

TARANAKI
EQUESTRIAN
FACILITIES PLAN
| 2023

INFORMATION

Document Reference	Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan
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Sign off	Project Steering Group
Version	Final
Date	September 2023

Acknowledgements:

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Sport Taranaki and the Project Steering Group for their ongoing support and input in developing the plan. The Project Steering Group comprised of representatives from key stakeholders and the equestrian community:

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And thank you to New Plymouth District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council and Sport Zealand for their funding contribution to the development of the plan.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

In 2017, the Taranaki Strategic Approach to Sport and Recreation Facilities (The Approach) was adopted by a range of key stakeholders across the region (including councils, funders, Sport New Zealand and Sport Taranaki).

'The Approach' identified there was a significant gap in suitable equestrian provision across the region. Since the development of 'The Approach' the landscape has become complex with challenges continuing to exist and new challenges emerging, while some capital projects have been completed and various others proposed.

As there are limited resources available for sport and recreation facility provision, local funders and Councils want to clearly understand where their support for equestrian will have the most benefit. And equally, the sector requires clarity on the priorities they are advocating for as past approaches have been fragmented or lacking evidence of need.

In response to these challenges, it has highlighted the need for the development of the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan.

1.2 SCOPE

Key outcomes being sought include:

- The establishment of a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the current state of existing facilities. For the purposes of the plan, the equestrian facility network has been split into two distinct categories:

'Base' Equestrian Sites: these are the core equestrian facilities typically used for more structured and organised equestrian activities – and generally associated with hire or lease arrangements for access. These include pony club grounds, A&P showgrounds, racecourses, equestrian parks, and other dedicated equestrian activity sites (including privately owned sites).

Public Open Spaces: these are generally sites which attract more casual/recreational use and are open to the wider equestrian community. Typical sites are bridle trails, beaches, forests, parks, and the roadside.

- Understanding current and projected participants and participation.
- Clear evidence, recommendations and next steps.

Equestrian activity across Taranaki is diverse and includes:

- Adult Riding Clubs
- Carriage Drivers
- Dressage
- Eventing
- Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding (CTR)
- Horsemanship
- Hunting with Hounds
- In-hand Showing
- Jumping and Show Hunter
- Miniatures
- Mounted Games
- Para-Equestrian
- Pony Clubs
- Riding for the Disabled
- Taranaki Kidz Cartz
- Trekking
- Recreational Riders
- Riding Schools
- Working Equitation
- Western

Note: horse racing is out-of-scope, however, opportunities to collocate with racing facilities may be a consideration for future provision.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The development of the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan has used a range of primary and secondary data sources and analysis. These include:

PRIMARY DATA INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS

- 11 site visits across the region including: Barrett Park (New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled), Egmont A&P Showgrounds, Egmont Village Riding School, Jubilee Park (Inglewood Pony Club), Lake

Mangamahoe, McKellar Park (Oakura Pony Club), New Plymouth Racecourse (New Plymouth Pony Club), Ranfurly Park (Waitara Pony Club), Stratford A&P Showgrounds and Stratford Park, Waverley Pony Club.

- 38 club/group and facility operator survey responses. This was further complemented with interviews during site visits,
- 501 Regional Equestrian ‘Have Your Say’ survey responses,
- Project Steering Group meetings,
- Meetings with New Plymouth District, Stratford District and South Taranaki District Councils,
- Meeting with the Taranaki Equestrian Network,
- Meeting with Sport New Zealand and Sport Taranaki.

SECONDARY DATA INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS

- Membership, participation and grazing data and analysis,
- Catchment analysis,
- Demographic analysis,
- Review of strategic documents of key stakeholders,
- Weather analysis,
- Economic impact and funding research, review, and analysis,
- Benchmarking analysis,
- Full Taranaki equestrian facility inventory.

The dataset, analysis and insights were used to inform the development of the plan. The plan has been set out as follows:

1. Part A: Summary Findings and The Way Forward.
2. Part B: Background Context.
3. Part C: Regional Equestrian Setting.

A photograph of a rural farm scene. In the foreground, a dark gravel path leads towards a wooden fence made of three horizontal rails. Behind the fence is a large, dark green evergreen tree on the left. To the right, there is a covered structure with a dark roof and wooden posts. In the background, a large, light-colored building with a curved roof is visible, surrounded by more trees and a clear blue sky with some clouds.

PART A:
SUMMARY FINDINGS
&
THE WAY FORWARD



SUMMARY FINDINGS

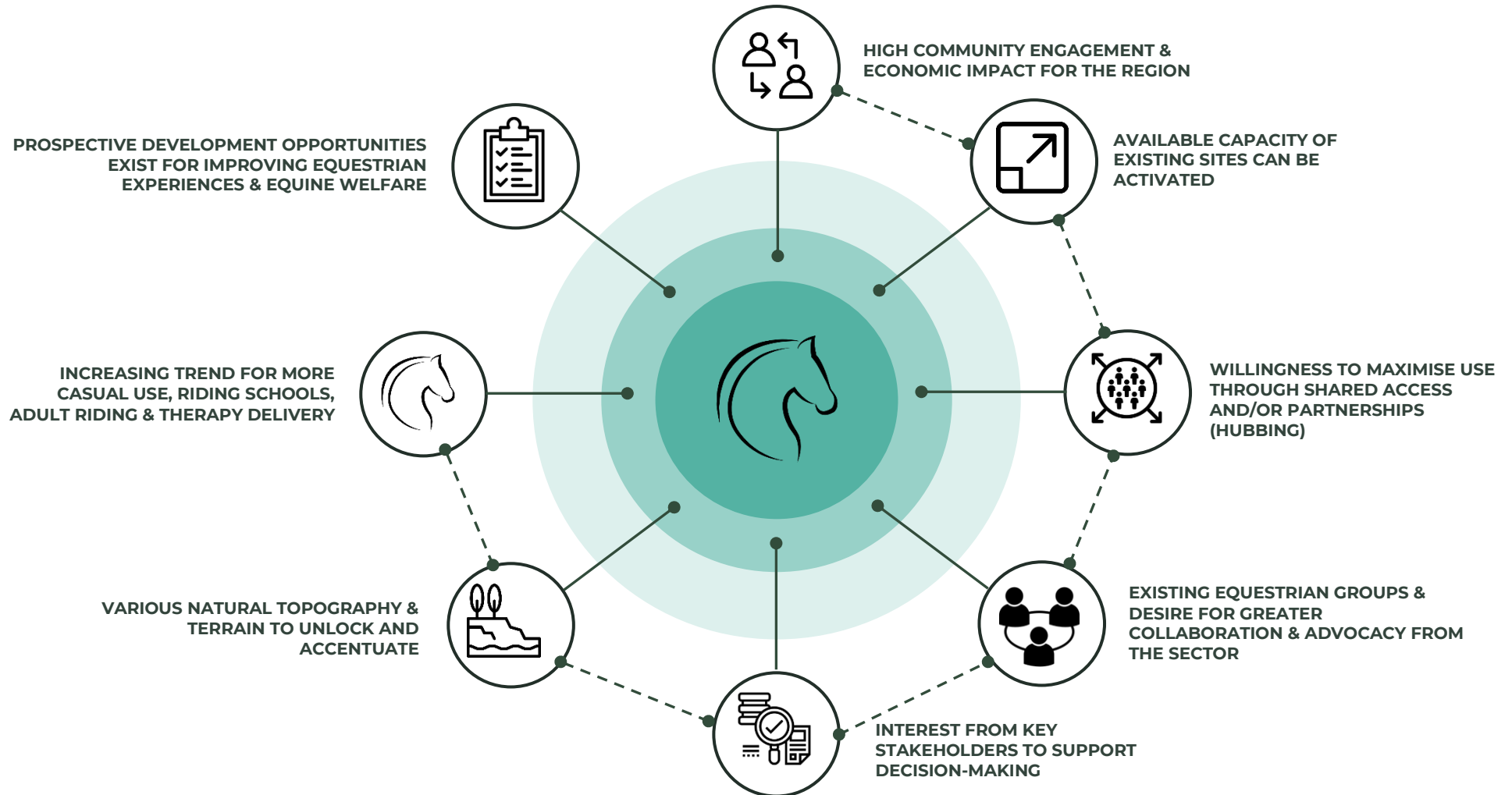
2.1 KEY CHALLENGES

Equestrian activity in Taranaki experiences an extensive myriad of challenges which have a direct impact on current and future facility provision. While some are evident across the wider sport and recreation sector, many are unique to equestrian. These challenges are shown diagrammatically below.



