles/looking-into-the-crystal-ball/

³⁸ FEI Events 2009-2017 By Year, National Federation, Discipline and Level, <https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/publications/fei-annual-report/2017/feifactsandstats/>

³⁹ <http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au/About/OurHistory.aspx>

⁴⁰ <https://www.equestrian.org.au/makingequestriansafer>

There is increasing emphasis on the competition surface as a safety consideration (see also *Increased investment in horses* below) and this is reflected in the surface requirements within the Preferred Facility Standards (Appendix 1). EQ has recently purchased a UA80 Aera-Vator available for use by affiliates to help to prepare optimal competition surfaces prior to events⁴¹.

07.05 Increased investment in horses

The amount horse owners are spending to purchase horses for competition is significant. A popular online horse sale website⁴² lists a Warmblood, one of the more popular choices of competition horse, at a starting price of approximately \$10,000. Horses with exceptional and proven performance records can easily exceed \$100,000. Horses are also imported from overseas, adding significantly to the purchase price and cost of purchase.

The high price to purchase or replace self-trained competition horses, coupled with the emotional investment of horse ownership, adds to the welfare consciousness of horse owners. To maintain the longest possible competition life for a horse (approximately 4 to 16 years old), owners go to considerable lengths to prevent injuries and keep horses sound.

This situation places demands on facility provision, with owners of valuable horses preferring facilities where injuries are less likely to occur. The competition surface, along with the surface of associated warm up spaces including round yards, are the main consideration, but safe stables and the surface of laneways is also a factor.

It is an expectation that dressage competitions at 1 star and above be held on sand based surfaces. Regardless of this, if a club or event director offered a level of competition at a facility with unsuitable surfaces, nominations would be low and/or withdrawals high, making events at that level of competition unviable.

Advice around the Preferred Facility Standards can be found in Section 10 Preferred facility standards on page 25.

⁴¹ <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/content/ua80-aera-vator-bookings>

⁴² <https://horsezone.com.au/category/240/Warmblood.html>

⁴³ <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/get-involved/structure>

07.06 Professionalism versus club membership

While the number of professionals (riders, coaches, breeders, facility operators) is difficult to quantify, the numbers of horse registrations and participation in higher level competition indicate that the number is growing.

At a recent Dressage Queensland Riders Subcommittee event (attractive to professional competitors) held at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre (September 2019) there were 87 competitors with 263 entries. Of these competitors 17 were youth, leaving 70 senior riders. Of the senior riders 32 qualified as Adult Amateur Owner Riders (AAOR). This indicates that the majority (38) of riders have some level of professionalisation as they are riders who ride someone else's horse and/or have cash sponsorship per annum above the value of \$500 and/or derive their principal source of income from sponsorship, breeding, breaking, training, riding and/or coaching any horse or rider for the previous 2 years.

Professionalism impacts on the provision of facilities and delivery of events in a number of ways. Most of all, an increased expectation of facility standard—with a corresponding increase in participation cost likely.

EA's membership structure⁴³ is such that competitors do not need to be a member of a club to participate in *Competitive* competitions. With increasing professionalism, clubs need to ensure they still provide significant benefits to all participants regardless of club membership not being essential.

Club membership numbers contribute to financial viability and provide the required volunteer numbers to operate a club and hire or operate a facility, even if most of the club's revenue is generated by running competitions.

07.07 The impact of the economy

In Australia, over the past three years, household disposable income has increased at an average rate of just 2.75%. According to the Reserve Bank of Australia, this compares with an average of 6% over the preceding decade⁴⁴. As this period of weak income growth has persisted, it has become harder for households to dismiss it as just a temporary development—as something that will pass quickly. The lower rate of income growth has also made it harder for households to pay down debt. The end result has been that many people have adjusted their spending plans. There was further evidence of this adjustment in the depressed retail trade data for the March 2019 quarter.

Since participation in equestrian sport is expensive⁴⁵ it accords that changes in the economy would impact on participation. An American study “The Effects of Economic Conditions on the Sport Horse Industry in Kentucky and Nationally” (2015)⁴⁶ concluded that the sport horse industry would be affected by recession.

Club committees may have seen a negative impact on participation and membership levels caused by the weak income growth and lower household disposable income, in addition to decreasing merchandise sales and reduced canteen income.

In line with the professionalisation of sports administration, equestrian clubs must appreciate the intrinsic value of their offerings and actively mitigate against risks to their profitability by considering economic conditions and understanding the business nature of sports provision in Australia.

The quality and safety of the facilities provided by a club is an important factor in the retention and attraction of members and competitors, despite the economic conditions.



⁴⁴ <https://www.rba.gov.au/speeches/2019/sp-gov-2019-05-21.html>

⁴⁵ Regional Development Australia - Ipswich and West Moreton. 2012. “Equine Report.” Regional Development Australia Ipswich and West Moreton Inc. <https://rdaiwm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Equine-Report-2012.pdf>

⁴⁶ Lampert, Elizabeth, “The Effects of Economic Conditions on the Sport Horse Industry in Kentucky and Nationally” (2015). Lewis Honors College Capstone Collection. 17. <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/honprog/17>

07.08 The impact of drought

Anecdotally, participants and club committee members have reflected on the impact of drought on participation in equestrian sport.

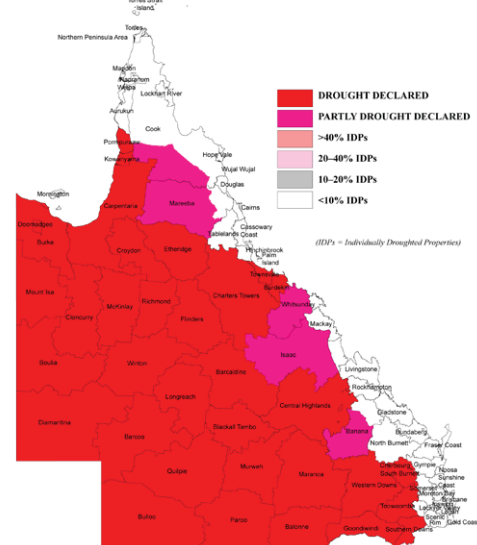
For most of south east Queensland, where the majority of members and their horses reside, there has been little relief in drought conditions since 2014. The diagrams below show the drought maps for February from 2014 to 2019.⁴⁷

The drought impacts participation as the cost of feed for horses increases per unit and is prioritised over event participation and club membership. Horses may even be sold or riders not renew their *Individual* membership during times of drought to relieve financial pressures.

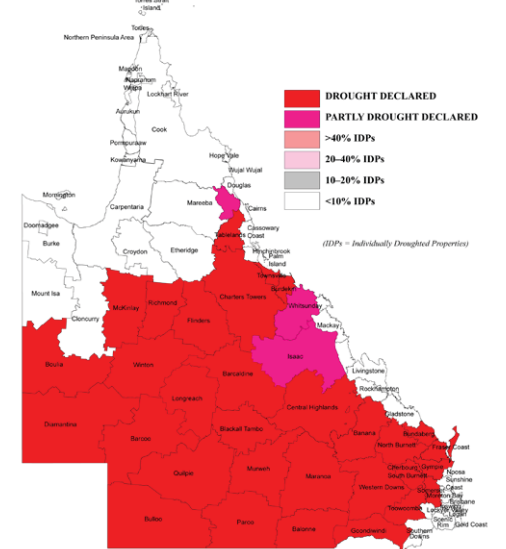
Club membership shows peaks during 2015 and 2017 but has since declined. This may be a result of the current persistent drought.

Facility management is also impacted by drought, particularly in the management of outdoor surfaces, and pasture management where facilities also provide grazing agistment.

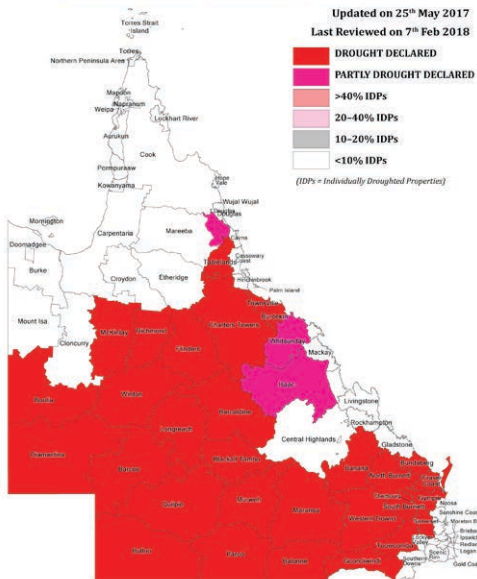
QUEENSLAND DROUGHT SITUATION
as at 1st February 2016



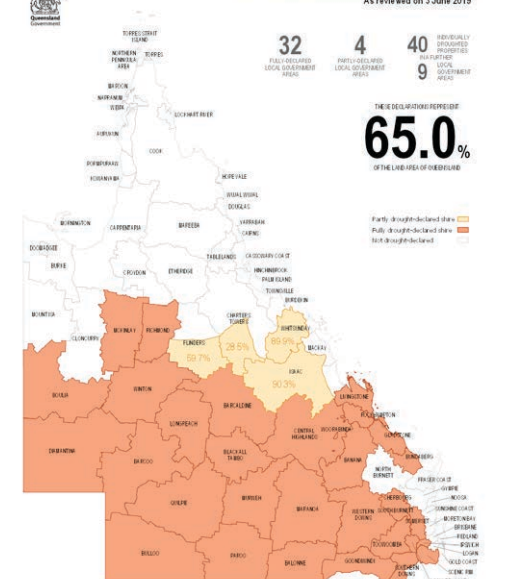
QUEENSLAND DROUGHT SITUATION
as at 7th May 2017



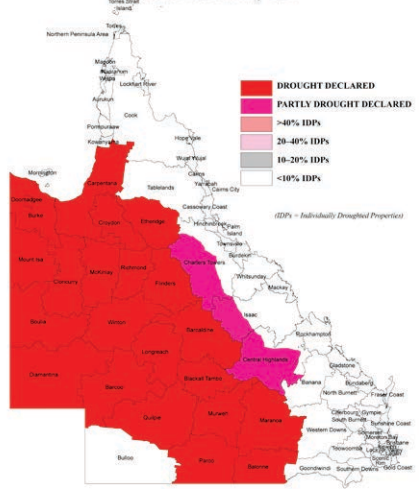
QUEENSLAND DROUGHT SITUATION



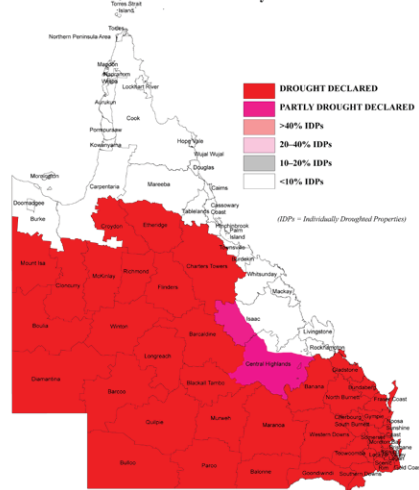
QUEENSLAND DROUGHT SITUATION
As reviewed on 3 June 2019



QUEENSLAND DROUGHT SITUATION
as at 21st January 2014



QUEENSLAND DROUGHT SITUATION
as at 1st February 2015



47 <https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/drought/drought-declarations/>

08 OPPORTUNITIES

08.01 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Following the inaugural meeting of the 2032 Olympic Candidature Leadership Group in Cairns in August 2019, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) expressed confidence in Brisbane and Queensland mounting a compelling case to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The meeting, convened and chaired by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, was attended by the leadership group comprising Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Chair Council of Mayors of South East Queensland (CoMSEQ) Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner, Member for Fairfax Ted O'Brien MP, who will be the Prime Minister's representative in delivering on the Commonwealth's commitments towards a candidature, and AOC President John Coates AC.

Mr Coates said in media released in August 2019 "We know Queensland and Australia has the capability and experience to host an Olympic Games in this country for a third time but must ensure that all planning is aligned with Queensland's long-term

requirements, particularly transport infrastructure, including fast rail, community well-being and grassroots sports."

The Olympic bid is supported by The Council of Mayors (SEQ) 2032 SEQ Olympic and Paralympic Games Feasibility Study⁴⁸. This study highlights the high number of existing facilities (60% of the 41 required in 2019 and a prediction of 70% by 2021) for which Mr Coates states, priority use should be given.

Precedence has been set with the selection of Los Angeles for the 2028 Olympic Games eleven years before, making possible preparation for Olympic Games in south east Queensland within the timeframe of this Statewide Facility Plan. The Australian Olympic Committee will finalise a proposal to present to Future Hosts Commission, either just ahead of the Tokyo Olympics in July 2020 or the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Athens the following year. A decision is expected in 2025 at the latest.

The Queensland State Equestrian Centre (QSEC) in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area has been identified by The Council of Mayors⁴⁹ as existing infrastructure which can

⁴⁸ 2032 SEQ Olympic and Paralympic Games Feasibility Study <https://seqmayors.qld.gov.au/initiatives/2mfHY5whV6uNpagYpw2v>

⁴⁹ 2032 SEQ Olympic and Paralympic Games Feasibility Study <https://seqmayors.qld.gov.au/initiatives/2mfHY5whV6uNpagYpw2v>

be upgraded (creating legacy benefits) to meet Olympic equestrian venue requirements. This report rates the current facility as a high Tier 3 facility. Upgrades would need to take it to a Tier 1 facility including the addition of a cross country course which the facility currently does not have. The extensive improvements required to QSEC (see page 41) may mean that other facility owners (even on green or brown field sites) may wish to compete for the provision of a Tier 1 facility for the Olympic bid.

08.02 New facilities

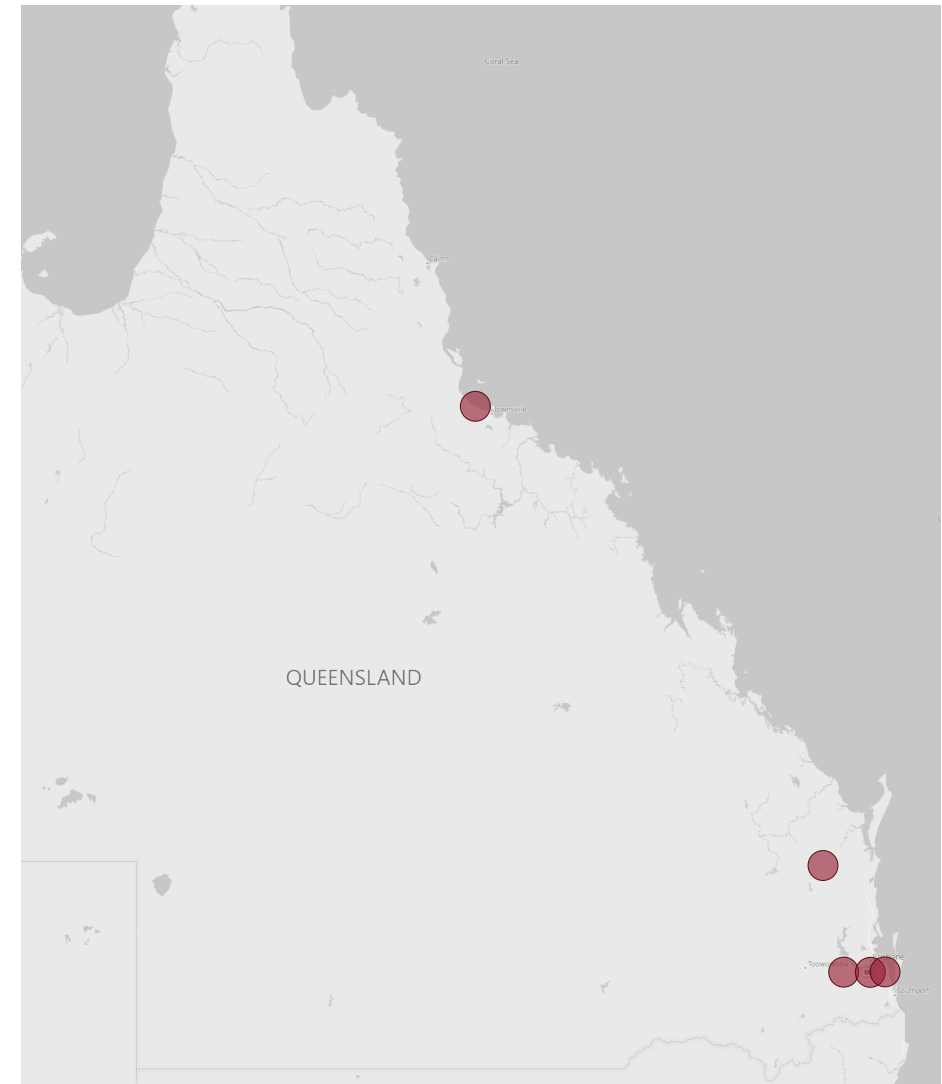
A number of new facilities have been identified within this plan. These include:

Facility Name	Local Government Area	Owner/Operator
Heinemann Road	Redlands City Council	Local Government
Kilkivan Showgrounds and Equestrian Centre (KSEC)	Gympie Regional Council	Local Government
Larapinta Equestrian Centre	Brisbane City Council	Private
North Queensland Country Club Resort and Equestrian Centre	Townsville City Council	Private
Rosewood Equestrian Precinct	Ipswich City Council	Private

Table 05: New facilities

Three of the five new facilities are private facilities. To be considered within the state facility network, these new private facilities will require well considered operational models to successfully incorporate the delivery of *Competitive* competitions and accommodate affiliates.

