



**Australian Government**  
**National Capital Authority**

Ref: 414462

Ms Christine Lawrence  
President  
ACT Equestrian Association President  
PO Box 4  
CURTIN ACT 2605

Dear Ms Lawrence

As the Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority (NCA), I am writing to advise you of the Australian Government's recent acquisition of Block 5 Section 121 Curtin – otherwise referred to as the Curtin Horse Paddocks. The Australian Government has acquired approximately 70% of Block 5 Section 121, the eastern portion of Block 5 Section 121 will be retained by the ACT. The Australian Government has acquired this land for a new diplomatic estate.

We appreciate that this news may come as somewhat of a surprise to you but I would like to assure you that the horses currently agisted at the site will not need to be removed immediately and the NCA has an agreement with Territory Agistment that will see out the licence until 2022.

Our arrangement with Territory Agistment will see them manage the site as a horse agistment paddock for the next two years. No expected changes to the paddocks day-to-day management operations of both the land and the horses is envisioned for this period.

We understand that the ACT Equestrian Community will have an interest in the eventual closure of one of the north Canberra agistment paddocks and questions pertaining to future community paddocks should be directed to ACT Government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

With a number of steps still to work through including an amendment to the National Capital Plan and an estate development plan, the NCA anticipates development at the Curtin site will not commence until sometime in 2023/24.

As the NCA begins to work through the site development and the establishment phases of new foreign embassies, Territory Agistment will be informed of any changes throughout the two-year period.

As a key stakeholder the NCA is holding a teleconference with horse owners this Friday 27 March 2020 from 1.30pm to 2pm. If you are interested in joining the teleconference please email [info@nca.gov.au](mailto:info@nca.gov.au) for the dial-in details.

Alternatively I would be more than happy to meet with you and discuss further. If so, please contact my Executive Officer, Sandy Jacobson on [sandy.jacobson@nca.gov.au](mailto:sandy.jacobson@nca.gov.au) or phone 6271 2879.

I appreciate your understanding as we continue to work through this change of land ownership.

Yours sincerely



Sally Barnes  
Chief Executive

24 March 2020