2.2 KEY OPPORTUNITIES

A range of opportunities have been identified which will help guide the development and implementation of the plan.





3.0 HOW DO WE RESPOND?

3.1 THE CONTEXT

Equestrian activity plays a key role across many facets of the Taranaki way of life including sport, recreation and general lifestyle. In doing so, equestrian activity is unique as it provides a notable contribution to the local economy through the supply chain to facilitate activity.

However, like most sport and active recreation activities, there are a myriad of challenges being experienced which impacts and shapes how we need to move forward.

The Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan is operating in the context of a constrained funding landscape, a stretched volunteer base for undertaking maintenance and for driving capital projects, and tenure uncertainty. To best achieve equestrian outcomes within the current context we need a prudent response for moving forward. This includes:

1. Best utilising our existing sites and facilities (including private). There is no need or demand for establishing additional 'base' sites – quality, access and suitability are larger issues impacting the network (which in some instances may require possible replacement of base sites).
2. Looking to establish more partnerships to optimise use.
3. Explore consolidation of some sites to reduce volunteer burden, increase use of sites (where practicable), secure long-term tenure, best maintain our assets and reinvest into fewer quality sites.
4. Seeking opportunities for shared public spaces to leverage with other active modes or increase access to existing spaces.

Operationally it includes:

5. Collecting casual data at a local site level to demonstrate the full value and use of our sites – building the value proposition to landowners, stakeholders and funders.
6. Considering what offerings are best placed to meet changing demographics and community needs i.e. more demand for riding schools. What opportunities does this present for private-community equestrian partnerships?

3.2 EQUESTRIAN SECTOR PRIORITIES

Outside of the larger-scale development projects proposed, there are various asset and non-asset focuses that facility operators and the wider equestrian sector need to consider and address for the betterment of equestrian opportunities and experiences across Taranaki. These include:

1. The Need for Collaboration

This applies across many forms of running equestrian activity:

- a. To maximise use of our facilities – wider casual equestrian use, introducing new programmes/offerings, through club/group hire or leased use, reciprocal use arrangements, collocation or hubbing with other equestrian clubs/groups, and/or partnering with other user types (i.e. dog obedience, archery, cross-country running and other community activities).
- b. To make best use of our volunteer and workforce. How do we look after our facilities? Can we get more efficiencies and savings working together?
- c. Taranaki Equestrian Network (as an existing and recognised entity) is the unified and representative voice for all equestrian activity across the region. With appropriate structures, resource and direction, the group can support the implementation of the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan.

The approach can help alleviate volunteer burnout at club or site level, enable the right skillset to be onboard and provide an avenue for key stakeholders and funders to connect with directly.
- d. Taranaki is an area of significant cultural value to mana whenua. Given this, there is a strong likelihood of equestrian development opportunities intersecting with areas of high cultural significance. A proactive approach of engaging with mana whenua in the planning and implementation of this plan will be constructive to progressing and potentially unlocking opportunities as they arise.

2. Securing Tenure

There is a strong need to secure lease arrangements where they do not exist, have lapsed or are due for renewal. There are two notable sites in New Plymouth District which have varying degrees of uncertainty with one lease lapsed and another expiring in 2032 (with land transfer rights).

The greater the community value provided, the greater the value proposition for securing long-term tenure (especially for Council leases).

3. Access

While restrictions are in place for accessing some beaches and other public spaces, it is important the equestrian community continues to advocate for, and demonstrate the value of, maintaining access to beaches and trails. This also includes advocating for suitable verges, signage and/or other measures to create safe roadside access and opportunities across Taranaki.

Review roadside standards/requirements and possible interventions to encourage and facilitate safe riding/leading across the region. Due to its localisation, roadsides are the highest frequented public equestrian space.

Where possible, trails, roadside access and general open space riding/leading areas are connected to equestrian destination areas. This will lead to optimising site use, establish longer opportunities, utilise existing infrastructure (less capex), best use of available resources, and increasing the value proposition for funding (capex and opex).

Additionally, horse riding and leading should be considered alongside walk and cycleways when opportunities to create linkages between places or facilities are being explored or when new possible trails emerge (existing or new sites).

There are various Walking and Cycle Strategies with no or limited acknowledgement of horses as a form of modal transport and activity within the trail network. It is important that equestrian representation (through the avenue of the Taranaki Equestrian Network), or at least in an advisory capacity, should be facilitated where possible i.e. Taranaki Trails Trust. This is important to advise and provide direction to support effective decision-making from the outset. This structure exists with groups such as the Rotorua Trails Trust which has equestrian representation on the Board.

4. Maintain and Invest in our Sites and Assets

Ongoing maintenance and investment in our facilities is critical – this applies as much to club and group owned assets as it does to privately owned. In doing so, it will help attract and retain members and casual equestrians (through equestrian and equine experiences/welfare), drive more income, help enable and maximise use, and to help secure tenure (particularly with Council-owned land).

As the number of funding applications submitted by equestrian groups in the region are relatively low, the opportunity to apply for funding exists to support investment into facilities and/or to coordinate activity.

5. Fill Data Gaps

Currently there is very limited available data on casual site and arena use, with most available data consisting of organised equestrian activity. This does not provide a true representation of use and understates how or when facilities are used.

Not having this data becomes problematic when trying to demonstrate why investment is required or why a lease should be extended. The data would also assist with understanding what loading is being placed on surfaces and what treatment/maintenance is required (and when). It is recommended that sites, clubs and groups start capturing this data. This could be achieved over set time periods to record data (i.e. over 1 month in summer and 1 in winter), through technology (which could be coordinated across the region) or manually recorded.

6. Delivery to Reflect Our Communities

It is important to reflect community needs as they continue to evolve. As the population ages, housing intensification occurs, and financial pressures continue, how are the offerings and facilities adapting to remain relevant i.e. riding schools or hiring/using horses in lieu of owning them. This could include initiatives such as existing groups/providers establishing satellite venues at existing sites (noting Egmont Village Riding School have cited their desire for satellite venues).

7. Continue to Prioritise Environmental Practices

As more focus continues to be placed on our environmental response, it is important the equestrian community demonstrates its value (i.e. maintaining large green areas to support stormwater management), environmental sustainability practices already being used (see Section 9.2) and continuing to investigate and implement new practices.

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION – OPERATIONS

A mix of suitable people, technology and resource systems/approaches are required to effectively deliver the outcomes sought by the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan – and in alignment with the Taranaki Different and Better change management project (focused on the sport and recreation system). Some of the key identified implementation systems and approaches are:

1. **Building on the Collective Voice** – with its current work operative, recognition across stakeholders and the equestrian community alike and being a formalised legal entity, the Taranaki Equestrian Network (TEN) is well placed to lead the implementation of the plan.