Examples in other sports are available including swimming. Swimming Australia⁵⁰ provides support for affiliate clubs to develop agreements with professional swimming pool lessees or lessors, where the lessee operates a for-profit business from the swimming pool.



Map 01: New facilities

50 <https://www.swimming.org.au/community-1/clubs>

09 FINDINGS

EQ has an extensive network of more than 540 affiliates statewide including 110 clubs, approximately 131 Queensland-based show societies, 263 schools, 19 commercial organisations and 12 sport organisations (2015 to 2018).

Facilities are essential to the sport, and their inclusions are very specific, not only to the horse industry including stables, wash bays and round yards, but also to the discipline with competition area, surface type and required equipment varying significantly. An outsider to the sport might be surprised to learn that an equestrian competition area and its maintenance is quite different between two disciplines such as jumping and dressage (depth, fluffiness and moisture content of the sand). This can be compared to the situation for two field sports such as soccer and rugby league (length of grass and soil moisture).

The Statewide Facilities Plan includes a number of overall findings regarding the statewide facilities network.

09.01 Facility security

Of the 87 facilities that provided data, the majority were either hired (26) or leased (38). The remaining 23 facilities were classed as private, of which only 15 are suspected to be truly private properties.

The large number of hired facilities puts the facility security of equestrian clubs at some risk, with tenure not as secure as leased properties.

Hiring and to a lesser extent leasing, removes responsibility for facility improvement and maintenance from the hirer or leasee. While this may be a positive position if facilities are fit-for-purpose and well maintained, it can also be a negative if facilities fall short of club and event organiser's needs.

When asked about facility improvement projects, 35 out of 97 survey respondents said they could not or would not be making a financial contribution to the required improvements due to tenure arrangements.

When asked about plans for facility improvements, 38 out of 97 said they didn't know about any facility improvement plans, indicating a lack of engagement in facility planning, which may also be the result of tenure arrangements.

DRAFT

09.02 Financial contribution

While a large number of affiliates indicated that improvements were required at their facility, only a small number were in a position to contribute financially. Out of 97 responses, only 10 affiliates said they could financially contribute to facility projects and an additional four had received grant funding for a facility project. This position may be indicative of a number of factors including low turnover and financial viability and/or a lack of planning and prioritisation for facility improvement. As previously stated, 35 out of 97 survey respondents said they could not or would not be making a financial contribution to the required improvements due to tenure arrangements.

09.03 Strategic and facility planning

When surveyed about planning, very few affiliates provided copies of documented facility plans. 38 out of 97 affiliates said they didn't know about any facility improvement plans, which may also be the result of tenure arrangements (hired or leased facilities with no facility improvement or maintenance obligations). These plans are necessary for good prioritisation, financial planning and for sourcing grant funding. The lack of documented planning presents a risk to the successful implementation of required facility improvements.

09.04 Multi-user relationships

The high number of hired (26) or leased (38) facilities indicates many affiliates share the use of a facility with other groups. The use of showgrounds and pony club grounds is common. Of the 212 facilities identified, 28 were pony club grounds and 128 were showgrounds. This situation often requires compromise where facility users have different priorities or don't properly understand or value the facility requirements of other users. Scheduling can also become problematic. However multi-use situations are often unavoidable, as on their own, each user could not viably occupy the facility exclusively.

For multi-use situations to be successful, good relationships, communication and collaboration are key. Success can be driven by a well facilitated user group, the development of a master plan for the entire facility which consults all users, and in some cases, facilitation and support provided by the facility owner, local government and/or the state affiliate body.

09.05 Professionalism of facility provision

More recently, more private property owners have made their properties available to high level host competitions. Examples such as Boneo Park⁵¹ in Victoria, Willinga Park⁵² in NSW and Elysian Fields⁵³ in Queensland are making a significant contribution to Australia's ability to host high level competitions in world class facilities. In some cases, clubs are also using private properties.

The higher number of private facilities being used in the Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/ NSW reporting zone (eight) may be indicative of a shift towards increased provision of facilities by private property owners. The three new facilities being developed privately with the intention to host affiliates and events is also indicative of this trend.

It is important that policy, governance structures and rules support the trend towards private facility provision.

Private facility provision will rely solely on private funding and reinvestment via facility profitability since government funding will be unavailable to private facilities.

51 <https://boneopark.com.au/>

52 <https://willingapark.com.au/>

53 <https://elysianfields.com.hk/>



10 PREFERRED FACILITY STANDARDS

The most significant output from this Statewide Facilities Plan is the production of Preferred Facility Standards. A document of this type is unprecedented, with no similar document published by other state equestrian organisations, EA or internationally.

The *Equestrian Queensland Preferred Facility Standards* supports the Statewide Facilities Plan. The standards provide the ideal facility elements to deliver a competition at a certain level. By assessing a facility against the standards and then comparing the level of events being run at a facility, clear gaps in facility provision can be identified.

The standards also provide clear direction for the design of new infrastructure and upgrades of existing facilities and as a result, will be of significant interest to facility owners and operators including local government.

The standards describe the following facility elements:

- Competition Area/s
- Practice / Training Area/s
- Surface
- Lunging Area
- Admin / Officials / Scoring Rooms
- Competitors
- Spectators
- Lighting / Sound / Media
- Maintenance
- Horse Inspection / Holding Areas
- Stabling / Yards
- Camping
- Water
- Catering
- Para / Disabled Facilities
- Equipment
- Emergency

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Specifications are also provided to define what is required for a facility element to meet the preferred standard, along with guidance for asset maintenance.

EQ acknowledges that many existing facilities across the state do not currently align with the competition level being delivered. Where this applies, the standards will be used as a key planning tool to inform improvements, but not as a reason for limiting or prohibiting the use of these facilities.

The standards have been prepared based on a broad range of supporting documents and consulted widely with the EQ Sport Committees and discipline specific experts.

The table below shows the competition level for each discipline for each tier. The full list of preferred facility elements for each tier are provided in Appendix 1.



Discipline	Dressage	Jumping	Eventing	Driving	Vaulting	Show Horse
Tier 1	Olympics, World Equestrian Games	Olympics, World Equestrian Games	Olympics, World Equestrian Games	World Equestrian Games	World Equestrian Games	
Tier 2	National Championships, CDI	International, FEI World Cup Qualifiers, National Championships	CCI3*–CCI5*, National Championships	National Championships, FEI World Cup Qualifiers, CAI3*, CAIO	National Championships, CVI1*, CVI2*	National Championships
Tier 3	Competitive Advanced–Grand Prix, 1* and 2* Championships, State Championships	Royal Agricultural Show, State Championships	EvA45–CCN3*, State Championships	State Championships	Official Competitions, State Championships	HOTY
Tier 4	Competitive, Participant, Club Competitions–Prep to Medium	Agricultural Shows, Participant, Club Competitions	Express Eventing, Hunter Trials, Derby, Training Days	Participant, Club Competitions	Participant, Club Competitions	Hack Day
Tier 5	Non competitive activity days for all disciplines					

Table 06: Tier competition level

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Using the membership and horse registration data, the Sports Planning Tool data, surveys and consultation with club members, competition data and the EQ calendar, all matched back to the Preferred Facility Standards, the facility network has been described for the whole state and then summarised into eight reporting zones. More detailed information summarised by local government area and by individual facility has also been provided to EQ.

11.01 Statewide

Across the state, this report identified:

Competition Tier	No. Competitions
2	9
3	68
4	290
5	49
Total	416

Table 07: Statewide competition tiers in the 2018 calendar and competitions records

3,648
Individual members
1,317 senior competitive
752 senior participant

6,386
club members in 2018
back from a height of
7,645 in 2015

110
clubs
affiliated between
2015 and 2019

677
new horses
registered per year
on average

3,387
new horses registered
between 2015 and
2019

42,548
competitors
97,534
entries in official and
recorded competitions
between 2015 and 2018

416
competitions
included in the
2018 calendar and
competition records

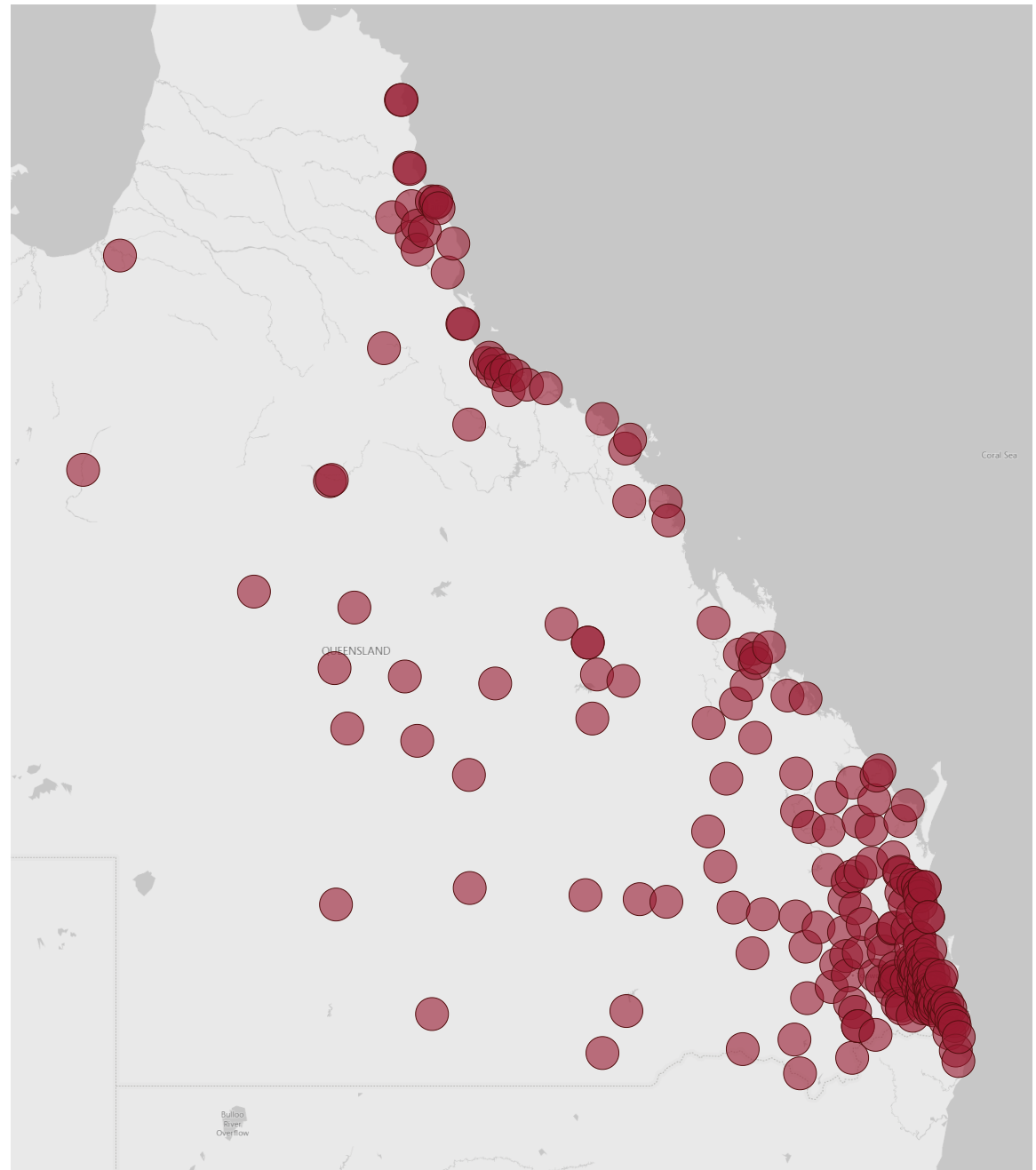
The network of affiliates that utilise the identified facilities include:

Category	No.
Sport Affiliate–Schools	262
Sport Affiliate–Show Society	132
Club	110
Commercial Affiliate	20
Other Organisations	14

Table 08: Statewide affiliates

Within Queensland 212 facilities were identified. Of these, 88 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁵⁴ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 88 facilities provide:

- 24 indoor arenas
- 91 sand arenas
- 117 grass arenas
- 54 lit arenas



Map 02: Identified facilities within Queensland

⁵⁴ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>

11.02 Disciplines

The network can be expressed by facilities delivering competitions for each discipline. The following show each discipline's network.

11.02.01 Dressage

In dressage competitions, horse and rider perform a series of predetermined movements, known as "figures" or "movements" in an arena of either 20x60 metres or occasionally 20x40 metres. The degree of difficulty for both horse and rider increases through 12 levels. The arena has 12 lettered markers placed symmetrically indicating where movements are to start and finish and where changes of pace or lead are to occur. In all competitions, the horse has to show the three paces: walk, trot and canter as well as smooth transitions within and between these paces. At Grand Prix level (seen at the Olympics) very collected movements such as piaffe and passage are required.⁵⁵

There are 40 facilities delivering dressage competitions within the statewide network. This does not include dressage delivered at agricultural shows.

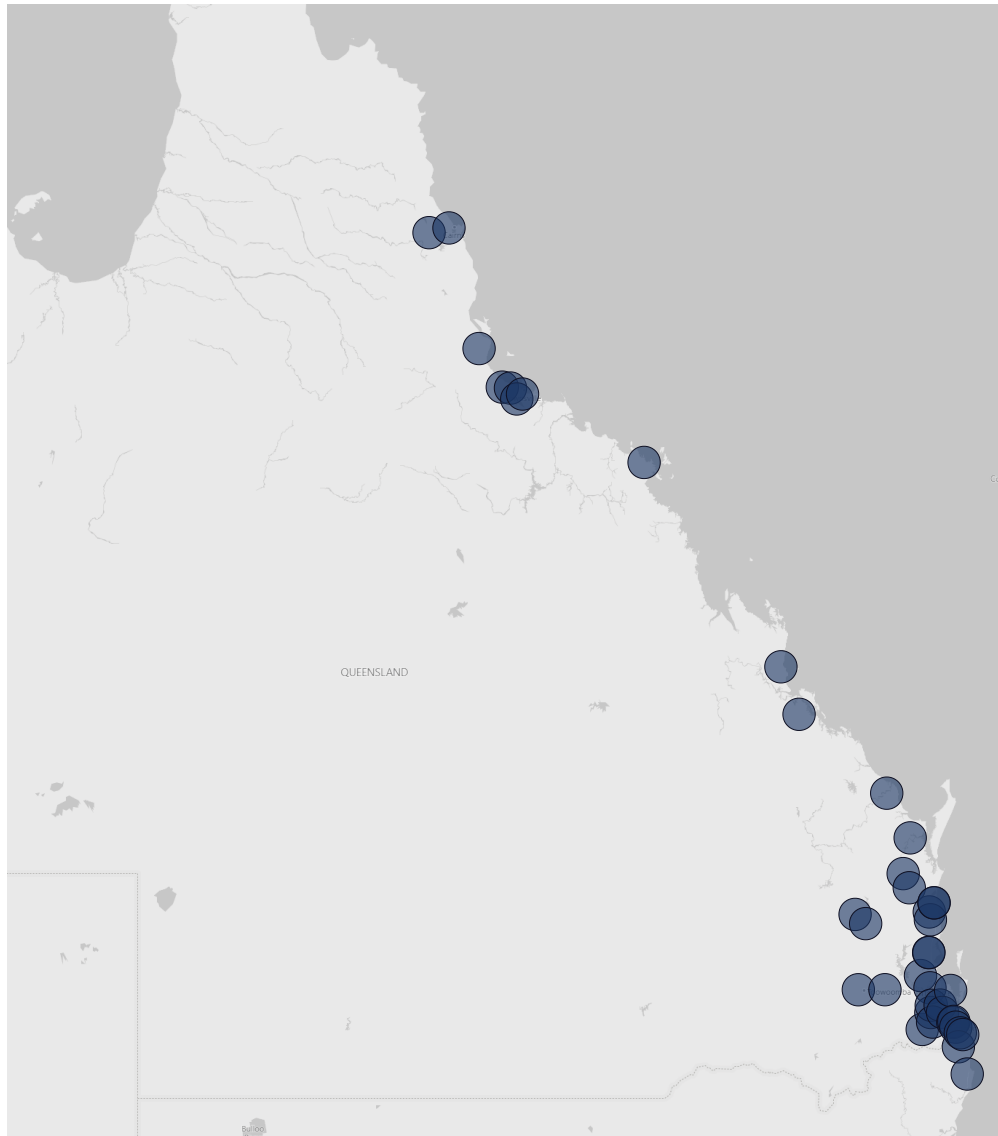
Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁵⁶	Local Government Area
Bangalow Showgrounds	4	4			Byron Shire Council
Beaudesert Showgrounds	4	4		179	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Black River Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	2992	Townsville City Council
Bluewater Equestrian Centre	4	4		118	Townsville City Council
Bundaberg Recreational Precinct	3	3		495	Bundaberg Regional Council
Caboolture Showgrounds	4	4			Moreton Bay Regional Council
Cannonvalley Pony Club Grounds	4	4			Whitsunday Regional Council
Cedar Grove District Riding Club Grounds	4	3	-1	1861	Logan City Council
Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds	3	4	1	1065	Brisbane City Council
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds	3	3		4707	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Gunalda Showgrounds	4	4		238	Gympie Regional Council
Gympie and District Pony Club Grounds	4	4		440	Gympie Regional Council
Herbert River Pony Club Grounds	4	4		27	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Kerkindale Park	4	4		216	Gold Coast City Council

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁵⁶	Local Government Area
Kerribee Park Rodeo Grounds	4	3	-1		Cook Shire Council
Kingaroy Showgrounds	4	4		83	South Burnett Regional Council
Kooralbyn Equestrian Group Grounds	4	4		40	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Logan Village Riding Club Grounds	4	4		1335	Logan City Council
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park	3	3		1220	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Moondarga Pony Club Grounds	4	4		71	Townsville City Council
Mount Larcom Showgrounds	4	3	-1		Gladstone Regional Council
Mudgeeraba Pony and Hack Club Grounds	4	3	-1	3787	Gold Coast City Council
Murwillumbah Showgrounds	4	4			Tweed Shire Council
Nambour Showgrounds	3	3		3527	Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Nanango Showgrounds	4	4		336	South Burnett Regional Council
Noosa District Sports Complex	4	4			Noosa Shire Council
Pinklands Sports Complex	4	4		3065	Redlands City Council
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3	2	-1	12208	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Redlynch Equestrian Park	4	4			Cairns Regional Council
Samford Showgrounds	4	3	-1	1865	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Sir Thomas Riley Park	4	3	-1	1042	Noosa Shire Council
Skerman Park	4	3	-1	4240	Logan City Council
Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled Centre	4	4		63	Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Tallebudgera Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	110	Gold Coast City Council
Tierney Park	4	4		1023	Gold Coast City Council
Tom Rose Park	4	3	-1	238	Gold Coast City Council
Toowoomba Showgrounds	3	3		2720	Toowoomba Regional Council
Townsville Pony Club Grounds	4	4		599	Townsville City Council
Weowwna Lodge	5	5			Logan City Council
Yeppoon Hack and Pony Club Grounds	4	4		220	Livingstone Shire Council

Table 9: Dressage facilities

⁵⁵ <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/dressage>

⁵⁶ Where No. Entries are blank, no competition data has been recorded.



