

SHIRE OF CRANBROOK - HORSE YARDS UPGRADE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Shire-owned horse paddocks are a valued community asset that provide agistment facilities for local horse owners. They are located on Rockwell Road on the Shire of Cranbrook's 100 acres freehold block. The asset falls under of the Shire's Council Plan:

Key Pillar: 1 Social:

Be respectful for our friendly, vibrant, connected and safe community

Strategy 1.1: Support an engaged and inclusive community culture.

Activities: ***1.1.2 Support our community in sporting, recreational and volunteering initiatives.***
1.1.3 Ensure appropriate community infrastructure and facilities, servicing the health and social needs of our community

In January 2026, Stephanie Waldron, as Project Officer for the Shire of Cranbrook, was asked by the Chief Executive Officer, Linda Gray, to research the facility. Part of her scope was to address the gaps in infrastructure maintenance as well as formalise administrative functions to ensure that lease/agistment agreements, a policy, basic rules were in place. Prior use of the Horse Yards had been limited to only three people, and the facility has mainly been used as a trotting training and breeding set up. Once the facility had been upgraded and made safe, the intention is to offer it to members of the community. Community consultation was sought early this year and there has been some interest especially with families. It should be noted that Cranbrook was previously a strong horse/riding area and the Shire still has an old polocrosse ground. An improved facility has potential to expand this sport again in the Shire of Cranbrook.

Stephanie completed her investigation and the Shire is now ready to implement her program with new lease/agistment agreements, a policy and a set of rules, but prior to that the yards need to be improved. A priority is the removal and replacement of the old horse shelters as they are unsafe.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The proposed upgrades are intended to improve the safety, functionality, and longevity of the facilities while enhancing the overall standard of the paddocks. Works will focus on renewing ageing infrastructure, improving horse shelters and associated amenities, and ensuring the facilities remain fit for purpose and compliant with current safety standards with greater oversight by the Shire.

The proposed project objective of the upgrades is to include removal of old horse shelters and installation of six (6) new horse shelters. Refencing of six (6) horse yards, round yard and fencing of communal horse paddock. The improvements aim to engage the community through recreation.

During the review of the facilities, it is proposed to undertake the upgrades in three (3) stages over three (3) years, with an in-principle allocation of \$25,000 per year to each stage.

Stage 1: Remove existing six (6) horse shelters and erect new horse shelters in each paddock with a 3m x 3m shelter.

- New lease/agistment Agreements are approved by Council.
- Horse Paddock Policy/Rules completed and approved by Council.

Stage 2: Remove existing fencing around six (6) horse yards and install suitable horse fencing and gates per horse paddock.

Stage 3: Remove existing round yard fencing and install new fencing and gate. Fencing of communal paddock.