It is recommended a facility advisory group is formed under the guise of TEN which comprises mixed representation from across the region and equestrian activity (ensuring different activities, geographic areas and perspectives are covered). This would see continuity from the project steering group transitioning into the implementation phase – bringing full contextual understanding and connections.

To maintain full appreciation of the wider landscape, understand potential opportunities and for providing progress updates, it is advised that council(s) and Sport Taranaki representation are involved in six-monthly meetings. The plan should be seen as the catalyst for creating direction and connection with stakeholders and it is imperative this momentum is continued.

2. **Working Together** – while the collective voice in its own way will bring equestrians together, the plan signals the need for more collaboration around use of existing facilities. In some cases, this includes consolidating sites to maximise investment value and to reduce volunteer overload. In other cases, this involves exploring different delivery models i.e. satellite venues for riding schools. This will be vitally important when considering access to indoor/covered and all-weather arena.

Consideration could be given to shared human resource to provide advice and/or undertake repairs and maintenance across the network (i.e. setting out and/or carrying out an arena grooming programme). Having greater oversight of the network can also assist with bulk purchasing/leveraging of opportunities to drive cost efficiencies. To help reduce volunteer overload and for focus to be primarily placed on the delivery of quality equestrian activity, funding opportunities exist

for changing how we operate for the benefit of equestrians and equine (quality experiences and less volunteer intensive).

3. **Information Technology Systems** – there is a strong need to collect data to inform the use of equestrian facilities. A region wide booking or tagging system, in potential connection with a wider database, could add significant value for demonstrating use of facilities. Additionally, it can help reduce administration, provide quality and consistent data, and take away some barriers to participation.

A regionwide database would also help with communications to a wide cross-section of the community (building from TEN's newsletter database and the various Facebook groups). This could be used to indicate condition issues, where you could ride/lead, booking availability across the network and where support may be required.

3.4 PRIORITY PROJECTS

To provide a consistent approach for assessing prospective projects and opportunities, the plan adopts the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy's assessment criteria – Appendix E.

To maintain focus and to best allocate available resource, the 9 highest priorities are detailed in this section. The proposed projects/opportunities vary in scale, as will their associated timeframes.

As a guide, high priority projects/opportunities should be commenced and/or progressing within a 1-3 year timeframe, and medium-term 4-7 years.

Important Note: It should be noted that inclusion as a high priority project/opportunity does not replace the need for detailed analysis and planning such as needs assessment, options assessment, cost-benefit analysis, feasibility analysis and/or business case.

Note other small capital improvements or maintenance not outlined in the priority table can be undertaken at any time so long as it does not divert funding away from a prioritised project.

The list is listed in ascending order by council area and does not represent a list in priority order.

Ref #	Site	Council	Facility Type	Description	Priority Level	Rationale Overview	Where to?
3.3.1	Jubilee Park	New Plymouth	Arena and Yards	Undertake arena upgrade and explore installation of yards.	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are contour issues with the arena surface which results in water pooling (needs levelling and more sand fill). • Relatively high number of pony members and used by Dressage Taranaki and Winterland Riding Centre. • Currently unable to take more use. • Has a strong and defined catchment area that it services. • Very few yards on site for the level of membership and being adjacent to sports fields and roading – poses health and safety concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm costs and apply for funding. • Work alongside NPDC on potential yarding options on the site.
3.3.2	North Taranaki and Stratford	New Plymouth and Stratford	Trails	Explore opportunities for horse trail provision across North and Central Taranaki – building a trail network.	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High current reliance on Lake Mangamahoe which has condition issues in wet weather. • Some main beaches have restricted access. More trail sites will assist with offsetting access to particular public spaces. • Potential options exist at Colson Road and as part of the new Stratford Park concept. • Opportunities exist for exploring shared trails and connecting with other groups. • Strong support for additional and accessible provision in the ‘Have Your Say’ Survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEN to work alongside the respective councils, Taranaki Trails Trust and other groups as required.
3.3.3	To be determined through investigation	New Plymouth District	All	Explore the development of a District Equestrian Park in North Taranaki.	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Plymouth Racecourse lease has expired (currently rolling month-to-month) with the site being developed into a multisport hub (excluding equestrian activity). • There is uncertainty surrounding the future of Ranfurly Park in Waitara with land transfer rights under the Waitara Lands Act. • If both sites are removed, this will result in a geographic gap in provision. • Consideration should be given to exploring covered arena provision to service North Taranaki (complementing Egmont A&P Showgrounds, noting arena specifications and parking at New Plymouth RDA are restrictive) – with focus placed on everyday use. • There is a need to negate weather impacts across the wider region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the short to medium term look at accommodating New Plymouth Pony Club members at existing sites once a final lease termination date is set. • As timeframes regarding Ranfurly Park are uncertain (with lease expiry in 2032), site options should be explored alongside NPDC, NPPC and WPC.

Ref #	Site	Council	Facility Type	Description	Priority Level	Rationale Overview	Where to?
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large equestrian network is located across the New Plymouth District – with the highest proportion of grazing sites (leading to optimised and well used facilities). • Provides an opportunity to rationalise sites to increase use, avoid duplication of resource and develop improved facilities. • Opportunities should be sought to connect with existing or prospective public spaces (i.e. trails). • Note: the development of a District Equestrian Park is based on the tenure issues of both New Plymouth Racecourse and Ranfurly Park. Due to the collective membership size (most comprised with Waitara Pony Club) and the cross-country role that it services more regionally. 	
3.3.4	Lake Mangamahoe	New Plymouth District	Trails	Explore trail quality improvements.	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preeminent public equestrian space in Taranaki. • Highest level of Taranaki equestrian engagement revolves around access to Lake Mangamahoe. • The trails are slippery and, in some cases, unusable during wet weather – as cited by the 'Have Your Say Survey'. • Trail use in Taranaki is very low in winter due to a lack of suitable surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEN to work alongside NPDC to identify possible trails solutions and required works.
3.3.5	Egmont A&P Showgrounds	South Taranaki	Arena Surface Indoor Arena	The 'pony club paddock' is in poor condition and needs resurfaced. The indoor arena needs reroofed (one side) and new guttering.	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egmont A&P Showgrounds is recognised as the Regional Equestrian Park for Taranaki. • The arena needs to be reroofed on one half (the other has been completed prior). • Only indoor arena in Taranaki with the required size and specification to support all equestrian activity. • Premier equestrian event venue in Taranaki. • Other planned indoor/covered provision is for North Taranaki (providing full geographic coverage). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm costs and apply for funding. • Continue to work on the business model to increase use for reinvestment back into current and new assets.
3.3.6	Stratford Park	Stratford	All	Continue planning and development of core	HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land parcel has been purchased by the Stratford A&P Association (with SDC loan) for equestrian activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Await site option exploration in New Plymouth District to ascertain whether covered

Ref #	Site	Council	Facility Type	Description	Priority Level	Rationale Overview	Where to?
				equestrian facilities at Stratford Park.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This move is identified as Stage 1 of the overall Stratford Park development unlocking the potential of the site. Establishment of the Motorsport Park is well supported by a range of key stakeholders. The current site services a full range of equestrian activity, has trail access and domiciled users. Potential opportunity to rationalise sites and collaborate with Central Taranaki RDA. The overall plan can be staged, with initial focus to be placed on meeting the immediate needs of users (ensuring current level of provision is provided for). The development is complementary to the Regional Equestrian Park in Hawera and proposed provision in New Plymouth District. The site is centrally located so can be accessible to a wider catchment – particularly for Eltham Pony Club which do not have an all-weather arena. Stratford Park should continue to help service the pony club and its members. With weather impacts, it is recommended good all-weather surfaces are provided. Cross-country provision may need to be further explored and/or brought forward should future land options limit activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> arena provision will be required (action 3.3.3). Confirm delivery model and domiciled users (including consideration and potential impact of not having covered arena provision). Based on the above, review the financial model to ensure debt servicing can be covered.
3.3.7	Jubilee Park	New Plymouth District	Ancillary Spaces	Explore potential facility partnership opportunities with the rugby club.	MED / HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no ablutions, changing spaces or electricity at the parcel of land occupied by the pony club. There are security concerns on the park with previous issues being experienced. Portaloos are brought onsite for events. Best utilise sport and recreation precinct infrastructure – and other potential collaboration opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Inglewood Rugby Club, Sport Taranaki and NPDC on potential access and connection between the clubs.
3.3.8	To be explored	South Taranaki	Trails	Explore opportunities for horse trail provision across South Taranaki.	MED / HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current geographic gap. Need to reduce travel times from South Taranaki to enable more accessible equestrian public space opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TEN to explore opportunities in collaboration with STDC and possibly groups such as the Taranaki Trails Trust.