Map 03: Dressage facilities

57 <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/jumping>

58 Where No. Entries are blank, no competition data has been recorded.

11.02.02 Jumping

In jumping competitions, horse and rider are required to complete a course of 10 to 13 jumps, with the jump height and width dependent on the level of competition. The aim is always to jump the course in the designed sequence with no mistakes—a clear round. If any part of an obstacle is knocked down or if the horse refuses a jump, penalties are accumulated. The winner of the competition is the horse and rider combination that incurs the least number of penalties, completes the course in the fastest time or gains the highest number of points depending on the type of competition.⁵⁷

There are 137 facilities delivering jumping competitions within the statewide network. These include all affiliated jumping competitions at agricultural shows.

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁵⁸	Local Government Area
Allora Showgrounds	4	4			Southern Downs Regional Council
Alpha Showgrounds	4	4			Barcardine Regional Council
Atherton Showgrounds	4	4			Tableland Regional Council
Ayr Showgrounds	4	4		529	Burdekin Shire Council
Baralba Showgrounds	4	4			Banana Shire Council
Barcardine Showgrounds	4	4			Barcardine Regional Council
Beaudesert Showgrounds	4	4			Scenic Rim Regional Council
Beenleigh Showgrounds	4	4			Logan City Council
Bell Showgrounds	4	4			Western Downs Regional Council
Biggenden Showgrounds	4	4			North Burnett Regional Council
Biloela Showgrounds	4	4			Banana Shire Council
Blackall Showgrounds	4	4			Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
Blackbutt Showgrounds	4	4			Somerset Regional Council
Boonah Showgrounds	4	4			Scenic Rim Regional Council
Bowen Showgrounds	4	4			Whitsunday Regional Council
Brisbane Showgrounds	3	3			Brisbane City Council
Brookfield Equestrian Club Grounds	4	4			Brisbane City Council
Brookfield Showgrounds	4	4			Brisbane City Council
Bundaberg Recreational Precinct	3	4	1		Bundaberg Regional Council
Caboollure Showgrounds*	4	2	-2	2304	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Cairns Showgrounds	4	4			Cairns Regional Council
Caloundra Equestrian Association Grounds	4	4			Sunshine Coast Regional Council

*This facility is not currently used for Tier 2 competition purposes

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entires (2015 to 2018) ⁹⁸	Local Government Area
Capella Showgrounds	4	4			Central Highlands Regional Council
Cedar Grove District Riding Club Grounds	4	4		1900	Logan City Council
Charleville Showgrounds	4	4			Murweh Shire Council
Charters Towers Showgrounds	4	4			Charters Towers Regional Council
Childers Showgrounds	4	4			Bundaberg Regional Council
Chinchilla Showgrounds	4	4			Western Downs Regional Council
Clermont Showgrounds	4	4			Central Highlands Regional Council
Clifton Showgrounds	4	4			Toowoomba Regional Council
Cloncurry Showgrounds	4	4			Cloncurry Shire Council
Comet Showgrounds	4	4			Central Highlands Regional Council
Cooktown Showgrounds	4	4			Cook Shire Council
Cooyar Showgrounds	4	4			Toowoomba Regional Council
Crows Nest Showgrounds	4	4			Toowoomba Regional Council
Cunnamulla Showgrounds	4	4			Paroo Shire Council
Cunungra Showgrounds	4	4			Scenic Rim Regional Council
Dalby Showgrounds	4	4			Western Downs Regional Council
Dayboro Memorial Showgrounds	4	4			Moreton Bay Regional Council
Dirranbandi Showgrounds	4	4			Balonne Shire Council
Eidsvold Showgrounds	4	4			North Burnett Regional Council
Elysian Fields	3	2	-1	1306	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Emerald Showgrounds	4	4			Central Highlands Regional Council
Esk Showgrounds	4	4			Somerset Regional Council
Eumundi Showgrounds	4	4			Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Finch Hatton Showgrounds	4	4			Mackay Regional Council
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds	3	2	-1	1530	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Gayndah Showgrounds	4	4			North Burnett Regional Council
Gin Gin Showgrounds	4	4			Bundaberg Regional Council
Giru Showgrounds	4	4			Burdekin Shire Council
Gladstone Showgrounds	4	4			Gladstone Regional Council
Gold Coast Showgrounds	4	4			Gold Coast City Council
Goombungee Showgrounds	4	4			Toowoomba Regional Council
Goomeri Showgrounds	4	4			Gympie Regional Council

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entires (2015 to 2018) ⁹⁸	Local Government Area
Goondiwindi Showgrounds	4	4			Goondiwindi Regional Council
Gympie Showgrounds	4	4			Gympie Regional Council
Hughenden Showgrounds	4	4			Flinders Shire Council
Imbil Showgrounds	4	4			Gympie Regional Council
Ingham Showgrounds	4	4			Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Inglewood Showgrounds	4	4			Goondiwindi Regional Council
Innisfail Showgrounds	4	4			Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Ipswich Showgrounds	4	4			Ipswich City Council
Isisford Showgrounds	4	4			Longreach Regional Council
Jandowae Showgrounds	4	4			Western Downs Regional Council
Kalbar Showgrounds	4	4			Scenic Rim Regional Council
Kelecyn Equestrian Services	4	4			Scenic Rim Regional Council
Kenilworth Hall Show and Recreation Ground	4	4			Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Kerribee Park Rodeo Grounds	4	4			Cook Shire Council
Kilcoy Showgrounds	4	3	-1	120	Somerset Regional Council
Killarney Showgrounds	4	4			Southern Downs Regional Council
Kingaroy Showgrounds	4	4			South Burnett Regional Council
Laidley Showgrounds	4	4			Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Longreach Showgrounds	4	4			Longreach Regional Council
Lowood Showgrounds	4	4			Somerset Regional Council
Mackay Showgrounds	4	4			Mackay Regional Council
Malanda Showgrounds	4	4		199	Tableland Regional Council
Maleny Showgrounds	4	4			Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Marburg Showgrounds	4	4			Ipswich City Council
Marlborough Showgrounds	4	4			Fraser Coast Regional Council
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park	3	4	1	151	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Miles Showgrounds	4	4			Western Downs Regional Council
Millmerran Showgrounds	4	4			Toowoomba Regional Council
Mitchell Showgrounds	4	4			Maranoa Regional Council
Monto Showgrounds	4	4			North Burnett Regional Council
Mossman Showgrounds	4	4			Douglas Shire Council
Mount Larcom Showgrounds	4	4			Gladstone Regional Council
Mt Gravatt Showgrounds	4	4			Brisbane City Council

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Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entires (2015 to 2018) ⁹⁸	Local Government Area
Mt Morgan Showgrounds	4	4			Rockhampton Regional Council
Mt Perry Showgrounds	4	4			North Burnett Regional Council
Mudgeeraba Pony and Hack Club Grounds	4	4		102	Gold Coast City Council
Murgon Showgrounds	4	4			South Burnett Regional Council
Muttaburra Racecourse	4	4			Barcaldine Regional Council
Nambour Showgrounds	3	4	1		Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Nanango Showgrounds	4	4			South Burnett Regional Council
Oakey Showgrounds	4	4			Toowoomba Regional Council
Pine Rivers Showgrounds	4	4			Moreton Bay Regional Council
Pittsworth Showgrounds	4	3	-1	241	Toowoomba Regional Council
Pomona Showgrounds	4	4			Noosa Shire Council
Proserpine Showgrounds	4	4			Whitsunday Regional Council
Proston Showgrounds	4	4			South Burnett Regional Council
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3	2	-1	2690	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Quilpie Showgrounds	4	4			Quilpie Shire Council
Redcliffe Showgrounds	4	4			Moreton Bay Regional Council
Ridgeland Showgrounds	4	4			Rockhampton Regional Council
Rockhampton Showgrounds	4	4			Rockhampton Regional Council
Rocklea Showgrounds	4	4			Brisbane City Council
Roma Showgrounds	4	3	-1		Maranoa Regional Council
Rosewood Showgrounds	4	4			Ipswich City Council
Samford Showgrounds	4	4		420	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Sarina Showgrounds	4	4			Mackay Regional Council
Skerman Park	4	4		36	Logan City Council
Springsure Showgrounds	4	4			Central Highlands Regional Council
St George Showgrounds	4	4			Balonne Shire Council
Stanthorpe Showgrounds	4	4			Southern Downs Regional Council
Tallebudgera Pony Club Grounds	4	4		484	Gold Coast City Council
Tambo Showgrounds	4	4			Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
Tamborine Equestrian Group	3	4	1		Scenic Rim Regional Council
Tamborine Showgrounds	4	4			Scenic Rim Regional Council
Tara Showgrounds	4	4			Western Downs Regional Council
Taroom Showgrounds	4	4			Banana Shire Council
Teebar Hall and Grounds	5	4	-1		Fraser Coast Regional Council

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entires (2015 to 2018) ⁹⁸	Local Government Area
Texas Showgrounds	4	4			Goondiwindi Regional Council
The Caves Showgrounds	4	4			Livingstone Shire Council
Theodore Showgrounds	4	4			Banana Shire Council
Tierney Park	4	4			Gold Coast City Council
Toogoolawah Showgrounds	4	4			Somerset Regional Council
Toowoomba Showgrounds	3	3		1224	Toowoomba Regional Council
Tully Showgrounds	4	4			Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Wallumbilla Showgrounds	4	4			Maranoa Regional Council
Wandoan Showgrounds	4	4			Western Downs Regional Council
Warwick Showgrounds	4	4			Southern Downs Regional Council
Winton Showgrounds	4	4			Winton Shire Council
Wondai Showgrounds	4	4			South Burnett Regional Council
Woodford Showgrounds	4	4			Moreton Bay Regional Council
Wowan Showgrounds	4	4			Banana Shire Council
Yeppoon Hack and Pony Club Grounds	4	4		402	Livingstone Shire Council
Yeppoon Showgrounds	4	4			Livingstone Shire Council

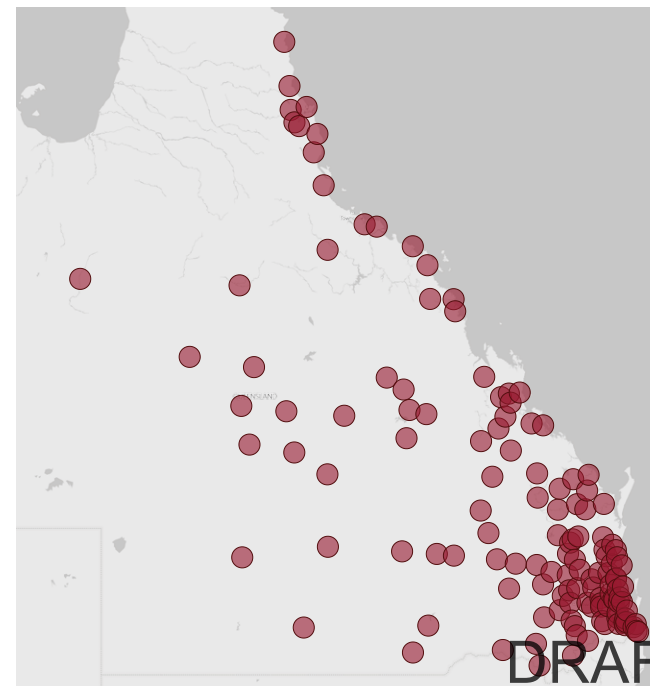


Table 10: Jumping facilities
Map 04: Jumping facilities

11.02.03 Eventing

Eventing is an equestrian event which comprises dressage, cross-country and show jumping. It has two main formats, the one day event (ODE) and the three-day event (3DE).

The cross-country phase of eventing consists of approximately 12–20 fixed jumps (for lower levels) or 30–40 jumps (at the higher levels), placed on a long outdoor course. The jumps (or fences) consist of solidly built natural objects (logs, stone walls, etc.) as well as various obstacles such as water, ditches, drops and banks, and combinations including several jumping efforts based on objects that would commonly occur in the countryside. Safety regulations mean that many jumps have a frangible pin system, allowing part or all of the jump to collapse if hit with enough impact. Speed is a factor, with the rider required to cross the finish line within a certain time frame (optimum time).⁵⁹

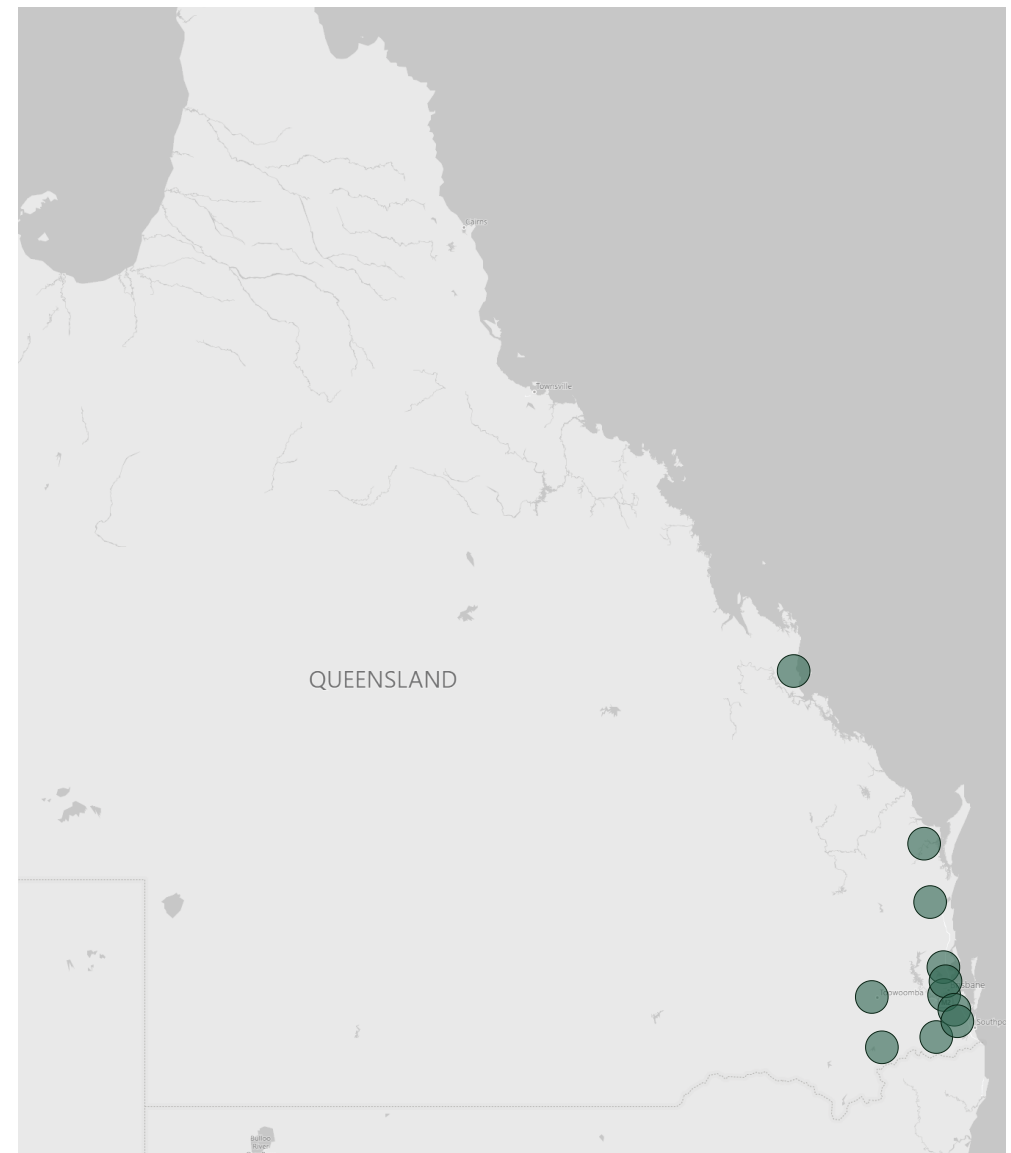
There are 11 facilities delivering eventing competitions within the statewide network.

