



ACT Equestrian Association

Strategic Plan 2021-2024

(endorsed by an ACTEA Committee)

Introduction:

The ACT Equestrian Association (ACTEA), established in 1970, is the peak umbrella organisation representing the majority of equestrian organisations and activities in the ACT. ACTEA members are the independent incorporated clubs and associations involved in the delivery of equestrian programs and services to the ACT community including showjumping, trail riding, dressage, eventing, endurance riding and pony and adult riding clubs,.

This Strategic Plan as it provides a focus for the activities of the Committee ensures accountability to affiliates and allows ACTEA to meet a condition of funding from the ACT government.

The Strategic Plan 2021-2024 aims to set the direction and goals for the future. The Plan identifies four key strategic goals;

- 1. Governance and management** – provide leadership through effective governance and management of the recognised ACT peak body
- 2. Advocacy and representation** – promote the needs of the equestrian community to government and other key stakeholders
- 3. Facility development** – ensure equestrian activities have access to suitable facilities for all disciplines
- 4. Membership services** – support our members with effective communication and co-ordination of industry activities and issues

This Strategic Plan is a guide to ACTEA in future years but it cannot be achieved by ACTEA alone and requires the support and cooperation of its members and horse riders. I look forward to working with you to achieve these goals.

Christine Lawrence
President ACTEA

Our Vision: To enable people to enrich their lives through their relationship with horses, other equestrians and the environment.

We Value:

- The diversity of equestrian activities and interest in the ACT and nearby region
- The commitment and passion of the equestrian community
- The well being of our affiliates, their members and horses
- The role and contribution of our affiliates and horse riders generally to the ACT and Capital region.
- Our partnerships with affiliates, the Government agencies and the corporate sector
- The trust of the equestrian community to represent their interests

Our Mission: To represent the equestrian community to ensure maximum opportunity for access to the best possible equestrian facilities in the ACT and Capital region and to provide support to affiliate members and their riders.

Our Stakeholders

ACT Dressage Association

ACT Showjumping Club

Belconnen Pony Club

Government Paddocks User Group

Hall Polocrosse Club

Monaro Horse Trekkers

National Capital Equestrian Club

Pegasus Riding for the Disabled, ACT

ACT Endurance Riders Association

Canberra Riding Club Pony Club

Canberra Lakes Pony Club

Hall Pony Club

Kambah Pony Club

Murrumbateman Adult Riding Club

National Capital Horse Trials Association

Tuggeranong Adult Riding Club

Associates

Letitia Lyon

Emmaville Performance Horses

Strategic Environment for ACTEA:

- **Increased urban development:** With on-going residential and commercial development of Canberra land available for existing equestrian activities is being reduced. There is a predicted 1.2% annual increase in population for the foreseeable future ensuring this pressure continues. This will be a key issue over the next decade. Already there is a waiting list of over 270 for access to Government horse paddocks. The spread of urban development and the loss of large areas of public open space means more pressure is being placed on the remaining areas and more competition between horse riders and other recreational users. Traditional riding areas in the Molonglo Valley have already disappeared or are under threat and those in the Brindabellas are being restricted by protection of the Cotter Dam catchment.
- **Increased economic and environmental pressure:** The cost of maintaining equestrian facilities is increasing as the price of insurance, electricity and water goes up and the ACT government charges more for the use of lands. These costs must be passed on to individual users. ACTEA, through EPMG, now has a more significant role in this regard as Equestrian Park is developed as an event and recreation facility for a greater number of Canberra equestrians.
- **Wide range of disciplines:** Equestrian activities cover a wide range of disciplines requiring varying access to land for horse agistment/stables, teaching, competitions, social and trail riding and events. Facilities required are stable and paddock accommodation, indoor arenas, outdoor arenas and playing fields, cross country courses and an interconnecting series of trails. Representing all these interests is a challenge for ACTEA.
- **Horse management practices:** With the agreement on an Emergency Animal Diseases Response Agreement (EADRA) for the horse industry ACTEA now has a role as a conduit for information to its members in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease. There is also an increasing emphasis on the need to protect horses from fire, flood and environmental contamination.