Ref #	Site	Council	Facility Type	Description	Priority Level	Rationale Overview	Where to?
3.3.9	Egmont A&P Showgrounds	South Taranaki	Arena and Yards	Explore the development of covered yards, whilst also exploring the potential extension and upgrade of the current all-weather outdoor arena.	MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing outdoor arena is in poor condition and too small. With yard/stable development interventions, the arena could be extended and upgraded to support dressage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete concept options and determine cost estimates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan recommends the following:

1. The plan is socialised to all equestrian clubs, groups and representatives across Taranaki - creating awareness so it can be used as an advocacy tool and guide.
2. The plan is socialised to all key stakeholders and funders across Taranaki so there is alignment to best achieve desired outcomes.
3. Engage Sport Taranaki to assist with the formation of the Taranaki Equestrian Facility Advisory Group within TEN – and establish six-monthly meetings with all stakeholders. Focus should also be placed on exploring the roles, responsibilities and structure of TEN to potentially operate and be recognised as a regional sport and recreation body.
4. Continue to progress and monitor the high priority projects and identified sector priorities.
5. Seek representation or advisory on the Taranaki Trails Trust and other associated groups across the region.
6. Investigate shared service opportunities with Sport Taranaki through the Taranaki Different and Better change management project.
7. The plan and assessment criteria should be viewed as a living tool. The 'Facility Advisory Group' can assess or re-assess projects as they arise or evolve to ensure focus and resource is deployed to gain the best outcomes.

The priority action plan should be updated annually to reflect any changes that have occurred and distributed to the equestrian community and stakeholders. This should include influence or advocacy surrounding wider equestrian sector priorities.

8. Review the plan in 5-years to analyse impact and reflect change from prospective upgrades and developments across Taranaki.

PART B:
BACKGROUND
CONTEXT

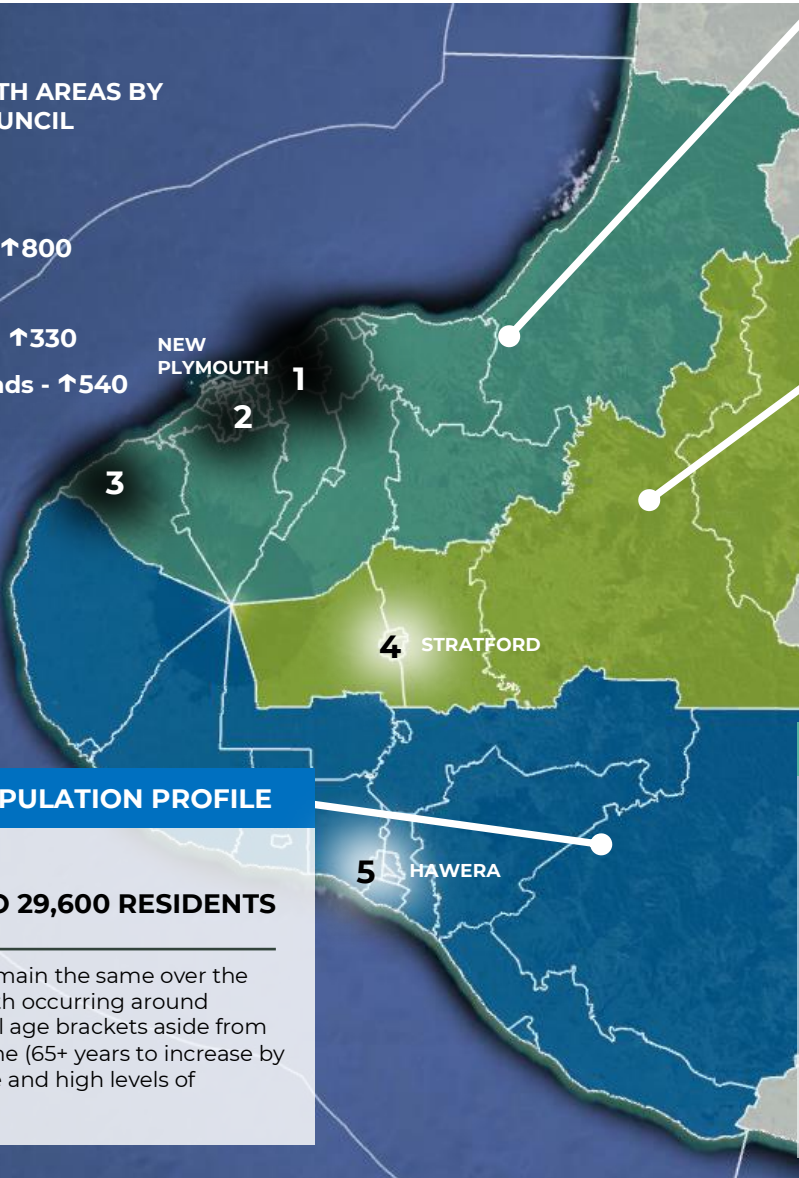


4.0

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

KEY MAIN GROWTH AREAS BY DISTRICT COUNCIL

1. Bell Block - ↑2,290
2. Fitzroy-Glen Avon - ↑800
3. Kaitake - ↑680
4. Stratford (N, S & C) - ↑330
5. Egmont Showgrounds - ↑540



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT - POPULATION PROFILE

2006-18	2023-48	TO 98,600 RESIDENTS
↑17%	↑12%	

There is moderate population growth expected across the District over the next 25-years – with various growth areas identified to the east of New Plymouth. However, the composition will change with less young people and a notable increase in the 65+ year old bracket (↑54%). It is forecast that all ethnicities will increase, with high proportionate growth evident for non-European ethnicities. There are varying levels of deprivation across the district.

STRATFORD DISTRICT - POPULATION PROFILE

2006-18	2023-48	TO 10,450 RESIDENTS
↑7%	↑2%	

The population is forecast to remain relatively stable over the next 25-years. The most concentrated growth is expected in Stratford Central. There is considerable decline in young and middle-aged residents and a high increase in the 65+ year bracket. European are to remain the predominant ethnicity, with Māori residents representing the highest numeric growth. There is moderate deprivation with higher levels evident to the south of Stratford township.

SUMMARY

Overall, Taranaki is forecast to experience moderate population growth, with 98% of the growth expected to occur in the New Plymouth District.

By 2048, it is projected the New Plymouth District will comprise 71% of Taranaki's population. In the context of facilities, it is important to consider how to service the predominant population whilst also servicing the geographic spread of the region. Having accessible and local facilities is vitally important for the network to reduce travel barriers and when considering varying deprivation levels.