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁶⁰	Local Government Area
Burpengary Equestrian Centre	3	3		1004	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds	3	2	-1	2683	Brisbane City Council
Kooralbyn Equestrian Group Grounds*	4	3	-1	1199	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park	3	3		1392	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Morgan Park	3	2	-1	3298	Southern Downs Regional Council
Newstead Park	4	4		50	Logan City Council
Noosa Equestrian Centre*	4	3	-1		Noosa Shire Council
Northern Suburbs Pony Club Grounds	4	4		95	Brisbane City Council
Tamborine Equestrian Group Grounds	3	2	-1	307	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Toowoomba Showgrounds	3	3		4026	Toowoomba Regional Council
Yeppoon Hack and Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	218	Livingstone Shire Council

*This facility is not currently used for competition purposes

*This facility is not currently used for Tier 2 competition purposes

Table 11: Eventing facilities



Map 05: Eventing facilities

59 <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/eventing>

60 Where No. Entries are blank, no competition data has been recorded.

11.02.04 Driving

Carriage driving can be with a single horse, a pair or a team of four. Carriage drivers compete in three demanding trials similar to those in eventing.⁶¹

These begin with a dressage round, in which competitors perform a set sequence of moves in a larger arena than the riding equivalent. Each move is given a score out of ten, with penalties given for errors such as incorrect moves or grooms dismounting.

The second phase, known as the marathon—an exhilarating timed course of up to 22km, similar to the cross-country round in eventing. Obstacles such as water, mazes, gates, steep slopes and tight bends test the endurance and accuracy of both driver and horses in a feat that demands sharp judgement from the driver. Negotiating three different sections that include mandatory halts for veterinary checks, competitors must ensure they adhere to rules on pace and time allowed, completing the course within the time available or receiving penalties for exceeding it.

In the final phase, cone driving, competitors must weave nimbly through a set sequence of up to 20 pairs of cones that form a timed course of up to 800m. Balls are balanced on each of the cones, with penalties given for any dislodged by a carriage wheel or horse. Penalties are also given for other errors, including exceeding the time limit, or completing the gates out of sequence. As the cones are set with just 10cm clearance either side of the carriage, this round is a challenging test of the horses' finesse and the driver's skill.

There is limited data available for *Competitive* driving. The following 13 facilities have been identified as hosting driving activities:

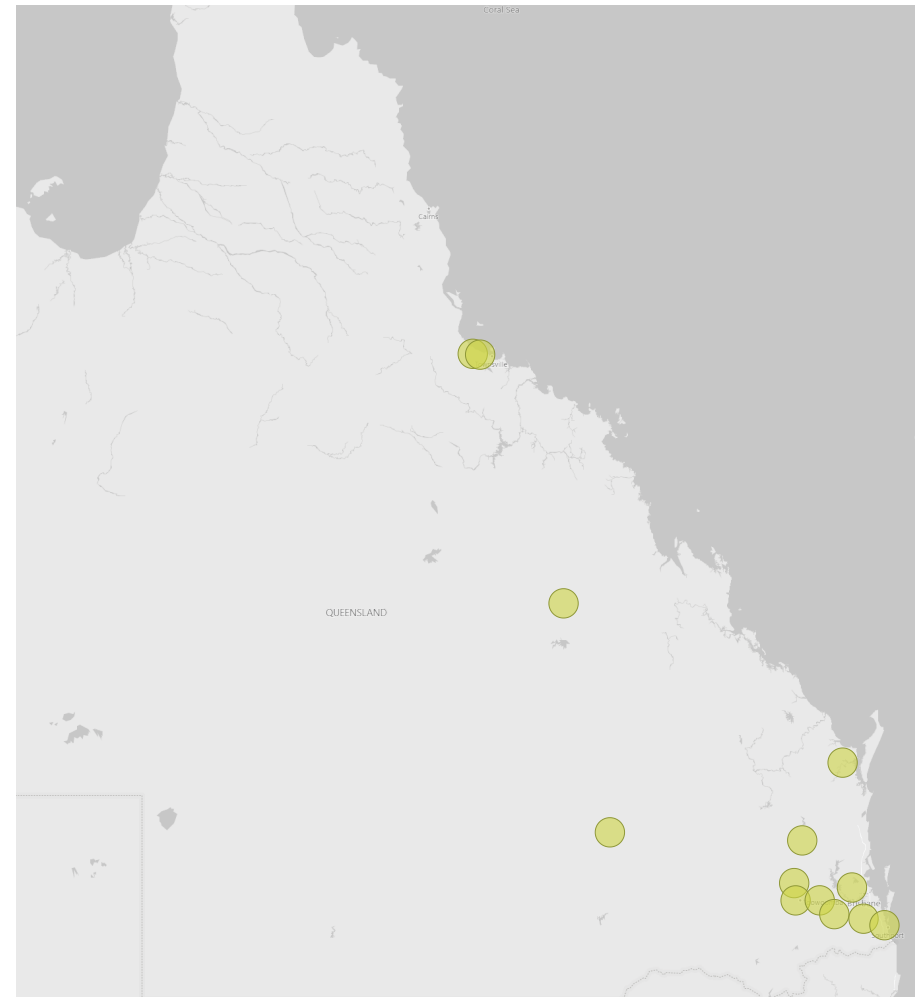
Facility	Facility Tier	Local Government Area
Arundel Park Riding for Disabled Inc.	4	Gold Coast City Council
Black River Pony Club Grounds	4	Townsville City Council
Bluewater Equestrian Centre	4	Townsville City Council
Bridgeman Park	3	Central Highlands Regional Council
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds	3	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Glenlogan Equestrian Park	4	Logan City Council
Goombungee Showgrounds	4	Toowoomba Regional Council
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park	3	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Nanango Showgrounds	4	South Burnett Regional Council
Roma Showgrounds	4	Maranoa Regional Council

⁶¹ <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/driving>

Facility	Facility Tier	Local Government Area
Samford Showgrounds	4	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Stokes Crossing Road	5	Ipswich City Council
Toowoomba Showgrounds	3	Toowoomba Regional Council

Note: The assessed facility tiers show the requirements of other disciplines rather than driving.

Table 12: Driving facilities



Map 06: Driving facilities

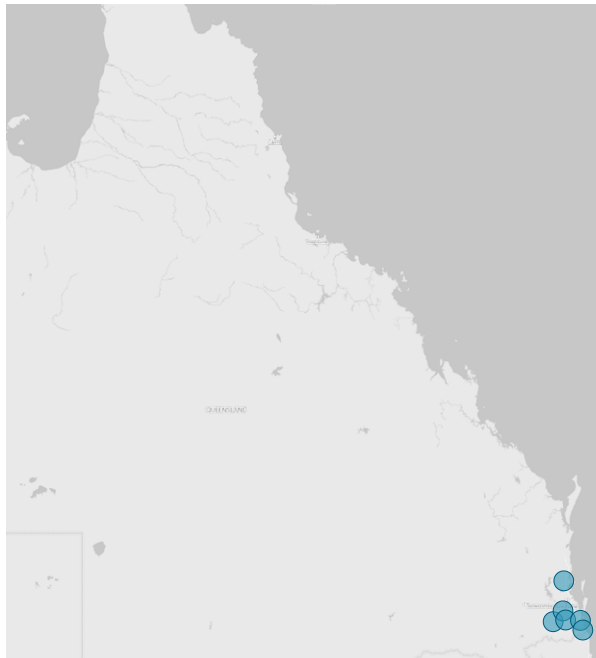
11.02.05 Vaulting

Vaulting is gymnastics on horseback and combines the skills of both gymnastics and horsemanship. It provides for both individual and also for 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.⁶²

There are six facilities delivering vaulting activities within the statewide network, of these two have available competition data.

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁶³	Local Government Area
Arundel Park Riding for Disabled Inc.	4	3	-1	75	Gold Coast City Council
Bellara Park	4	3	-1	77	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Fassifern Vaulting	5				Scenic Rim Regional Council
Kingfisher Vaulters	5				Logan City Council
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3				Moreton Bay Regional Council
Tallebudgera Pony Club Grounds	4				Gold Coast City Council

Table 13: Vaulting facilities



Map 07: Vaulting facilities

62 <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/vaulting>

63 Where No. Entries are blank, no competition data has been recorded.

64 <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/show-horse>

65 Where No. Entries are blank, no competition data has been recorded.

11.02.06 Show Horse

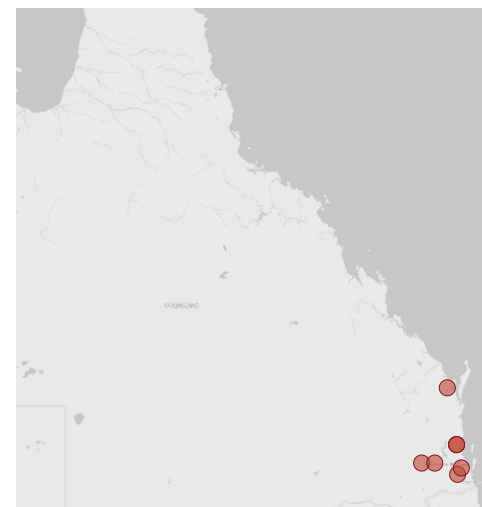
A show horse must be beautifully conformed, of high quality, a magnificent mover and have lovely manners and paces.⁶⁴ The show horse is exhibited in three main divisions: pony, galloway and hack, based on the horse's size, with additional subcategories of these divisions providing a full program of classes.

The competition is judged on a flat arena providing space for large circular patterns to be ridden in both directions.

There are seven facilities delivering show horse competitions within the statewide network. This does not include show horse delivered at agricultural shows.

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁶⁵	Local Government Area
Caboolture Showgrounds	4	4		381	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Cedar Grove District Riding Club Grounds	4	5	1	11	Logan City Council
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds	3	3		331	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park	3	4	1	150	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Park Ridge Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	536	Logan City Council
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3	4	1	815	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Toowoomba Showgrounds	3	3		268	Toowoomba Regional Council

Table 14: Show horse facilities



Map 08: Show horse facilities

11.02.07 Interschool

Interschool provides an opportunity for young horse riders to represent their school in equestrian competition. Competitions are generally conducted throughout the year by affiliates as tag on days and are run under EA rules. These events are qualifiers to progress to state and national level competition.

Interschool includes the following six disciplines⁶⁶:

- Dressage
- Jumping
- Eventing
- Show Horse
- Showman
- Combined training

There are 19 facilities delivering interschool competitions within the statewide network.

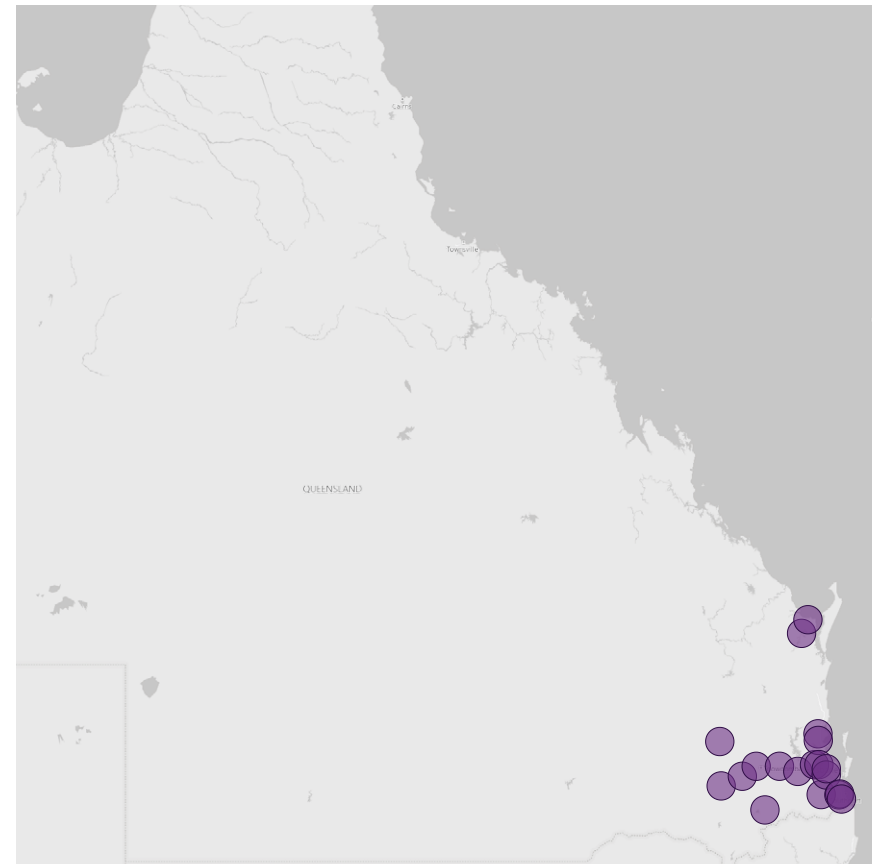
Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁶⁷	Local Government Area
Beaudesert Showgrounds	4	3	-1	1768	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Burpengary Equestrian Centre	3	4	1	500	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Dalby Showgrounds	4	3	-1	1436	Western Downs Regional Council
Dundowran Equestrian Park	4	3	-1	93	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds	3	4	1	978	Brisbane City Council
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds	3	4	1	40	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Kerkindale Park	4	4		142	Gold Coast City Council
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park	3	3		560	Fraser Coast Regional Council
Millmerran Showgrounds	4	4		102	Toowoomba Regional Council
Moggill Pony Club Grounds	4	4		1078	Brisbane City Council
Morgan Park	3	3		1474	Southern Downs Regional Council
Mudgeeraba Pony and Hack Club Grounds	4	4		101	Gold Coast City Council
Park Ridge Pony Club	4	4		442	Logan City Council
Pittsworth Showgrounds	4	4		624	Toowoomba Regional Council

⁶⁶ <https://www.qld.equestrian.org.au/interschool>

⁶⁷ Where No. Entries are blank, no competition data has been recorded.

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁶⁷	Local Government Area
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3	3		794	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Rosewood Showgrounds	4	4		129	Ipswich City Council
Runcorn Horse and Pony Club	4	4		605	Brisbane City Council
Tom Rose Park	4	4		83	Gold Coast City Council
Toowoomba Showgrounds	3	2	-1	1208	Toowoomba Regional Council

Table 15: Interschool facilities



Map 09: Interschool facilities

11.03 Existing tier gaps

Across the entire network, there are 31 facilities which are hosting competition at a higher level than the facility's current assessment. Improvement for these facilities should be prioritised if competition at this level or higher is planned to continue.

Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁶⁸	Local Government Area	Discipline
Arundel Park Riding for Disabled Inc.	4	3	-1	75	Gold Coast City Council	Vaulting
Beaudesert Showgrounds	4	3	-1	1768	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Interscholar
Bellara Park	4	3	-1	77	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Vaulting
Black River Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	2992	Townsville City Council	Dressage
Caboolture Showgrounds [^]	4	2	-2	2304	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Jumping
Cedar Grove District Riding Club Grounds	4	3	-1	1861	Logan City Council	Dressage
Dalby Showgrounds	4	3	-1	1436	Western Downs Regional Council	Interscholar
Dundowran Equestrian Park	4	3	-1	93	Fraser Coast Regional Council	Interscholar
Elysian Fields	3	2	-1	1306	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Jumping
Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club	3	2	-1	2683	Brisbane City Council	Eventing
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds	3	2	-1	1530	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Jumping
Kerribee Park Rodeo Grounds	4	3	-1		Cook Shire Council	Dressage
Kilcoy Showgrounds	4	3	-1	120	Somerset Regional Council	Jumping
Kooralbyn Equestrian Group Grounds [^]	4	3	-1	1199	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Eventing
Morgan Park	3	2	-1	3298	Southern Downs Regional Council	Eventing
Mount Larcom Showgrounds	4	3	-1		Gladstone Regional Council	Dressage
Mudgeeraba Pony and Hack Club Grounds	4	3	-1	3787	Gold Coast City Council	Dressage
Noosa Equestrian Centre [*]	4	3	-1		Noosa Shire Council	Eventing
Park Ridge Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	536	Logan City Council	Show Horse
Pittsworth Showgrounds	4	3	-1	241	Toowoomba Regional Council	Jumping
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3	2	-1	12208	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Dressage
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3	2	-1	2690	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Jumping

⁶⁸ Where No. Entries are blank, no competition data has been recorded.