1. **Governance and management** – provide leadership through effective governance and management of the recognised ACT peak body

| Goals | Strategies | Priority (H/M/L) | Time |
|---|---|------------------|-----------|
| 1.1 ACTEA is effectively governed | • Conducts regular meetings as prescribed in its constitution. | H | Ongoing |
| | • Ensure it acts in accordance with its constitution and <i>Associations Incorporation Act</i> and regulations | H | Ongoing |
| | • Develop policies and review methods and procedures for retention and disposal of ACTEA records. | M/L | Ongoing |
| 1.2 ACTEA operates under strong policies and plans. | • Disseminate and assist in the implementation of relevant government and peak body sport, recreation and equestrian policies to members. | H | Ongoing |
| | • Maintain and update a Risk Management Plan | H | Ongoing |
| 1.3 Effective financial systems are established | • Maintain systems that enable ACTEA to fully audit and report on financial matters at meetings and acquit grants in a timely and efficient manner. | H | Ongoing |
| | • Review financial reports to ensure these readily show statistical information required. | M | Ongoing |
| | • Submit an effective annual application for operational funding from Sport & Recreation Services | H | Annually |
| 1.4 Manage ACTEA assets | • Maintain an asset register of ACTEA and Equestrian Park assets. | M/H | Ongoing |
| | • Maintain assets so they contribute to the responsibilities of ACTEA. | M | Ongoing |
| | • Ensure asset depreciation is incorporated into the ACTEA budget. | H | Annual |
| | • Ensure adequate insurance to cover ACTEA and EPMG assets | H | Ongoing |
| 1.5 Manage ACTEA records | • Develop a policy for the retention, storage and management, of ACTEA records | H | 2021-2022 |

2. Advocacy and representation – promote the needs of the equestrian community to government and other key stakeholders

| Goals | Strategies | Priority (H/M/L) | Time |
|--|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| 2.1 Represent the Equestrian community to Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise issues with and respond to ACT Government on issues that may impact on equestrian activities or that concern the equestrian community such as threats to trail linkages, government horse paddocks and public open space, bushfire preparedness. | H | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate actively in consultation forums organised by the ACT government. | H | Ongoing |
| 2.2 Promote a Strategic Approach to Equestrian issues in the ACT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a regular Equestrian Forum with the relevant Government agencies. | H | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and participate in mechanisms to implement the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Equestrian Infrastructure. | H | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster the Bicentennial National Trail Memorandum of Understanding with the ACT government. | H | Ongoing |
| 2.3 Advocate equestrian needs and issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the understanding and need for the Bicentennial National Trail and other community trails to Government and the public. | M | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate with Government for continued provision of government horse paddocks. | H | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the development and maintenance of equestrian infrastructure in the ACT. | M | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for safe equestrian access to ACT open space | M | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for more effective equestrian signage in public open space | H | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate relevance of equestrian sport and recreation to health and fitness of the participant population | M | Ongoing |

3. Facility development – ensure equestrian activities have access to suitable facilities for all disciplines

| Goals | Strategies | Priority (H/M/L) | Time |
|--|---|--|--|
| 3.1 Ensure adequate equestrian facility provision in the ACT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with the government and land owners to identify future facility needs in expanding urban areas of Canberra. | H | Ongoing |
| 3.2 Manage Equestrian Park (EP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Equestrian Park Management Group manage Equestrian Park according to its Licence • Regularly review and revise the Guidelines for the Use of Equestrian Park • Submit grant applications and acquit grants to the government for facility improvements to EP. • Regularly review priorities for future development of the Park with affiliates and develop strategy and timetable for implementation. • Implement an endorsed Fire Management Plan for Equestrian Park • Maintain the Equestrian Park Calendar on the ACTEA website • Implement outcomes of Golden Sun Moth Operational Plan in conjunction with the designated government agency. • Continue working toward implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Management & Development of the Cotter Plots • Ensure Park Hiring Guidelines reflect current ACT Government COVID protocols | <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>M</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |

4. Membership services – support our members with effective communication and co-ordination of industry activities and issues

| Goals | Strategies | Priority (H/M/L) | Time |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| 4.1 Maximise member affiliation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and implement strategies to better educate and engage affiliates in the activities of ACTEA. | M | Annually |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review membership fees to ensure affordability for members and ability of ACTEA to provide services. | H | Annually |
| 4.2 Provide effective communication to all members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the website capacity to enable all equestrian participants to access information. | M | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with web master to ensure the website is up-to-date and well maintained. | M | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a calendar of all activities and events | M | Ongoing |
| 4.3 Provide information to the equestrian community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make information about equestrian trails more easily available to riding community. | M | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide affiliates with advice in regard to horse management in the context of the potential spread of Hendra Virus. | H | Ongoing |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an effective trail mapping system for ACT equestrian trails in conjunction with the ACT government | H | Ongoing |