The composition of the population is also changing with decline across young people (which may have a bearing on Pony Clubs and their traditional delivery) and a significant increase in the 65+ year age bracket. Therefore, equestrian facility provision and activity delivery will need to consider how to continue supporting an aging population and increase the engagement/capture rate of young people to grow and remain sustainable.

SOUTH TARANAKI - POPULATION PROFILE

2006-18	2023-48	TO 29,600 RESIDENTS
↑4	↑0%	

The population is forecast to remain the same over the next 25-years, with some growth occurring around Egmont Showgrounds (SA2). All age brackets aside from 65+ years are expected to decline (65+ years to increase by 49%). There are some moderate and high levels of deprivation across the district.

5.0

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

TABLE 5.1 – STRATEGIC AND SECTOR CONTEXT THAT INFORMS THE TARANAKI EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES PLAN

COUNCILS	 <h3 style="margin: 0;">OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY -</h3>			 <h2 style="margin: 0;">Long-Term Plan</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">2021 - 2031</p>
	<p>New Plymouth District Council's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy (2015) Council identifies their role for equestrian activity as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open spaces will continue to be provided for pony club grounds and arenas. • Acknowledges Hawera is a regional and national facility for indoor equestrian. • Bridle trails will be considered when planning for the future network of shared pathways, including paper roads. 	<p>A key objective: Shared pathway networks are developed for multiple uses along waterbodies and the coast, so they are easily accessed by the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared pathways provide opportunities for commuter routes, mountain biking, equestrian and recreation with dogs. 	<p>NPDC's strategic vision for a sustainable Lifestyle Capital is supported by five goals – partnerships, delivery, community, sustainability, and prosperity.</p> <p>Increase in residential population and visitor numbers will create more demand for parks and open spaces and increase the number of people accessing facilities. An ageing population, environmental impacts and other community demands will require agile responses to meet identified needs.</p>	
	 <h3 style="margin: 0;">LONG TERM PLAN 2021-2031</h3>	 <h3 style="margin: 0;">THE MOST LIVEABLE DISTRICT</h3>	 <h3 style="margin: 0;">REGIONAL Land Transport Plan FOR TARANAKI 2021/22 – 2026/27</h3>	
	<p>Stratford District Council LTP</p> <p>Vision: A vibrant, resilient, and connected community – in the heart of Taranaki.</p> <p>Of specific relevance to this plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have well planned and resilient infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of the district. • We promote opportunities to visit, live and invest in the district. • We celebrate and embrace our community's cultures and traditions. 	<p>South Taranaki District Council LTP</p> <p>The following Community Priorities are of most relevance to the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative and updated community facilities and services across the District. • Cycleways and pathways for residents and visitors. • Improve and maintain roads and footpaths. • Community and Cultural activities, entertainment and events, particularly for youth. • Actively engage with the community particularly youth. 	<p>Taranaki Regional Council</p> <p>The Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki and the Regional Walkways and Cycleways Strategy for Taranaki make little reference or connection to horse-related activity.</p> <p>Equestrian activity has the opportunity to support the vision and objectives of the strategy. This can be achieved through establishing partnerships for exploring possible options across the network that can meet a diverse range of community outcomes.</p>	



The Taranaki Sport Facility Strategy identifies the following:

- High quality indoor facility suitable for national events in Hawera, however, travel times restrict access as a local facility from northern Taranaki.
- There is no access to indoor facilities in the north.
- Limited opportunities for casual riding with increasing restrictions on beach access limiting use.
- Declining access to private farm land.
- Ability to ride safely on public roads due to the design of roads and steep verges.
- Disjointed facilities make it difficult to transition participants from pony club through to other disciplines.
- Priority: developing a multi-discipline community level facility or network of facilities within the north to meet the needs of the main population base.



Vision – “Enabling women and girls to realise their potential in and through sport and active recreation.”

Three key priority areas underpin the strategy:

1. Leadership – more women and girls are leading, working, coaching and volunteering at all levels.
2. Participation – more women and girls are physically active.
3. Value and Visibility – women and girls in sport and active recreation are valued and visible.

With 82% of regional equestrian membership being female across a wide age band, provision of equestrian activity is well aligned to support national outcomes.



Sport NZ Strategic Plan – Every Body Active

- Focus placed on tamariki (5-11 years) and rangatahi (12-18) which is well aligned with the regional equestrian membership profile (56% are under 18).
- And more specifically, activities such as Pony Club are well positioned to cater directly to these age cohorts.
- This phase of life provides the greatest chance of establishing lifelong involvement in Play, Active Recreation and Sport (through quality experiences).

Taranaki Different and Better

Sport Taranaki is working with the sport and recreation sector on the Taranaki Different and Better project. The project is working to transform traditional ways sport and recreation is governed and delivered in Taranaki to tackle longstanding issues and provide better quality experiences for participants. Working collaboratively for a better future.



To best establish and support equestrian outcomes the following key network objectives have been identified in the draft National Equestrian Facilities Strategy:

ACCESSIBLE AND SECURE - we have the right type of facilities, in the most suitable locations, with secure tenure to facilitate equestrian activity for all.

FIT-FOR-PURPOSE - our sites and facilities reflect what our communities need (suitable type and function), are in good condition to facilitate use and support environmental practices.

OPTIMISATION - we optimise and maximise use of our sites through collaboration and partnership. In doing so, our sites are complementary to one another, and are financially and operationally sustainable (with reduced impact on our workforce and volunteer base).

EQUINE WELFARE - our sites and facilities have continued focus on supporting equine welfare.

INCREASE PARTICIPATION - our equestrian sites extract the greatest possible value for our communities and provide quality experiences for all equestrians – leading to more people being involved and greater use of our sites.

Note: other insights inform the draft strategy are included throughout the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan.

6.0 WEATHER IMPACTS

Weather is a critical variable that needs to be considered for determining the location and provision of equestrian sites and the type of facilities needed – having the right facilities in the right locations.

From one viewpoint, the provision of equestrian land can be advantageous by maintaining large permeable areas to absorb heavy rainfall and flooding (particularly sites located in low lying areas). Many equestrian-leased sites across the country are located on land that is susceptible to flooding which is why they are typically not used for other purposes.

However, from a sport and recreation perspective, having low resilient sites (i.e. located in a flood plain) creates uncertainty of use, can cause notable damage (with potential cost ramifications), lead to ongoing maintenance issues, impact the overall participant experience and possibly effect horse welfare.

WEATHER PATTERNS

Figure 6.1 shows national median annual rainfall levels over a 30-year period from 1981-2010. This demonstrates there is a relatively high level of annual rainfall that occurs across Taranaki.

When refining this further into the context of Taranaki, most rainfall occurs centrally around and to the east of Mount Taranaki (Figure 6.2), which encapsulates a number of equestrian sites (see Sections 11.1 and 11.2).

When analysing more recent weather trends and events, February in both 2022 and 2023 experienced high monthly rainfall (see Figures 6.3 and 6.4) which has negatively impacted equestrian activity (across casual, organised activity and events). If this level of rainfall continues to be prevalent regardless of traditional seasons, equestrian facilities need to be resilient and respond to the issues facing it – particularly across Central Taranaki.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- The need for resilient sites – suitable access, reduced recovery time for surfaces to bounce back, reduce damage and the associated cost and volunteer time required.

- Ensuring suitable surfaces (i.e. good draining natural arenas and all-weather arenas) and indoor/covered facilities are accessible to increase certainty of participating.
- Support equine welfare (suitable footing and support infrastructure) and rider/handler experiences.
- Increase certainty for hosting competitions and shows across the region (or risk potential financial impact and less opportunities for equestrians to participate).
- As there are various sites located across Central Taranaki and susceptible to high rainfall, suitable surfaces and regular maintenance are required to provide safe and positive experiences.