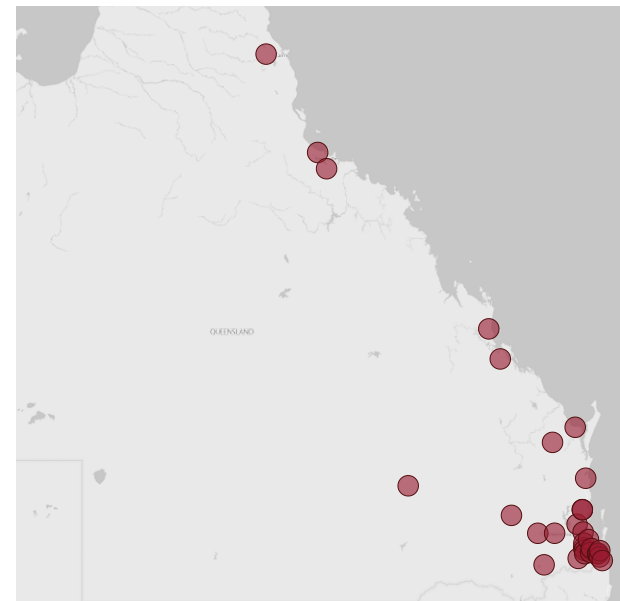
Facility	Facility Tier	Competition Tier	Gap	No. Entries (2015 to 2018) ⁶⁸	Local Government Area	Discipline
Roma Showgrounds	4	3	-1		Maranoa Regional Council	Jumping
Samford Showgrounds	4	3	-1	1865	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Dressage
Sir Thomas Riley Park	4	3	-1	1042	Noosa Shire Council	Dressage
Skerman Park	4	3	-1	4240	Logan City Council	Dressage
Tallebudgera Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	110	Gold Coast City Council	Dressage
Tamborine Equestrian Group	3	2	-1	3105	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Eventing
Teebar Hall and Grounds	5	4	-1		Fraser Coast Regional Council	Jumping
Tom Rose Park	4	3	-1	238	Gold Coast City Council	Dressage
Tom Rose Park	5	4	-1	83	Gold Coast City Council	Interscholar
Toowoomba Showgrounds	3	2	-1	1208	Toowoomba Regional Council	Interscholar
Yeppoon Hack and Pony Club Grounds	4	3	-1	218	Livingstone Shire Council	Eventing

Table 16: Existing tier gaps

⁶⁸ Entries are for the discipline shown in column 7

[^]This facility is not currently used for competition purposes

^{*}This facility is not currently used for Tier 2 competition purposes



Map 10: Existing tier gaps

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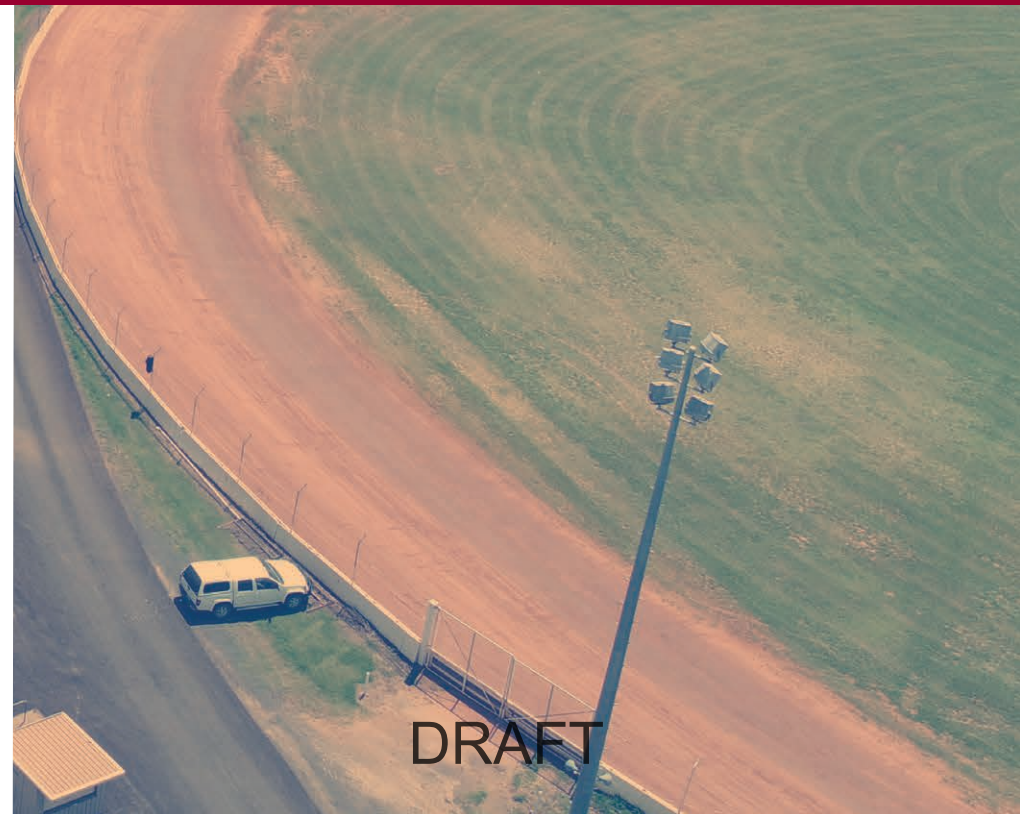


12 REPORTING ZONES AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

For the purpose of reporting, eight reporting zones have been created. These are:

- Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay
- Central
- Far North
- Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW
- Ipswich/Lockyer
- Northern
- South West
- Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett

The following tables summarise the data for each report zone.



EQ SFP Reporting Zones	Affiliates	Club Members (2018)	Individual Members (2019)	New Horse Registrations (2015 to 2018)	No. Competitors (2015 to 2018)	No. Entries (2015 to 2018)	Competitions (2018)	Clubs
Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay	38	1595	1109	877	18484	43955	127	20
Central	45	411	314	305	620	1466	49	9
Far North	19	635	87	92	46	199	20	11
Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW	28	993	433	448	7231	14729	55	13
Ipswich/Lockyer	8	139	269	233	2563	6737	19	2
Northern	20	655	185	147	1202	4336	24	11
South West	46	815	606	757	8138	16760	73	7
Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett	31	956	423	343	4234	9352	49	13
Outside or unattributed to Reporting Zone		187	222	185				

Table 17: Membership and registration data

EQ Reporting Zone	Assessed Facility Tier				
	3	4	5	New	Total
Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay	2	24	5	2	35
Central	2	39			40
Far North		13	4		17
Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW	2	22	4		28
Ipswich/Lockyer	1	4		1	6
Northern		18	2	1	21
South West	2	34	1		37
Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett	2	22	1	1	26

Table 19: Facility tiers

EQ Reporting Zone	EQ Individual Membership Category													Grand Total
	Competitor - Junior	Competitor - Life	Competitor - Senior	Hon. Life	Participant - Junior	Participant - Senior	Recreational - Junior	Recreational - Senior	Supporter - Coach	Supporter - Official	Supporter - Other	Supporter - Owner		
Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay	196	3	352	1	56	280	26	98	11	23	24	39	1109	
Central	64	1	126	1	10	57	4	9	5	14	9	14	314	
Far North	21	1	34		7	9	2	5	1	4	1	2	87	
Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW	108	1	159		16	78	11	20	5	9	6	20	433	
Ipswich/Lockyer	35	2	101		11	71	3	20	3	9	4	10	269	
Northern	20		75		4	41	8	20	3	6	2	6	185	
South West	138		235		22	110	14	30	7	19	12	19	606	
Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett	78	2	143	2	19	68	16	44	6	24	6	15	423	
Outside or unattributed to Reporting Zone	30		92	1	9	38	11	18	5	8	1	9	222	
Total	690	10	1317	5	154	752	95	264	46	116	65	134	3648	

Table 18: EQ's Individual membership

EQ SFP Reporting Zones	Indoor arenas	Sand arenas	Grass arenas	Lit arenas
Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay	5	23	22	13
Central	2	5	12	6
Far North	2	7	7	5
Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW	4	10	22	6
Ipswich/Lockyer	3	0	5	2
Northern	2	17	5	7
South West	1	8	16	6
Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett	5	20	27	9

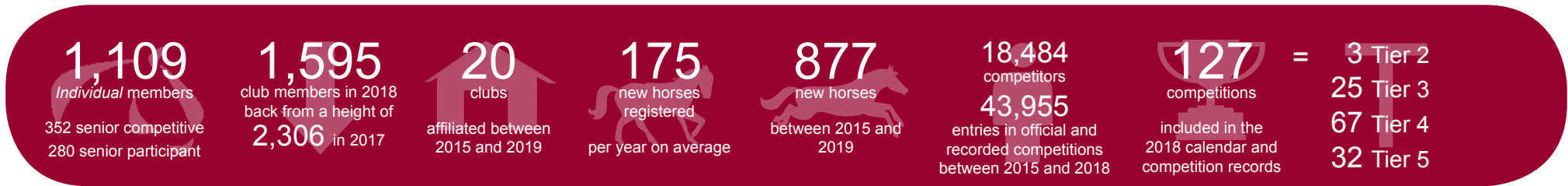
Table 20: Facility attributes

12.01 Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay

The Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay reporting zone incorporates the local government area (LGA)s of:

- Brisbane City Council
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Redlands City Council

This reporting zone identified:



30%
of total
statewide
Individual
members

25%
of total
statewide club
members

EVENTS

are delivered by

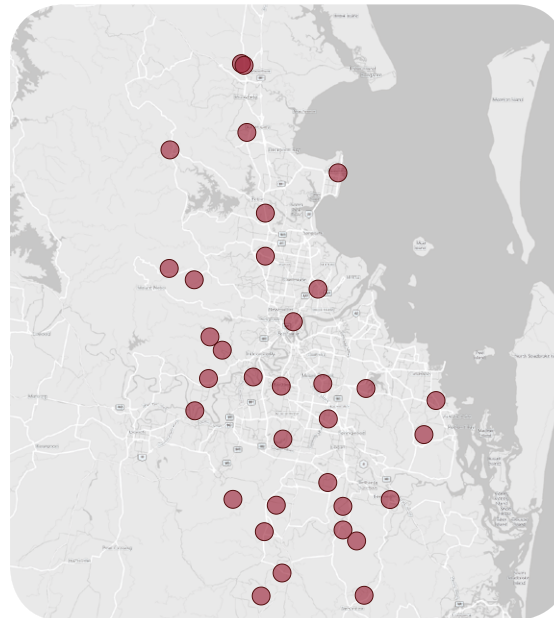
- 10 show societies
- 3 sport committees
- 2 commercial affiliates
- 20 clubs

34 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 18 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁶⁹ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 18 facilities provide:

- 5 indoor arenas
- 23 sand arenas
- 22 grass arenas
- 13 lit arenas

⁶⁹ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>



Of those with tenure data provided, the majority are leased or hired (**13**) but some are private (**4**)

The majority of facilities in this reporting zone have been assessed as Tier 4 facilities. (**24**)

The Tier 3 facilities in this reporting zone are:

- Brisbane Showgrounds
- Burpengary Equestrian Centre
- Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds
- Queensland State Equestrian Centre

Map 11: Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay facilities

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While the Queensland State Equestrian Centre has been assessed as a Tier 3, it is regarded as a high Tier 3 compared to other facilities. While the indoor stadium, quality of the stables and camping facilities are well above this standard, the footing of the indoor arena, warm up areas and dressage arenas adjacent to Alexander Barr Oval and number of stables and camp sites available are below the Tier 2 preferred standard with considerable improvements required.

The Queensland State Equestrian Centre has been identified within The Council of Mayors (SEQ) 2032 SEQ Olympic and Paralympic Games Feasibility Study⁷⁰ as existing infrastructure which can be upgraded (creating legacy benefits) to meet Olympic equestrian venue requirements. There are significant limitations that exist with the Queensland State Equestrian Centre which would need to be addressed which include:

- The addition of a cross country course which the facility currently does not have
- The proximity of the facility to the Murrumba Pistol Club which creates safety concerns and risks for horses and riders
- Facility surface improvements and amenities
- General location of the site in regard to road network and public transport

This plan considers the Queensland State Equestrian Centre as a venue that through targeted improvement works could be elevated to a Tier 2 facility which could support the delivery national and international events and also play a key role in the equestrian facility network for the 2032 Olympics. EQ considers the identification and construction of a new multipurpose equestrian facility in Queensland which is capable of supporting the 2032 Olympics as a high priority but this is not specifically part of this plan at this time.

Two new facilities, Larapinta Equestrian Centre and a facility at Heinemann Road, are currently in the planning stages. There are aspirations for Larapinta Equestrian Centre to become a Tier 2 facility and Heinemann Road to become a Tier 3 facility.

Gaps in facility provision have been identified with a number of facilities within this reporting zone delivering Tier 2 level competitions at Tier 3 and 4 facilities. These include:

- Caboolture Showgrounds (however Tier 2 competitions are not expected to be held here in the future)
- Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds
- Queensland State Equestrian Centre

There are also a number of Tier 3 level competitions at Tier 4 facilities. These include:

- Cedar Grove District Riding Club Grounds
- Park Ridge Pony Club Grounds
- Samford Showgrounds
- Skerman Park (Park Ridge Adult Riding Group)
- Pinklands Sports Complex


In many cases, the aspirations of the affiliate delivering the competition exceeds the facilities assessment. These include:

Facility	Assessed Facility Tier	Aspiration Tier
Queensland State Equestrian Centre	3	1
Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds	3	2
Samford Showgrounds	4	2
Caboolture Showgrounds	4	3
Glenlogan Equestrian Park	4	3
Newstead Park	4	3
Park Ridge Pony Club	4	3
Pinklands Sports Complex	4	3 (at a new facility)
Skerman Park	4	3

Table 21: Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay facility aspiration gap

The following projects have been identified:

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Brookfield Showgrounds	Brookfield Show Society	Relocation	Short
Burpengary Equestrian Centre 	Northern Districts Hack & Dressage Inc.	Surface upgrade (all arenas), Lighting upgrade, Round yard upgrade, Dressage arena construction	Medium
	Burpengary Equestrian Centre Inc.		
Caboolture Showgrounds 	Qld Andalusian Horse Association of Australasia	Surface upgrade	Medium
Cedar Grove District Riding Club Grounds	Cedar Grove & District Riding Group Inc.	Fencing upgrade, Parking upgrade and extension	Medium
Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Grounds 	Fig Tree Pocket Equestrian Club Inc	Canteen upgrade, admin office upgrade, LED light upgrade, Cross country course improvement, Covered yards	Short / Medium
Glenlogan Equestrian Park 	Jimboomba Equine Carriage Club Inc.	Indoor arena construction, Additional yards	Medium
Larapinta Equestrian Centre	Larapinta Equestrian Centre	New facility (greenfield)	Medium / Long
Moggill Pony Club Grounds	Interschool Queensland	Relocation to Marburg Showgrounds	Short
	St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School - Corinda	Relocation (constrained site)	Short
Newstead Park 	Waterford Equestrian & Pony Club	Equipment	Short
Park Ridge Pony Club Grounds 	Show Horse Queensland	Relocation to Toowoomba Showgrounds	Short
Pinklands Sports Complex 	Redlands & Southern Districts Equestrian Group	Relocation to Heinemann Road, Redland Bay	Medium

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Queensland State Equestrian Centre 	Grace Lutheran College	Surface upgrade (especially outdoor arenas), Lunging area closer to indoor, Additional stables/yards (double), Additional camping/parking, Outdoor arenas (between stables and indoor), Cattle facilities	Short–Outdoor surface upgrade
	Interschool Queensland		Short–Master plan
	Qld Andalusian Horse Association of Australasia		Medium–Improvements to become a min Tier 2 (including cross country)
	Caboolture Equestrian Group		
	Dressage Queensland		
	Noosa District Working Equitation Inc.		
	Qld Police Sporting Association Inc.		
	Queensland Showjumping Club Inc		
	Caboolture Dressage Group Inc.		
Samford Showgrounds 	Samford Equestrian Group Inc.	Indoor arena construction, Stables construction (see Master Plan)	Medium
Skerman Park 	Park Ridge Active Riding Group Inc	Construct two indoor arenas, Extend camping area, Irrigation, Canteen facilities	Long

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

Table 22: Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay identified projects

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12.01.01 Local government consultation

Consultation with local government representatives within the Brisbane/Redlands/Logan/Moreton Bay reporting zone indicated a number of trends (consistent with findings and recommendations of this plan), along with some opportunities.

The consultation revealed an acknowledgement that demand for facilities and funding to support equestrian sport and clubs is increasing. At the same time, it is noted that the direct and indirect cost of managing equestrian venues are increasing and the number of volunteers associated with equestrian clubs is decreasing which is placing a higher need and requirement for governance support for equestrian clubs. (See also Section 07.06 Professionalism versus club membership on page 18).

There is an acknowledgment that much of the land currently used for equestrian has a long history and is therefore influenced by nostalgia and legacy i.e. some clubs/organisations have been occupying sites for 30+ years. Land use for equestrian purposes is a current consideration for local government, who would like to see consolidation of clubs and sites including pony clubs and other equine activities and increased activation of larger multi use/multipurpose sites. (See recommendation 13.04 Increased facility use and multi-user relationships on page 63). For this to happen, local government needs to holistically look at all equine sport and facilities i.e. equestrian, pony club, RDA etc. and explore multi-use options. To support this, local government would like to see EQ collate and provide data across the equine disciplines to demonstrate demand for facilities, opportunities for growing sport and highlight how equestrian sport can activate land for positive community impact. (See recommendation 13.08 Industry wide facility networking on page 64).

In addition, there is opportunity to consider master planning exercises led by equestrian bodies in the short term with support from local government. (See recommendation 13.05 Strategic and facility planning on page 63).

Funding for not-for-profit equestrian organisations is available through local government grant programs. The programs vary from Council to Council but essentially funding is available for governance, strategy and capital works/improvements

Consultation with Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) revealed an opportunity to develop and submit a capital works priority list for QSEC to facilitate dialogue with MBRC regarding minor and capital works for QSEC over a 10-year period. (See QSEC within the priority recommendations table in Section 13 Recommendations on page 61).

Brisbane City Council suggested an opportunity to explore event use of Victoria Park (Kelvin Grove, Brisbane) for high profile events such as international eventing competitions.

