

Equestrian Strategy (2014) Review

2021 Community Survey Results

The Cardinia Shire community were invited to provide input into Council's review of its 2014 Equestrian Strategy. The program of engagement included a community online survey and online interactive map. Community engagement was held over a seven week period from 10 May – 30 June 2021.

Council sought community feedback on:

- How local equestrian facilities and trails were used
- Which local equestrian facilities and trails were used
- Current issues affecting the equestrian community
- Suggested improvements to local equestrian facilities and trails.

The online survey was completed by 251 people, with 150 people providing feedback through the interactive online map.

The information received from the community will be used to guide the revision of Council's Equestrian Strategy.

Our Equestrian Community

98%

Of respondents who ride or own a horse are female

66%

said their equestrian interest is a hobby

68%

of those with horse/s keep them on their own property

52%

are members of HRCav, 34% EA, 23% PCav

85%

Ride along multi-use trails

33%

Ride for 3 hours or more, 31% for 2 hours, 22% 1.5 hours or less, when using equestrian trails

90%

Transport their horse to a different location for equestrian activities, mostly Bunyip State Park or Kurth Kiln (Parks Victoria).

54%

said they also use trails and paths in their area to walk their dog

22%

said the paths and trails they use are not maintained at all

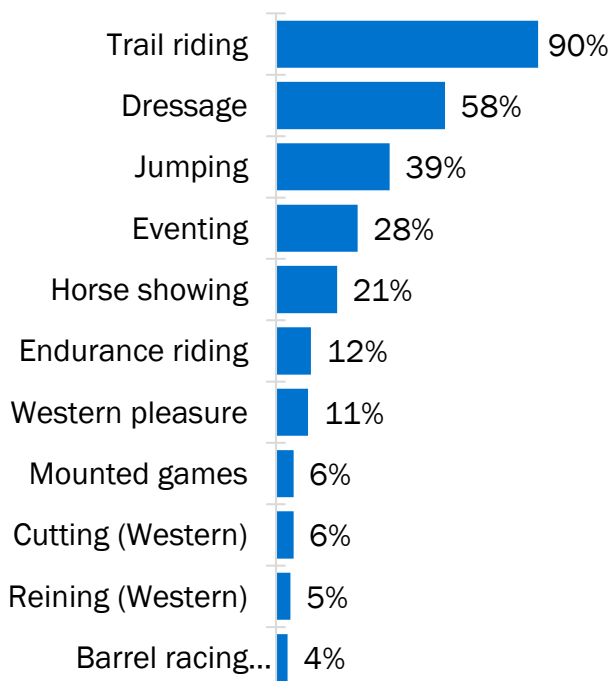
51%

said there are no safe float parking for off road trails

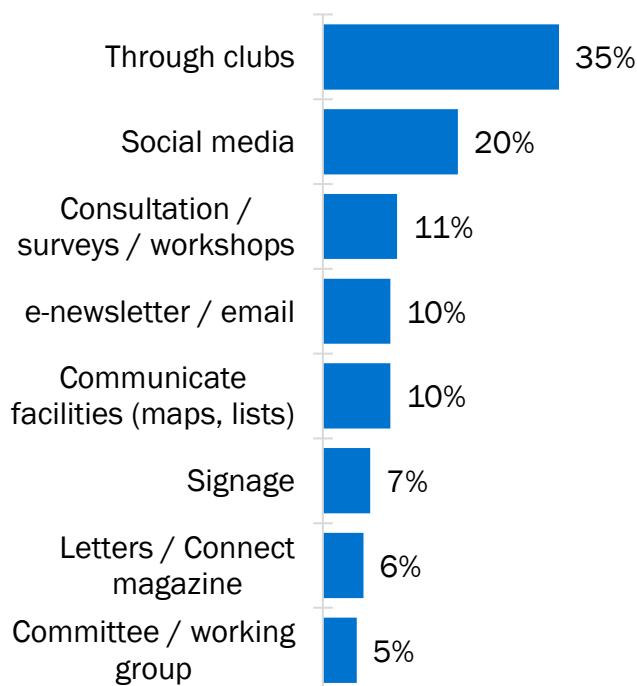
Most respondents live in Upper Beaconsfield, Cockatoo, Gembrook, Nar Nar Goon Nth, Pakenham, Pakenham Upper, and Bunyip.

Respondents vary in age from 14 years to 74 years. The highest number of respondents fell in the 45-54 year age range.

Trail riding and dressage are the most common equestrian activities. Dressage is more common in Central ward (78%), whilst jumping is more common amongst under 35 year olds (53%) and those in the Hills region (53%).



Respondents were asked how Council can better communicate / engage with the equestrian community. 142 responded. The main methods suggested were through clubs (50% were 50+ year old's), and social media.



What you told us

Please look after equestrians, we love our trails through the bush and look forward to more being opened up to us and having the current ones well maintained.

If we had a great network of trails (shared safely with other users) the entire community will benefit.

Better maintain trails, better signage, road speed reduction devices.

Maintaining trails, or creating more, to allow for access from existing riding facilities.

Any kind of community recreation enriches our communities.

Horse riding is good therapy just like walking a dog. It's good to have safe environments for riders to ride their horse and it would be good to have more facilities for riders.

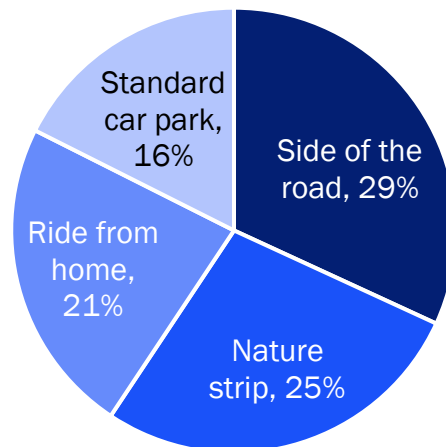
Keeping contact with reserve user groups, ensuring that funding is being directed in a way that will benefit the entire equestrian community rather than a small user group.

Key areas of concern

People were asked what the main issues or barriers were to accessing facilities. They were invited to leave general comments for Council to consider as part of the Equestrian Strategy review.

Float parking:

- Half (51%) don't believe there are safe parking facilities available for off-road trails they use.
- Those who don't think there is safe parking mostly use the side of the road or nature strip.
- Parking was the most commonly mentioned barrier to using equestrian facilities, specific to not enough (35 comments) and or unsafe/poor location (15 comments).



Not enough car parks, disorganised parking, with no recommendations on how to park some people park with little thought for others. Motorbike riders with cars and trailers park in the designated horse area.

Parking can be dangerous - you park as best you can and then have to tie horses to the float with cars and trucks going past.

The parking facilities aren't enough to cater for most weekend riders who sometimes unload and load on side of road due to shortage.

Road safety:

- Concerns for safety and riding along roadside trails with increasing traffic and road speeds
- The need for education on road safety for drivers and horse riders
- More signage to warn motorists of horses
- Provide / improve road side trails along roads that connect to equestrian facilities
- More safe road crossings.

Please aim to separate horses from road traffic as far as possible as road users seem less tolerant of horses on roads.

We need some space to get away from high traffic areas.

Shared trails:

- Conflict with other users; motorbikes, bicycles, dogs off leash.
- Not enough connecting trails.
- Better etiquette signage required along shared equestrian trails.

Insufficient loops and links of roadside and off-road trails, especially in bush settings away from traffic.

If we had a great network of trails (shared safely with other users) the entire community will benefit.