FIGURE 6.1 – NATIONAL MEDIAN ANNUAL RAINFALL (1981-2010)

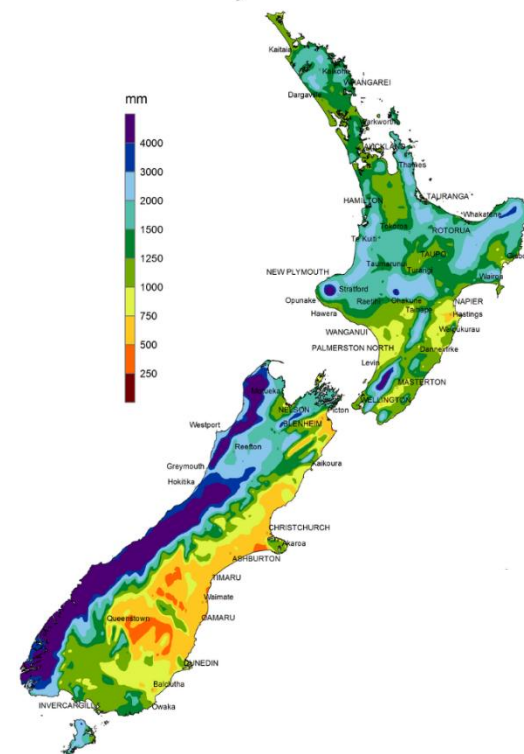
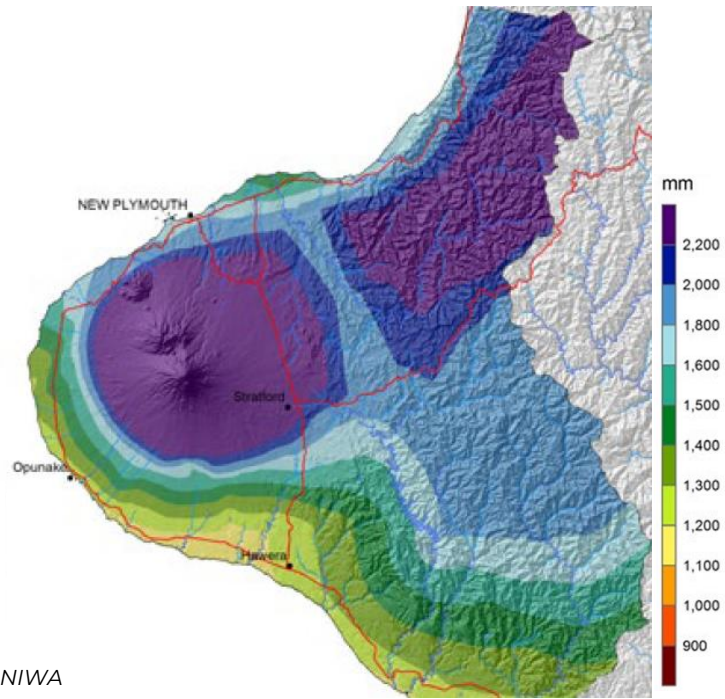
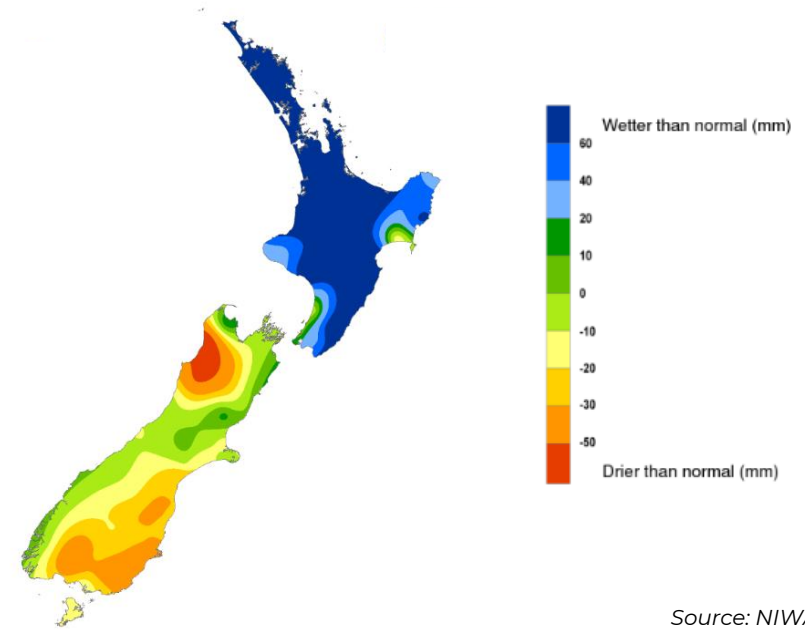


FIGURE 6.2 – TARANAKI MEDIAN ANNUAL RAINFALL (1981-2010)