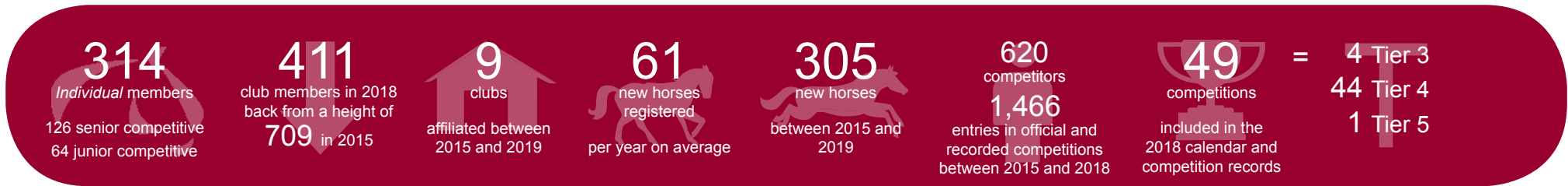


12.02 Central

The Central reporting zone incorporates the LGAs of:

- Banana Shire Council
- Barcaldine Regional Council
- Central Highlands Regional Council
- Gladstone Regional Council
- Livingstone Shire Council
- Longreach Regional Council
- Mackay Regional Council
- Rockhampton Regional Council
- Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
- Bundaberg Regional Council
- North Burnett Regional Council

This reporting zone identified:



9%
of total
statewide
Individual
members

6%
of total
statewide club
members

EVENTS

are delivered by

36 show societies

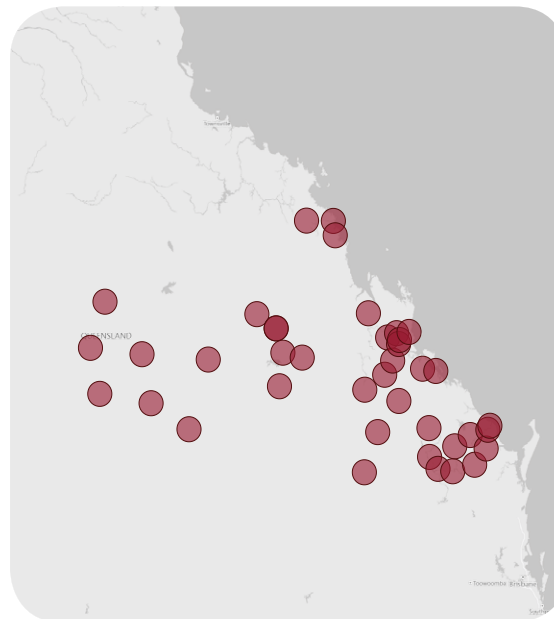
9 clubs

41 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 9 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷¹ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 9 facilities provide:

- 2** indoor arenas
- 5** sand arenas
- 12** grass arenas
- 6** lit arenas

⁷¹ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>






Of those with tenure data provided, the majority are leased or hired (**7**) but some are private (**2**)

Most facilities in this reporting zone have been assessed as Tier 4 (**39**) with only Bridgeman Park and Bundaberg Recreational Precinct assessed as Tier 3.

Mount Larcom Showgrounds and Yeppoon Hack and Pony Club (both assessed Tier 4 facilities) deliver Tier 3 competitions, with Yeppoon Hack and Pony Club indicating aspirations to continue to deliver Tier 3 competition.

Map 12: Central facilities

The following projects have been identified:

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Bundaberg Active Riders Grounds 	Bundaberg Active Riders	Power, Full facility set up	Short
Finch Hatton Showgrounds	Pioneer Valley Agricultural Show Society Inc.	Stable upgrades	Medium
Mount Larcom Showgrounds 	Gladstone Calliope Equestrian Group	Drainage, Indoor arena, Spectator shade, Surface upgrade, PA system, Additional stables	Medium
Yeppoon Hack and Pony Club Grounds 	Capricorn Equestrian Group Inc.	Arena surface upgrade, Additional stables, Additional amenities	Short
	Yeppoon Hack & Pony Club Inc.		

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

Table 23: Central identified projects

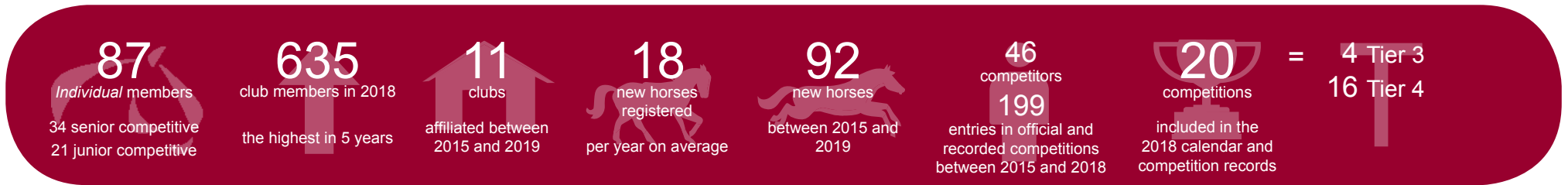


12.03 Far North

The Far North reporting zone incorporates the LGAs of:

- Cairns Regional Council
- Carpentaria Shire Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Cook Shire Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Mareeba Shire Council
- Tableland Regional Council

This reporting zone identified:



2%
of total
statewide
Individual
members

10%
of total
statewide club
members

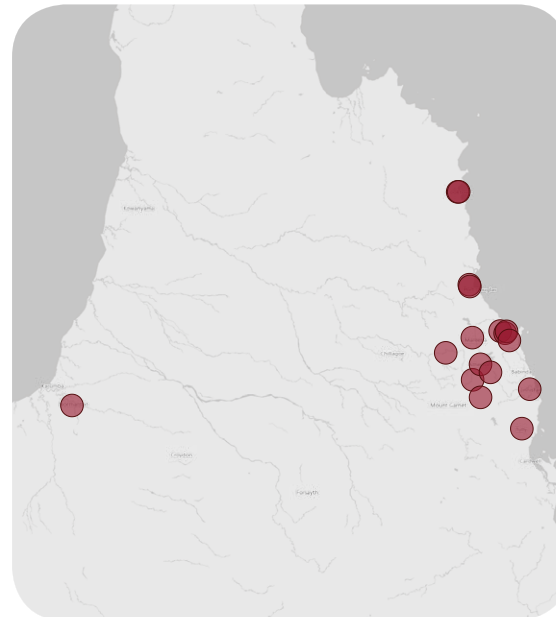
EVENTS
are delivered by
8 show societies
11 clubs

17 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 9 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷² and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 9 facilities provide:

- 2 indoor arenas
- 7 sand arenas
- 7 grass arenas
- 5 lit arenas

⁷² <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>



Of those with tenure data provided, the majority are leased or hired (8) but some are private (2)

Atherton Tablelands and District Dressage and Equestrian Association hosts Tier 3 competitions at the Kerribee Park Rodeo Grounds (Mareeba Showgrounds) which has only been assessed as a Tier 4 facility showing a gap. All other facilities offering *Competitive* competition were assessed at the same level as the competitions they deliver. There are aspirations for Tier 3 level competitions to continue to be held at Kerribee Park Rodeo Grounds (Mareeba Showgrounds) and also at Dimbulah Horse and Pony Club.

Map 13: Far North facilities

The following projects have been identified:

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Cairns Showgrounds 	North Queensland Showjumping Club Inc.	Surface upgrade, Additional warm up arena, Constrained site	Planning required to determine priority
Dimbulah Horse and Pony Club 	Dimbulah Horse & Pony Club Inc.	Improved water supply	Short
Earlville Pony Club 	Earlville Pony Club Inc.	Surface upgrade, Whole of facility upgrade, Constrained site	Planning required to determine priority
	North Queensland Showjumping Club Inc.		
Kerribee Park Rodeo Grounds 	Atherton Tablelands & District Dressage & Eq. Ass.	Surface upgrade, Irrigation upgrade, Cover yards, Additional lunging areas	Short
Malanda Showgrounds 	North Queensland Showjumping Club Inc.	Surface upgrade	Short
Redlynch Equestrian Park 	Far North Equestrian Group Inc.	Equipment	Short
Tepon Equestrian Park	Working Equitation Fnq	Storage, Warm up area, Round yard	Short

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

Table 24: Far North identified projects

12.03.01 Local government consultation

Consultation with local government representatives within the Far North reporting zone indicated a number of trends (consistent with findings and recommendations of this plan), along with some opportunities.

Within this reporting zone demand for facilities and funding to support EQ affiliated clubs is increasing in some areas and decreasing in others. The progressive urbanisation of Cairns is recognised as a contributor to a decline in participation and facility utilisation closest to the city. In the rural areas surrounding Cairns and within the other Far North local government areas participation was suggested to be greater.

Barriers to participation such as horse ownership (with limited availability to lease or rent a horse), land availability and complex entry/membership requirements was mentioned. Land use for equestrian purposes is a current consideration for local government, who would like to see consolidation of clubs and sites including pony clubs and other equine activities, into more suitable rural areas. It was noted that there are more horse clubs in Cairns than football clubs, however without the high memberships numbers. (See recommendation 13.04 Increased facility use and multi-user relationships on page 63). The utilisation of existing larger multi-user/multi-purpose facilities outside of Cairns (on the Tablelands) was suggested to the benefit of the whole region.

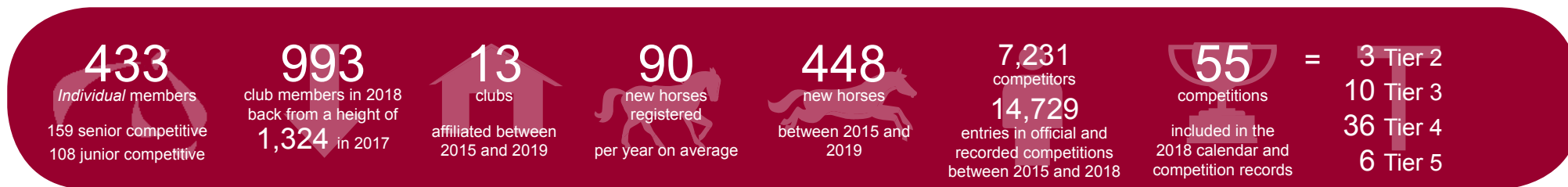
There are opportunities to work with local government on facility improvements and in the provision of funding, however for clubs to be known to Councils, facility usage needs to be formalised. Councils are not always aware of clubs who simply hire various facilities.

12.04 Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW

The Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW reporting zone incorporates the LGAs of:

- Byron Shire Council
- Tweed Shire Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council

This reporting zone identified:



12%

of total
statewide
Individual
members

15%

of total
statewide club
members

EVENTS

are delivered by

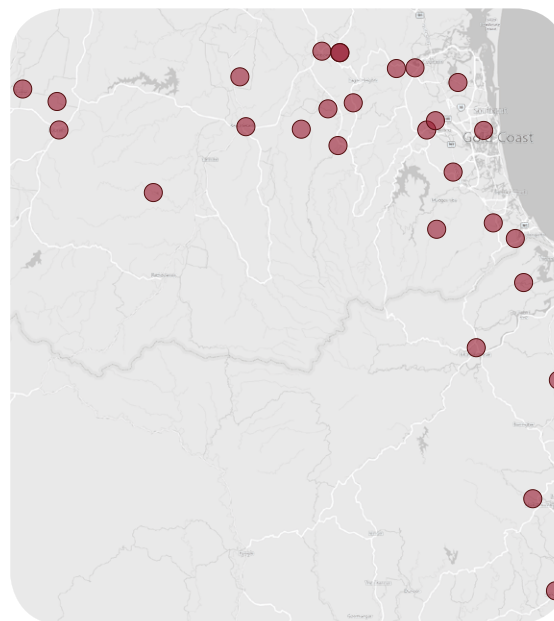
- 9 show societies
- 1 school
- 2 sport committees
- 2 commercial affiliates
- 13 clubs

28 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 13 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷³ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 13 facilities provide:

- 4 indoor arenas
- 11 sand arenas
- 23 grass arenas
- 6 lit arenas

⁷³ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>



Of those with tenure data provided, the majority are private. (8)
Others were hired or leased (6)






A large number of facilities assessed at Tier 4 have been delivering Tier 3 competitions. These include Kerkindale Park, Arundel Park Riding for Disabled, Beaudesert Showgrounds, Bellara Park, Mudgeeraba Pony and Hack Club Grounds/Showgrounds, Tallebudgera Pony Club. Users of all of these facilities plus Belcam have indicated aspirations to deliver Tier 2 competitions.

Map 14: Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW facilities

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The following projects have been identified:

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Arundel Park Riding for Disabled Inc.	Vaulting Queensland	Additional arena, Additional yards/stables	Planning required
Bangalow Showgrounds 	Summerland Dressage Club	Stable upgrades	Short
Beaudesert Showgrounds	Scenic Rim Equestrian Club Inc	Storage (portable)	Medium
Belcam	The Australian Continental Equestrian Group Inc. (The ACE Group Inc)	Surface upgrade, Camping facilities	Medium
Bellara Park	Ella Springs Vaulting Club	Additional covered arena, Additional yards/stables (Private)	Planning required to determine priority
	Vaulting Queensland		
Bilambil Sports Ground	Terranora Lakes Equestrian Club Inc.	Equipment, Drainage, Power supply	Short
Kelecyn Equestrian 	Tamborine Equestrian Group Inc.	Stables upgrade, Whole facility upgrade	Short
Kerkindale Park 	Aquinas College	Surface upgrade, Additional yards, Additional parking	Short
Mudgeeraba Pony and Hack Club Grounds 	Equestrian Gold Coast Club formerly Nadec	Relocating	Support relocation to Tier 3 facility
Murwillumbah Showgrounds 	Tweed Valley Equestrian Group Inc.	Surface upgrade (grass to sand)	Short

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Tallebudgera Pony Club 	Bond University Equestrian Club	Additional stables, Additional camping/parking, Covered training arena	Planning required to determine priority
	Vaulting Queensland		
Tierney Park	Currumbin District Horse Club Inc.	Fencing upgrade, Yard upgrade, Surface upgrade	Short

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

Table 25: Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW identified projects

Vaulting Queensland utilise three separate facilities, all with improvement plans. It is recommended that specific planning and consultation be undertaken to consider the utilisation and potential upgrade of one site to meet all needs. This may be possible within a multi-user site that could meet the broader needs of equestrian clubs in the reporting zone considering that Equestrian Gold Coast Club formerly Nadec also requires a Tier 3 facility.

12.04.01 Local government consultation

Consultation with local government representatives within the Gold Coast/Scenic Rim/NSW reporting zone indicated a number of trends (consistent with findings and recommendations of this plan), along with some opportunities.

The consultation revealed an acknowledgement that demand for facilities and funding to support equestrian sport and clubs is increasing and that the direct and indirect cost of managing equestrian venues are increasing, counter to the decreasing number of volunteers associated with equestrian clubs. This is placing a higher need and requirement for governance support for equestrian clubs. (See also section 07.06 Professionalism versus club membership on page 18).

Funding for not-for-profit equestrian organisations is available through local government grant programs. The programs vary from Council to Council, but essentially funding is available for governance, strategy and capital works/improvements.

There is an acknowledgment that much of the land currently used by equestrian clubs for club events, is not suitable for events beyond Tier 4/5 events, and that urban development is resulting in less suitable sites for larger equestrian events. Local government would like to see equestrian collate and present its vision for the sport in the greater region and demonstrate demand for facilities, opportunities for growth and highlight how equestrian sport can activate land for positive community impact. For this to happen, all equine sport and facilities need to be included i.e. equestrian, pony club, RDA etc. and explore multi-use options. (See recommendation 13.08 Industry wide facility networking on page 64 and 13.04 Increased facility use and multi-user relationships on page 63).

Gold Coast City Council suggested that there is an opportunity to develop and submit a business case to support investment in a new equestrian facility in the region that can deliver Tier 2 competitions. (See the Gold Coast within the priority recommendations table in Section 13 Recommendations on page 61).

In the shorter term, there is opportunity to complete a master planning exercises led by equestrian bodies with support from local government. (See recommendation 13.05 Strategic and facility planning on page 63).

Local governments in this reporting zone recognise the economic impact the equine industry and equestrian sport provide to the regional economy. (See also section 06 Economic and community benefit of equestrian on page 13). There is a desire from local government to support event hosting and drive community interest and economic growth. Equestrian events are eligible to obtain funding to support the delivery of events through grants.

It is recognised that equestrian sport is heavily dependent on the support and use of private facilities in this region to deliver events. (See also section 09.05 Professionalism of facility provision on page 24).

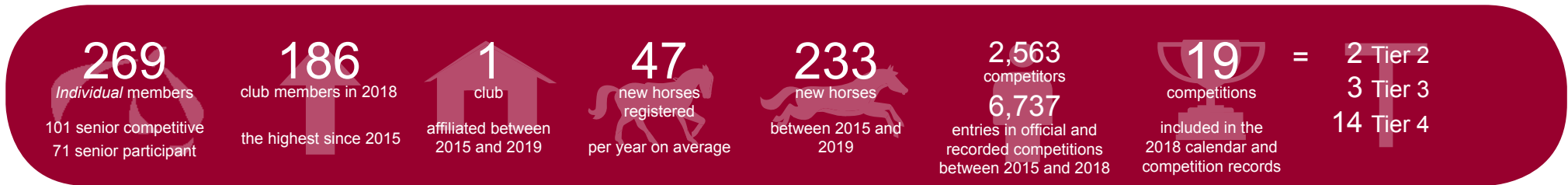


12.05 Ipswich/Lockyer

The Ipswich/Lockyer reporting zone incorporates the LGAs of:

- Ipswich City Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council

This reporting zone identified:



7%
of total
statewide
Individual
members

2%
of total
statewide club
members

EVENTS

are delivered by

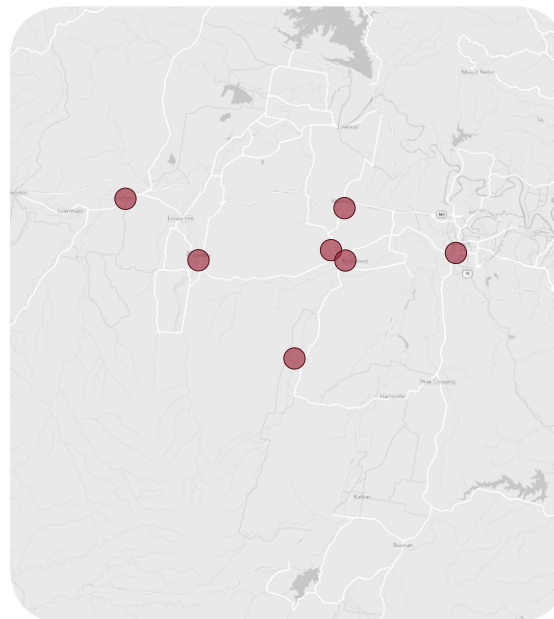
- 6 show societies
- 1 sport committee
- 1 event committee
- 1 clubs

7 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 3 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷⁴ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 3 facilities provide:

- 3 indoor arenas
- 0 sand arenas
- 5 grass arenas
- 2 lit arenas

⁷⁴ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>



Of those with tenure data provided, the majority are leased or hired (2) but some are private (2)

Most facilities in this reporting zone have been assessed as Tier 4 facilities with only Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds assessed as Tier 3. Jumping Queensland have delivered Tier 2 competitions at this facility and have aspirations to continue to do so in the future.

One new facility, Rosewood Equestrian Precinct, has been identified as in the planning stage.

Map 15: Ipswich/Lockyer facilities

The following projects have been identified for Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds.

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds 	Hanoverian Horse Society Of Australia Inc.	Warm up arena upgrade, Improved admin facilities, Surface upgrades, Stable upgrades	Warm up complete
	Jumping Queensland		Medium
	Lockyer Equestrian Group Inc.		
	Prenzlau State School		
	Standardbred Association Qld Inc.		
Rosewood Equestrian Group		Whole facility development	Long

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

Table 26: Ipswich/Lockyer identified projects

Lockyer Valley Regional Council has produced a master plan for Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds, which includes the above listed priorities to be completed over 10 years.

The constrained nature of this site due to the land area available and high number of facility users, is noted, potentially limiting the facility's availability for additional clubs, more events or larger events.

12.05.01 Local government consultation

Consultation with local government representatives within the Ipswich/Lockyer reporting zone indicated a number of trends (consistent with findings and recommendations of this plan), along with some opportunities.

In acknowledgement that demand for facilities and funding to support equestrian sport and clubs is steadily increasing, several projects that support equestrian competition are being investigated by local government with further feasibility and consultation work required.

Master planning exercises have been completed on some sites. The Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre and Showgrounds master plan includes equestrian activity as a key driver of the future development of the site. However, for this site, the constrained nature is potentially limiting the facility's availability for additional clubs, more events or larger events.

Local government would like to holistically look at all equine use i.e. equestrian, pony club, RDA etc. and explore multi-use options and see more collaboration across organisations in regard to scheduling and event timing. (See recommendation 13.08 Industry wide facility networking on page 64 and 13.04 Increased facility use and multi-user relationships on page 63).

It is however acknowledged that the facility, surface and venue requirement for equestrian competitions vary considerably depending on the discipline and event type. Given this, local government would like to work with equine organisations to understand the requirements better and identify opportunities to improve venue outcomes whilst minimising costs and labour requirements. (See Section 10 and Appendix 1 Preferred Facility Standards).

There is a desire from local government to support hosting events and drive community interest and economic growth. (See also Section 06.02 Event contributions on page 14). There are opportunities to work in partnership with local government for event delivery.

Local government acknowledge that investment in equestrian facilities needs to be considered across a network and not just a regional level. There is an opportunity to develop and submit a business case to support investment in an equestrian facility in this region. However equestrian sport needs to provide data to local government and identify priorities for investment that demonstrate value for money which can be considered as part of Council's capital works programs.

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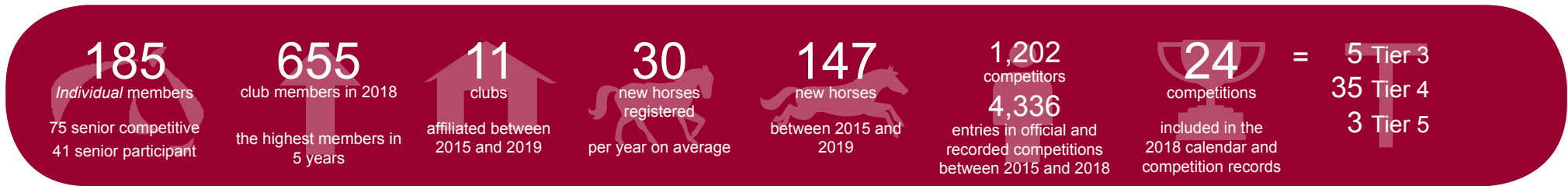


12.06 Northern

The Northern reporting zone incorporates the LGAs of:

- Burdekin Shire Council
- Charters Towers Regional Council
- Cloncurry Shire Council
- Flinders Shire Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Townsville City Council
- Whitsunday Regional Council
- Winton Shire Council

This reporting zone identified:



5%
of total
statewide
Individual
members

10%
of total
statewide club
members

EVENTS
are delivered by

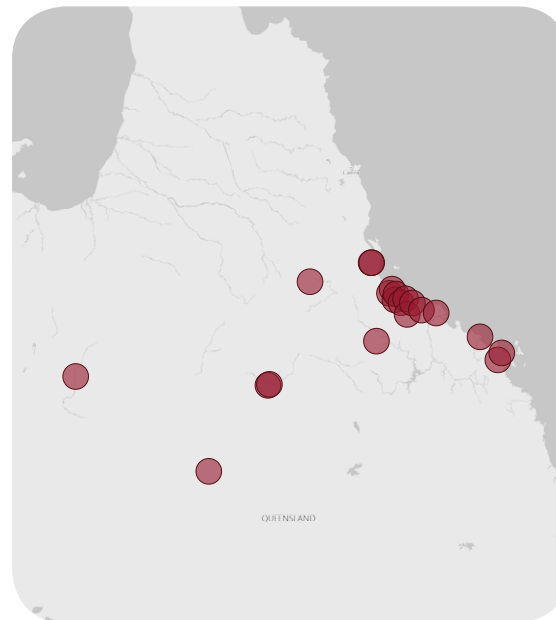
9 show societies
11 clubs

21 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 8 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷⁵ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 8 facilities provide:

- 2 indoor arenas
- 17 sand arenas
- 5 grass arenas
- 7 lit arenas

⁷⁵ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>



All facilities with tenure data provided are leased or hired **(9)**

The majority of facilities in this reporting zone have been assessed as Tier 4 facilities. **(18)**






This region consistently delivers some Tier 3 competitions, with only Tier 4 assessed facilities available. However, Tier 4 competitions are the majority with 20 delivered in 2018.

The affiliate survey showed only Ingham Showgrounds with a user aspiration to deliver Tier 3 competitions.

Map 16: Northern facilities

This region lacks a stable “home” ground for Townsville’s clubs. Clubs use up to five different facilities intermittently to host their events depending on the availability of facilities or the facility that is most fit-for-purpose at the time of the competition for the level and discipline being run. If this situation is not rectified by the construction of the new North Queensland Country Club Resort and Equestrian Centre, regional equestrian planning should be undertaken to secure a permanent fit-for-purpose facility.

The following projects have been identified:

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Black River Pony Club Grounds 	North Queensland Equestrian Group	Additional amenities, Arena surface upgrade, Camping area expansion, Additional yards/stables	Planning required to determine priority
Bluewater Equestrian Centre 	North Queensland Equestrian Group	Full facility upgrade	Planning required to determine priority
Cannonvalley Pony Club 	Whitsunday Equestrian Group Inc.	Surface upgrade (warm up arena)	Short
Flinders Horse Sports Grounds 	Flinders Horse Sports Inc.	Surface upgrades (all arenas), Clubhouse upgrades	Medium
Greenvale Rodeo & Campdrafting Club Inc	Greenvale Equestrian Club Inc.	Install lighting, Install PA system	Short
Ingham Showgrounds	Tropical North Showjumping Club	Construction finalisation, Install lighting, Install irrigation, Install spectator seating, Relocate catering	Short
Rupertswood Park	Rupertswood & District Horse Club Inc	Additional lighting, Canteen upgrade	Medium
Townsville Pony Club 	Townsville And District Pony Club Inc	Indoor arena construction	Planning required to determine priority
Wordsworth Park	Woodstock Horse Sports Club	Water supply installation	Short

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)

Table 27: Northern identified projects



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

12.06.01 Local government consultation

Consultation with local government representatives within the Northern reporting zone indicated a number of trends (consistent with findings and recommendations of this plan), along with some opportunities.

Demand for facilities and funding to support EQ affiliated clubs is considered stable by local government in this region. While land use for equestrian purposes is a consideration for local government, it is not considered a high priority at this time.

It is understood that several projects that could support equestrian competition are being investigated by the private sector (e.g. North Queensland Country Club Resort) but little information was known about these projects at the time of consultation.

Equestrian sport within this reporting zone is delivered from multiple models where clubs lease sites from Councils and clubs then sub-lease/hire ground to other clubs or through hire arrangements with Councils or showgrounds.

Local government would like to holistically look at equine use i.e. equestrian, pony club, RDA etc. and explore multi-use options. However, it is acknowledged that the facility, surface and venue requirement for equestrian competitions vary considerably depending on the discipline and event type. Given this, local government would like to work collectively with equestrian organisations to understand facility requirements better and identify opportunities to improve venue outcomes whilst minimising costs and labour requirements. (See Section 10 and Appendix 1 Preferred Facility Standards). Equestrian sport also needs to provide data to local government and identify priorities for investment that demonstrate value for money. (See recommendation 13.08 Industry wide facility networking on page 64).

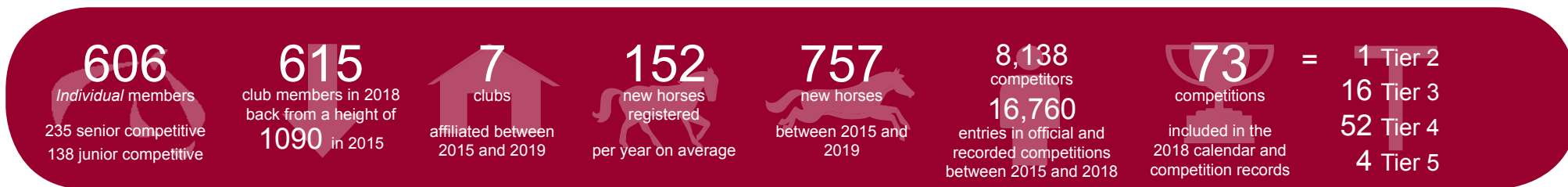
It is acknowledged that investment in equestrian facilities needs to be considered across a network and not just a regional level. There is an opportunity to develop and submit a business case to support investment of equestrian facility in this region. (See Townsville within the priority recommendations table in Section 13 Recommendations on page 61).

12.07 South West

The South West reporting zone incorporates the LGAs of:

- Balonne Shire Council
- Goondiwindi Regional Council
- Maranoa Regional Council
- Murweh Shire Council
- Paroo Shire Council
- Quilpie Shire Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council
- Western Downs Regional Council

This reporting zone identified:



17%
of total
statewide
Individual
members

10%
of total
statewide club
members

EVENTS

are delivered by

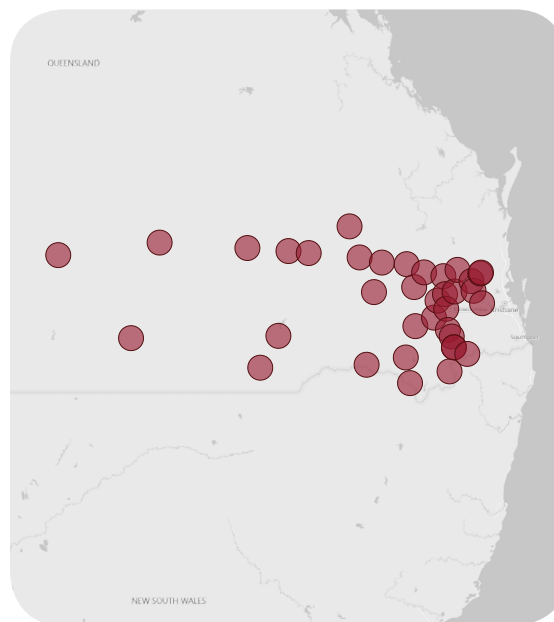
- 36 show societies
- 1 sport committee
- 1 commercial affiliate
- 1 event committee
- 7 clubs

37 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 27 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷⁶ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 27 facilities provide:

- 1 indoor arenas
- 8 sand arenas
- 16 grass arenas
- 6 lit arenas

⁷⁶ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>



Of those with tenure data provided, the majority are leased or hired (8) but some are private (2)

The majority of facilities in this reporting zone have been assessed as Tier 4 facilities (34) with only Morgan Park and Toowoomba Showgrounds assessed as Tier 3.





Map 17: South West facilities

Morgan Park, Toowoomba Showgrounds and Roma Showgrounds were found to be delivering competition one tier higher than the assessed facility tier. In addition, affiliates delivering competitions at the Tier 3 level Morgan Park and Toowoomba Showgrounds indicated an aspiration to deliver Tier 2 competition.

Toowoomba Showgrounds has been the host to the only major national level competition for multi-disciplines in Queensland (last hosted in 2017). The Australian Interschool Championships has an east coast venue rotation program and Queensland will host the event again in 2020⁷⁷. Toowoomba Showgrounds is currently the only venue best suited to hold this event, offering all of the required competition areas for each discipline and having sufficient area to erect additional temporary stables and accommodate camping for the event. The event accommodates 1,400 participants across 5 days⁷⁸. Even so, this facility requires upgrades to lift its standard to the Tier 2 level required for this level of competition. Based on the level of use, Toowoomba Showgrounds should be considered for an upgrade to a minimum Tier 2 level.

The following projects have been identified:

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Charleville Showgrounds	Warrego Equestrian Inc.	Sand arena	Medium
Glen Haven Park 	Glen Haven Park Sunshine Tour	Surface upgrade, Irrigation upgrade	Medium
Kilcoy Showgrounds 	Kilcoy P A & I Society	Stable upgrades, Surface upgrade, Equipment, Spectator seating and shade, Install lighting, Update officials rooms	Medium
Millmerran Showgrounds	Millmerran Show Society Inc.	Fencing upgrade, Additional stables	Medium
Morgan Park 	Interschool Queensland Warwick Horse Trials Club Inc.	Yard/stable upgrades, Cross country course improvements, Surface upgrade (main arena), Storage	Short

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Pittsworth Showgrounds 	Fairholme College	Additional yards/stables, Biosecurity area	Medium
	Darling Downs Show Jumping Club Inc.		
Roma Showgrounds 	Maranoa Equestrian Club Inc.	Covered yards, Shade, Dedicated dressage arena, Round yard, Storage	Medium
Texas Showgrounds 	Texas Show Society	Expand facility footprint	Medium
Toowoomba Showgrounds 	Qld Andalusian Horse Association of Australasia	Surface upgrades (including warm up arena), Electrical upgrades, Amenities upgrade, Indoor arena completion, Fencing, Additional and upgraded stable, PA system upgrade	Short/ Medium Short– Master plan to minimum Tier 2
	Royal Agricultural Society Of Qld		
	Toowoomba Dressage Inc.		
	Toowoomba Jump Club		
	Interschool Queensland		
	Show Horse Queensland	Whole of facility upgrade and facility aesthetics	
	The Glennie School		

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

Table 28: South West identified projects

⁷⁷ <https://www.equestrian.org.au/news/australian-interschool-championships-2019-%E2%80%93-host-states-confirmed-until-2022>

⁷⁸ Australian Interschool Championships 25-29 September 2017 Economic Impact Report

12.07.01 Local government consultation

Consultation with local government representatives within the South West reporting zone indicated a number of trends (consistent with findings and recommendations of this plan), along with some opportunities.

Demand for facilities and funding to support equestrian sport and clubs is acknowledged by local government to be increasing.

Local government would like to see more equestrian events in the region, and acknowledges that the equine industry and equestrian sport are a major contributor to the regional economy. (See also section 06 Economic and community benefit of equestrian). There is a desire from local government to support event hosting and drive community interest and economic growth. There are opportunities to work in partnership with local government to deliver large scale events that draw spectators and tourism to the region.

Several sites currently used for equestrian sport are suitable for further facility development and local government would like to work with equine organisations and EQ to master plan key sites. (See Toowoomba Showgrounds within the priority recommendations table in Section 13 Recommendations on page 61).

Local government would like to see more multi-use outcomes and see more collaboration across equine organisations in regard to scheduling and event timing. (See recommendations 13.03 Facility security on page 63 and 13.04 Increased facility use and multi-user relationships on page 63).

It is acknowledged that the facility, surface and venue requirement for equestrian competitions vary considerably depending on the discipline and event type. Local government would like to work with equine organisations to understand the requirements better and identify opportunities to improve venue outcomes whilst minimising costs and labour requirements. (See section 10 and Appendix 1 Preferred Facility Standards).