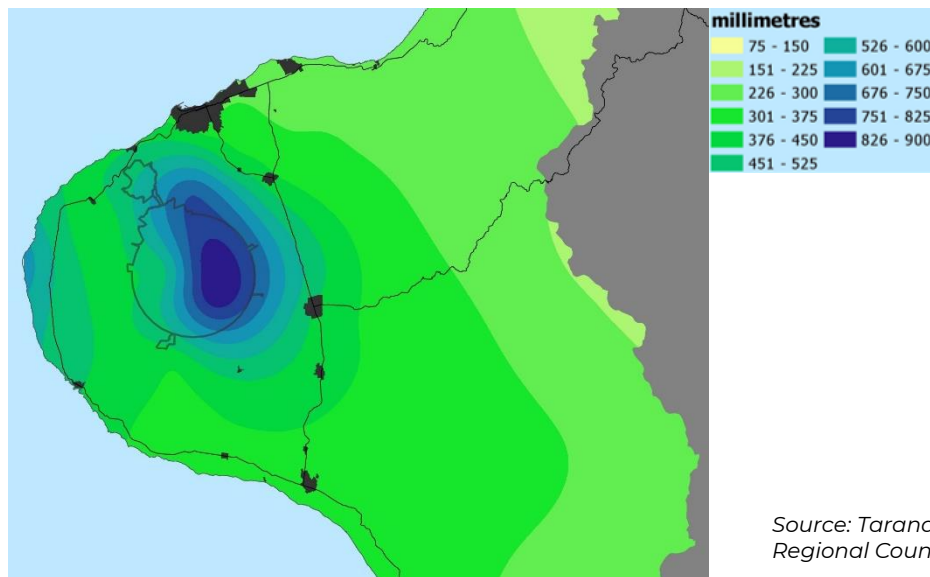
Source: NIWA

FIGURE 6.4 – FEBRUARY 2023 SOIL MOISTURE ANOMALY



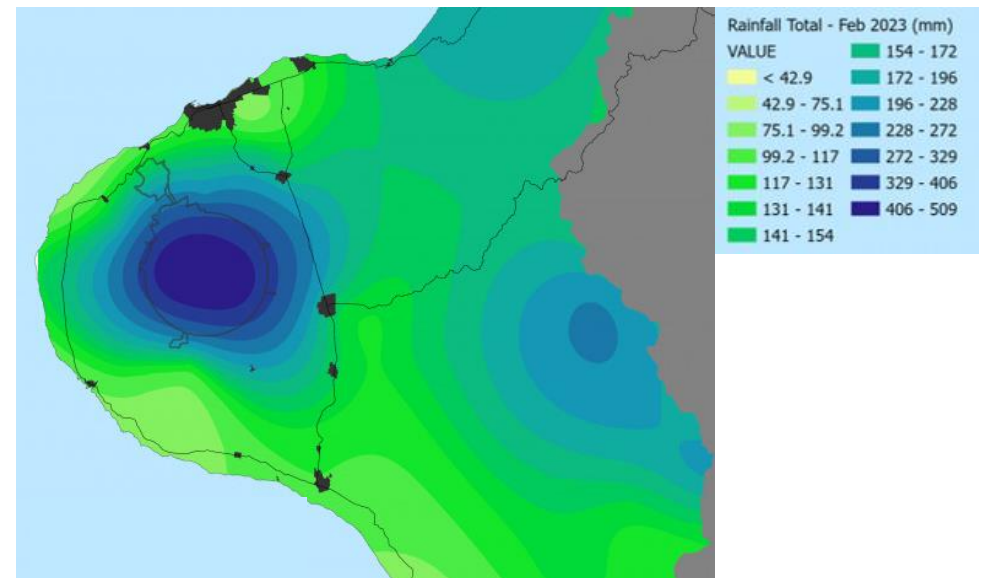
Source: NIWA

FIGURE 6.3 – FEBRUARY 2022 RAINFALL



Source: Taranaki Regional Council

FIGURE 6.5 – FEBRUARY 2023 RAINFALL



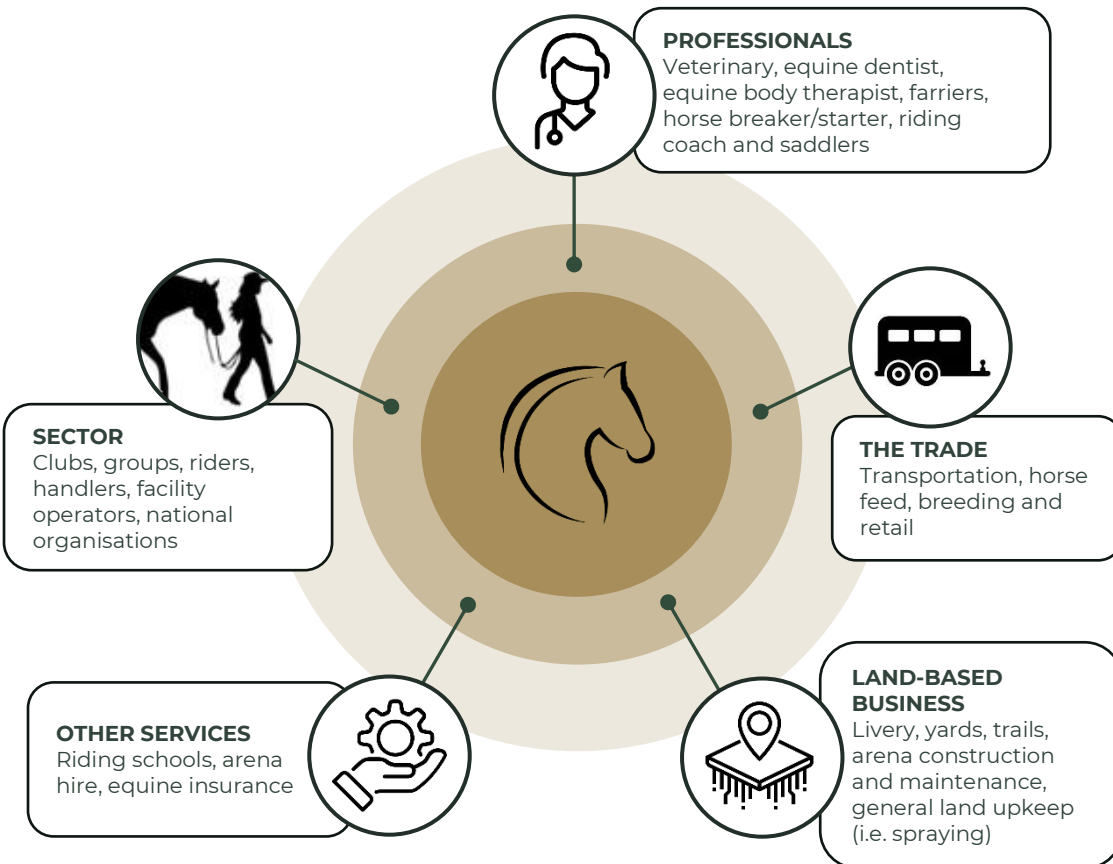
7.0

ECONOMIC & FUNDING CONTEXT

7.1 THE SYSTEM

Equestrian activity operates within a wider industry and supply chain with substantial economic contribution to local and national economies, which sets it apart from many other sport and recreation activities. Some of the key components of the equestrian supply chain are highlighted in Figure 7.1.

FIGURE 7.1 – KEY COMPONENTS OF THE EQUESTRIAN SUPPLY CHAIN



7.2 ECONOMIC IMPACT

In 2012, an economic report of the New Zealand Sport Horse Industry (excluding racing horses) was completed by Alex Matheson and Michèle E.M. Akoorie. While there are limitations to this analysis, it provides insights on the level and type of spend associated with sports horses.

The greatest level of annual expenditure was associated with vehicle expenses and maintenance (\$2,780), followed by grazing, agistment or livery (\$1,350), feed (\$1,220) and farrier or hoof trimmer (\$1,000) costs.

The study found the average cost per horse was \$12,457 per annum (2012 national average). It should be noted these costs do not include capital expenses (i.e. horse, property and/or floats/trucks). When applying general CPI inflation to the average cost per horse of \$12,457 this equates to around \$16,000 per horse annually in 2023.

REGIONAL IMPACT

On average, Taranaki Equestrian 'Have Your Say' respondents indicated they own 2 horses (2.4) which are used for equestrian activity (casually or formally).

The indicative number of equestrians in Taranaki is 1,400 (see Section 8.2) – translating to around 3,360 horses. Based on all above assumptions from the economic impact report, it is expected the equestrian community are spending around \$53.8 million annually (excluding capital purchases). This spend is largely supporting the local economy as all services are available in Taranaki (although some expenses may occur when travelling outside of the region).

When also considering the economic impact from events and capital purchases, there is significant economic and social benefit for supporting and facilitating equestrian activity across Taranaki.

Figure 7.1 Source Inputs: *The Equine Industry: The British Study (2004)*, *Sports Logistics Outsourcing: a Conceptual and Qualitative Study in the Equine Industry (2018)* and *Taranaki Equestrian Network*.

A WAY OF LIFE

There are some misconceptions in the wider public that equestrian-activity is elitist. Although the costs are relatively high to participate due to the nature of the activity (participant and equine needs), for many it is their lifestyle.

In a survey undertaken by Equestrian Sport New Zealand, 27% of respondents have a household income of under \$70,000, while a further 26% were over \$150,000. For comparison, the average annual household income in 2021 was \$111,000.

7.3 FUNDING CLIMATE

GRANT FUNDING

Since 2019 (and excluding 2020 due to COVID-implications), Class 4 grant funding (gaming machines in pubs and clubs outside of a casino setting) for Taranaki equestrian-related activity has ranged between \$119,000-164,000 (including operational and capital funding) – totalling \$435,613. Additionally, Toi Foundation granted \$270,000 of capital funds between 2019 and 2022 and a further \$60,000 from Lotteries. This equates to approximately \$765,000 between 2019 and 2022.

Since 2013, equestrian groups have received capital grants from TOI Foundation totalling \$426,605. A majority of funds have been attributed to the Egmont A&P Showgrounds, New Plymouth RDA and Horses helping Humans. Additionally, five pony clubs and Taranaki Hunt received smaller grants for facility upgrades and equipment.