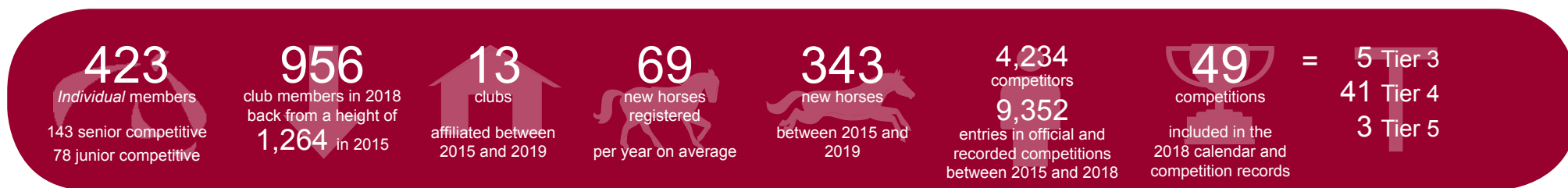


12.08 Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett

The Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett reporting zone incorporates the LGAs of:

- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Noosa Shire Council
- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Gympie Regional Council
- South Burnett Regional Council

This reporting zone identified:



12%
of total
statewide
Individual
members

15%
of total
statewide club
members

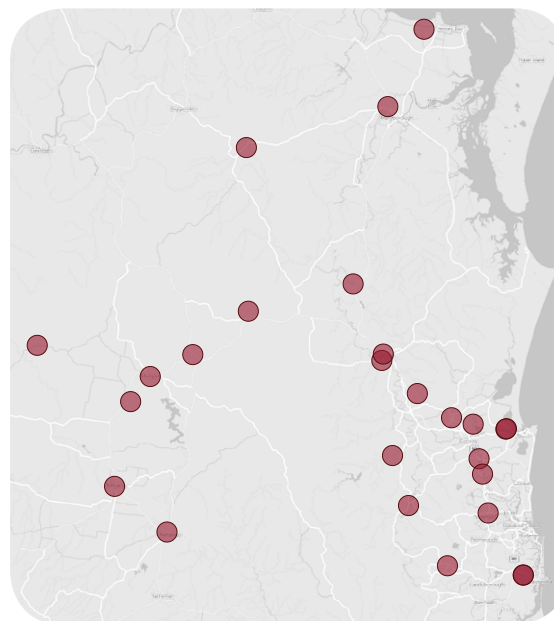
EVENTS

- are delivered by
- 16 show societies
 - 1 sport committee
 - 13 clubs

26 facilities

were identified within the reporting zone. Of these, 15 had facility data provided by the Queensland Government's Sport Planning Tool⁷⁹ and through follow up contact with affiliates. These 15 facilities provide:

- 5 indoor arenas
- 20 sand arenas
- 27 grass arenas
- 9 lit arenas



Of those with tenure data provided, the majority are leased or hired **(11)** but some are private **(4)**

Most facilities in this reporting zone have been assessed as Tier 4 **(22)** facilities with only Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park and Nambour Showgrounds assessed as Tier 3. One new facility, Kilkivan Equestrian Centre at the Kilkivan Showgrounds has been identified, with its indoor arena nearing completion.



⁷⁹ <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/planning-maps>

Map 18: Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett

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All facilities offering *Competitive* competition were assessed at the same level as the competitions they deliver. Affiliates expressed aspirations to deliver Tier 2 competition at Gympie Showgrounds, Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park and Nambour Showgrounds, however all of these facilities fall short of this facility tier level. Based on the level of use, Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park should be considered for an upgrade to Tier 2 level.

The following projects have been identified:

Facility	Affiliate Name	Required Project	Priority
Caloundra Equestrian Association 	Caloundra Equestrian Association Inc.	Construct indoor arena	Medium
Gunalda Showgrounds 	Cooloola Dressage Association	Surface upgrade, Additional yards/stables, Additional watering points, Storage	Short
Gympie Showgrounds	Gympie District Show Society Inc.	Lighting upgrade, Storage	Short
Kenilworth Hall Show and Recreation Ground 	North West Equestrian Group	Surface upgrade (including lunging), Stable construction	Short
Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park 	Interschool Queensland	Surface upgrade, Indoor arena extension, Improve irrigation, Round yard upgrade, Warm up area upgrade, PA system extension, Judge's boxes, Cross country course improvements, Upgraded and additional stables	Short/ Medium
	Qld Andalusian Horse Association of Australasia		
	Maryborough Active Riders Club Inc.		
	Fraser Coast Horse Trials		
	Hervey Bay Pony Club		

Nambour Showgrounds	Sunshine Coast Showjumping & Equestrian Club	Judge's box	Short
Nanango Showgrounds	South Burnett Equestrian Group Inc.	Arena lighting	Long

Note: Priorities are Short (up to 3 years), Medium (up to 6 years) and Long (up to 10 years or more)



The surface logo indicates that, within the survey, the facility user suggested that the competition area or surface did not meet their needs. As the competition area, particularly the surface, is a major factor to ensure horse welfare and rider safety, these facility upgrade needs have been further highlighted, regardless of the facility improvement projects identified by the user.

Table 29: Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/Fraser/South Burnett identified projects



12.08.01 Local government consultation

Consultation with local government representatives within the Sunshine Coast/Noosa/Gympie/ Fraser/South Burnett reporting zone indicated a number of trends (consistent with findings and recommendations of this plan), along with some opportunities.

Within this reporting zone demand for facilities and funding to support EQ affiliated clubs is increasing in some areas and decreasing in others.

From a local government perspective, there are a number of sites used for equestrian/ equine events that are currently under utilised, however, for this view to be confirmed equestrian sport needs to provide data to local government to demonstrate demand and opportunities and highlight how equestrian sport can activate land for positive community impact. This should be for all equestrian use i.e. equestrian, pony club, RDA etc., so that successful consolidation of clubs into larger multi use/multi-purpose sites can be achieved. (See Section 13.04 Increased facility use and multi-user relationships on page 63 and recommendation 13.08 Industry wide facility networking on page 64).

Funding for not-for-profit equestrian organisations is available through local government grant programs. The programs vary from Council to Council but essentially is available for governance, strategy and capital works/improvements.

Local government is willing to support the delivery of more regional and state level equestrian events through in-kind support from Council's professional service areas on case by case basis.

Several projects that support equestrian competition are being investigated by local government and work programs are planned for a number of sites including the Maryborough Showground and Equestrian Park and Gympie Showgrounds.

Nambour Showgrounds's infrastructure improvement is guided by a master plan⁸⁰.



⁸⁰ <https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/Planning-and-Projects/Council-Plans/Nambour-Showgrounds-Master-Plan>



13 RECOMMENDATIONS

EQ has identified six key priority projects that are most required to secure the statewide facilities network. These projects have been identified using the data from existing equestrian competition and affiliates. EQ considers the identification and construction of a new multipurpose equestrian facility in Queensland which is capable of supporting the 2032 Olympics as a high priority but this is not specifically part of this plan at this time. The six key priority projects are:

Queensland State Equestrian Centre	Master planning and project delivery to achieve a minimum Tier 2 facility (including cross country course) with surface and stables/camping upgrade being the priority
Toowoomba Showgrounds	Master planning and project delivery to achieve an all-discipline minimum Tier 2 facility with surface being the priority
Gold Coast	Establishment of a minimum Tier 3 facility with surface being the priority
Townsville	Professionally facilitated regional equestrian facility planning to identify potential multi-use home grounds and targeted facility improvements
Far North Zone	Professionally facilitated regional equestrian facility planning to identify potential multi-use home grounds and targeted facility improvements
Redland	Establishment of a minimum Tier 3 facility with surface being the priority

Table 30: Facility, Zone or Local Government Area Facility Improvement Actions

Projects for individual facilities, identified within the affiliate survey conducted as part of this plan, have been documented elsewhere in this plan (Section 12 Reporting zones and development requirements on page 38).

The broad recommendations proposed below have been made in response to the observations and findings of the Statewide Facilities Plan, overlaid with the documented trends occurring within equestrian and sport in general and address the need for:

- Facility improvements
- Data capture
- Facility security
- Increased facility use and multi-user relationships
- Strategic and facility planning
- Professionalism of facility provision
- Asset management
- Industry wide facility networking

13.01 Facility improvements

Lists of facility improvement projects have been provided for each reporting zone with recommended short, medium and long term prioritisation. In general, projects that improve safety and surface quality have been prioritised, as have facilities that have an existing gap and are currently delivering competitions at a higher tier level than the facility is assessed at.

From a regional perspective, overall gaps in facility provision have been identified at the Gold Coast, Redlands and in Townsville, where the affiliate clubs in these local government areas do not have a secured fit-for-purpose facility to call home. It is recommended that these overarching situations be addressed through targeted independent regional planning led by local government in partnership with clubs, and by negotiation and formal agreement with facility owners/operators to secure the facility network.

Strategic facility provision or improvement specifically for vaulting and driving competitions also needs to be addressed, with facility optimisation and multi-use opportunities in existing facilities to be considered amongst potential options to successfully utilise private facilities.

The lack of a Tier 1 or 2 facility (for definition see Section 10 Preferred facility standards on page 25) in Queensland should also attract collaborative attention between EQ and aspirational facility providers, particularly with the 2032 Olympic bid requiring this certainty. The existing gap (no Tier 2 facilities even though Tier 2 competitions are currently held) could be partially resolved by strategic Olympic facility legacy provision however the current need is expressed across multiple venues.

13.02 Data

During the development of this plan, the areas of participation for which data is not historically collected has become evident.

In order to fully appreciate the extent of facility use by equestrian sport, it is recommended that more extensive data collection by affiliates be incentivised.

It is recommended that EQ establish a working group to explore data collection solutions for EQ internally and for affiliates.

IT systems that support operational processes for clubs to collect membership data, and event organisers to collect competition participation data, will provide a solution to the identified gap in data collection. Within their constitution, all clubs are legally obligated to maintain a register of members and during competitions, recording participation is required for insurance and biosecurity purposes. These mandatory data recording obligations provide an opportunity for EQ to play an active role in providing attractive IT solutions that will also lead to more extensive and accurate Queensland-wide data collection.

Partnerships with dual affiliates such as Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Inc. (QCAS) will be valuable to improve participation data collection.

13.03 Facility security

Facility security is the club or event organisers ability to host events at a facility year after year, and to contribute to facility planning and improvement to ensure it is fit-for-purpose. Successful strategic event scheduling is also a desirable outcome, especially for multi-user facilities. Facility security has the potential to exist within a number of facility tenure circumstances including hiring, leasing or ownership, in both exclusive use or multi-use situations. It relies on good agreements, policies and procedures and proactive and organised collaboration that builds good relationships between all parties.

It is recommended that equestrian clubs and event organisers are supported to ensure that well documented facility user agreements are in place between facility users and facility owner/operators to secure the Queensland-wide facility network.

13.04 Increased facility use and multi-user relationships

There is significant pressure to have community or private sporting facilities fully utilised, almost every day of the year, by a large number of people, linked to the financial viability of facility provision. Equestrian facilities often occupy valuable community land that could alternatively be used by other sports with higher participation rates such as field and court sports. This is a threat to the security of facilities used by equestrian sport.

In many cases, clubs are expected to increase facility use through increased membership, participation and event numbers in order to justify continued use of community land. Support for these efforts is recommended to contribute to facility security.

Once efforts to increase participation have been expended an alternative could be to establish multi-use arrangements with more than one club at a facility. Multi-use arrangements could be either with other EQ affiliates, other associated but non affiliated horse clubs or other sports or community activities such as dog sports, community gardens, etc.

For multi-use situations to be successful, good relationships, communication and collaboration is necessary.

Success can be driven by a well facilitated user group, the development of a master plan for the entire facility which consults all users, and in some cases, facilitation and support provided by the facility owner, local government and/or state affiliate body. It is recommended that these processes are supported, along with the transition of clubs to multi-use arrangements where it is advantageous or unavoidable.

13.05 Strategic and facility planning

Facility plans are necessary for effective prioritisation, financial planning and for sourcing grant funding. The lack of documented planning for equestrian facilities presents a risk to the successful implementation of identified facility improvements. It is recommended that facility level, discipline level and regional level planning be encouraged and supported so that more facilities are guided by documented plans.

The survey undertaken as part of this plan revealed examples of uncertainty in future plans and also plans that could benefit from collaboration. For example, the use of multiple facilities for vaulting (all with similar improvement aspirations) at the Gold Coast and Scenic Rim.

As the Australian Olympic Committee prepares its bid for the 2032 Olympic Games, it is recommended that EQ becomes involved in the process of identifying and planning the upgrade or development of a suitable Tier 1 equestrian facility. A working group could be established to facilitate this involvement.

13.06 Professionalism of facility provision

It is expected that facilities will be more commonly provided by private owners in the future. For these facilities to successfully incorporate the delivery of *Competitive* competitions and accommodate affiliates as part of the state facility network, it is recommended that well considered operational model templates be provided and that the rules and policies be revised to ensure private facility owners and event organisers are well accommodated.

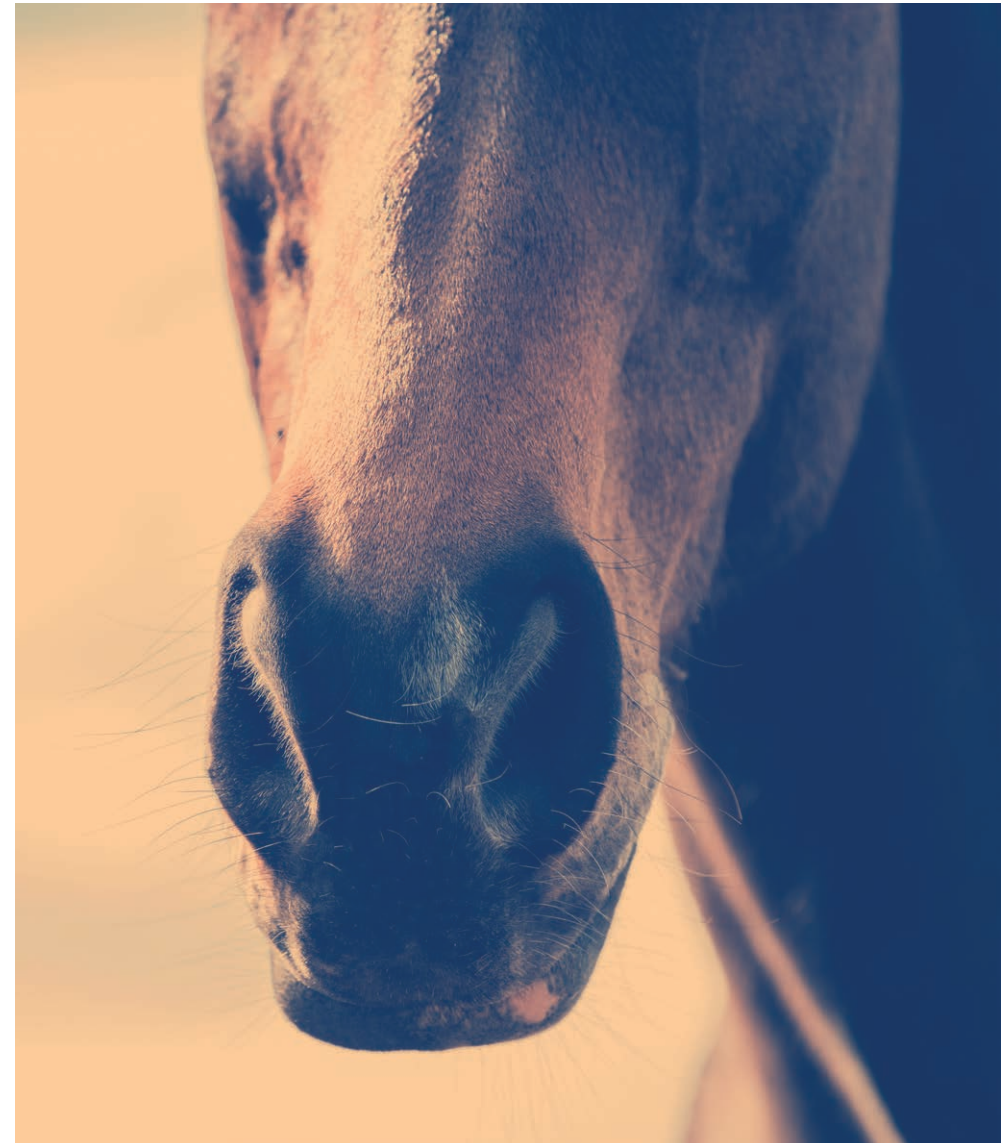
13.07 Asset management

Successful asset management ensures facilities are maintained in a way that extends their life and provides a safe environment for participants. It is recommended that facility operators be supported to document asset management processes, and that asset management systems record compliance with the required mandatory safety obligations at the same time. Compliance can then be easily demonstrated to participants, EQ and insurance providers.

13.08 Industry wide facility networking

The scope of this plan is limited to the disciplines supported by EQ and the facilities utilised by EQ's affiliates only. However, there is a broader facility network utilised by the entire horse industry. Facility operators, particularly local governments, wish to include all horse sports in demand analysis and facility provisioning, and this makes sense from a high facility utilisation perspective, and is attractive to funding providers.

With the framework and process already established within this plan, it is recommended that EQ leads a whole of industry networking process in partnership with other industry organisations such as Pony Club Queensland, Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Inc. (QCAS), Polocrosse Queensland, Queensland Endurance Riders Association (QERA) and others.





14 APPENDIX

Appendix 01 – Equestrian Queensland Preferred Facility Standards