Year-on-year, ESNZ disciplines are the primary receiver of equestrian-related grants ranging between 53-72% of total distributed grants across Taranaki from Class 4 funders (capex and opex). 2019 and 2020 are the main outliers which directly relates to the development of the covered arena at New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled (71% of granted funds).

In 2022, only 14 applications from Taranaki equestrian groups were received by all Class 4 funders – with a 100% success rate (with 62% of funds requested being granted). Of the 14 applications submitted, 29% were from RDA's. Comparatively, in 2019, there was a slightly higher number of applications received (19) with a 95% success rate.

This indicates the following:

- There are very few clubs/groups submitting Class 4 funding applications when considering the number of individual clubs and groups across Taranaki (13 clubs/groups have submitted over 4 years – which also includes pony club areas).

There are an additional four facility operators or clubs which received capital grant funding from Toi Foundation.

- Equestrian activity across Taranaki appears well supported with funding applications submitted having a high success rate.
- More support and/or direction may be required for clubs, groups and organisations to submit applications to support their operations and facilities (this could be under a coordinated approach to maximise funding opportunities in line with priorities).

FUNDING DIRECTION

Derived with meetings with funders and Sport New Zealand, the funding landscape continues to be constrained. Therefore, it is important to understand where funders are targeting their investment. In general terms, the following are key aspects funders have cited:

- Maximise investment value through multi-sport or community hub projects. For equestrian, this could include shared trails, multiple equestrian clubs, groups, disciplines and activities collocating, sharing facilities/land (i.e. cross-country running, dog obedience or archery), partnership opportunities with adjacent sports fields or other facilities.
- Funding into low socio-economic areas.
- Funders are less inclined to invest into private facilities as there is a perceived inherent risk. This is mainly associated with improving land or capital value which could be sold with no guarantee of ongoing community benefit.
- Need to demonstrate high community value with secured tenure – providing some assurance that funding is being granted in the right place and for a long period.
- Funders will concentrate distributing a majority of their funds into the geographic community in which funds were raised from – this aligns well with equestrian activity being a strong feature in the Taranaki landscape.

PART C:
REGIONAL
EQUESTRIAN SETTING



8.0 PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

8.1 MEMBER OVERVIEW

Equestrian-related membership is extremely diverse, and in many cases, there is cross-pollination between groups or activities. This can be demonstrated via the Taranaki ‘Have Your Say’ survey. Of those respondents that selected they are a member of an organised equestrian activity, on average they are members of 1.6 equestrian clubs/groups.

Of note, respondents who are members of a riding school are involved in more clubs/groups (2.5) compared to other membership types (i.e. pony club, ESNZ or adult riding). By territorial authority, members are more likely to be associated with more clubs/groups in South Taranaki (1.87), followed by Stratford (1.56) and New Plymouth (1.50).

The figures represented in Table 8.1 outline the number of total membership records by equestrian activity (not individual members) based on available data. A full breakdown by club/group is included in Appendix A.

OVERALL MEMBERS	
ADULT RIDING CLUBS	95
ESNZ DISCIPLINES	184*
PONY CLUBS	398*
WESTERN RIDING CLUB	40
HUNT CLUBS	157
A&P ASSOCIATIONS	150
OTHER CLUBS (MINIATURE & ARABIAN HORSE)	64
OTHER (MOUNTED GAMES & WORKING EQUITATION)	30
SUBTOTAL	1,118+
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED	136
OTHER THERAPY	146
TOTAL	1,400+

*Based on ESNZ membership data – this represents 155 individual members

+Based on NZPCA membership data

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The geographic distribution of ESNZ and pony club membership is shown in Map 8.1. As other address data was not available, a localised adjustor has been applied in Map 8.1 based on where clubs/groups are located (where possible). The key findings are:

- The highest overall membership is attributed to New Plymouth District. Membership is relatively evenly dispersed across this district with no main concentrations evident.
- There is a notably higher proportion of ESNZ and NZPCA members located within the New Plymouth boundary (65% of membership type), with other membership types more prominent across Stratford and South Taranaki.
- Equestrian membership activity is diverse across Stratford District. ESNZ and NZPCA membership comprises only 21% of overall membership, with the remainder split by a full range of activities.

Note the ESNZ and pony club figures from Table and Map 8.1 do not quite match as member addresses and club membership were presented from different datasets and duplicate disciplines.

Table 8.2 shows a slightly different viewpoint to understand the ‘capture rate’, meaning how many residents per equestrian member by territorial authority. Table 8.2 shows:

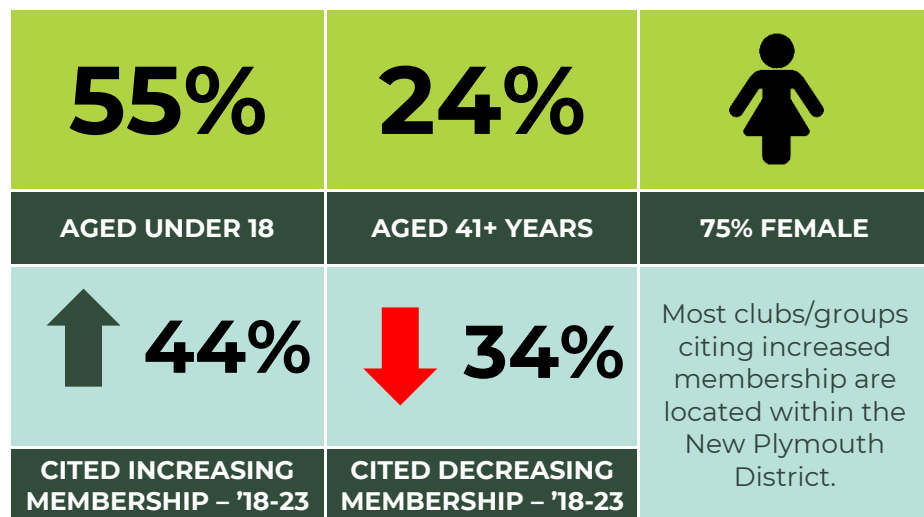
- There are notably higher relative levels of engagement in equestrian activity per resident in Stratford, more moderate levels in South Taranaki and lower rates in New Plymouth District.

TABLE 8.2 – MEMBERSHIP CAPTURE RATE BY TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	2023 POPULATION	MEMBERS PER 1,000 OF POP.
New Plymouth District	88,300	7
South Taranaki	29,600	12
Stratford District	10,250	29
Taranaki	128,150	11

MEMBERSHIP TRENDS & COMPOSITION

Clubs and groups which responded through an online survey outlined membership trends and composition, with the summary findings highlighted below:



Across Taranaki NZPCA membership has reduced by around 13% since 2018 (includes the impact of the Hawera Pony Club going into recess) and ESNZ membership has remained relatively stable.

8.2 EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT

While most data captured encompasses membership-based equestrians, it is known there is a high concentration of horse riding and leading occurs outside of a formal membership structure.

A combination of the Sport New Zealand's Insights Tool and the geographic distribution of membership data has been used to calculate the indicative number of equestrians in the region.

Taranaki has an expected horse riding/equestrian participation rate of 0.8%. Table 8.3 applies this rate against current and forecast population for the region. Using the statistical sample, it is expected there are around 1,000 equestrians across the region which is forecast to grow to 1,100 over the next 25 years.

While it may appear the data underestimates equestrian activity when comparing to membership levels, it may further reflect the number of groups and activities equestrians engage in. For instance, 1,400 total membership records divided by 1.6 – average number of groups equestrians are involved in – equates to 875 members. The equestrian community have indicated 1,000 under-estimates the number of equestrians across the region. **Therefore, a banding of 1,000-1,400 is an indicative measure and has been used in this strategy.**

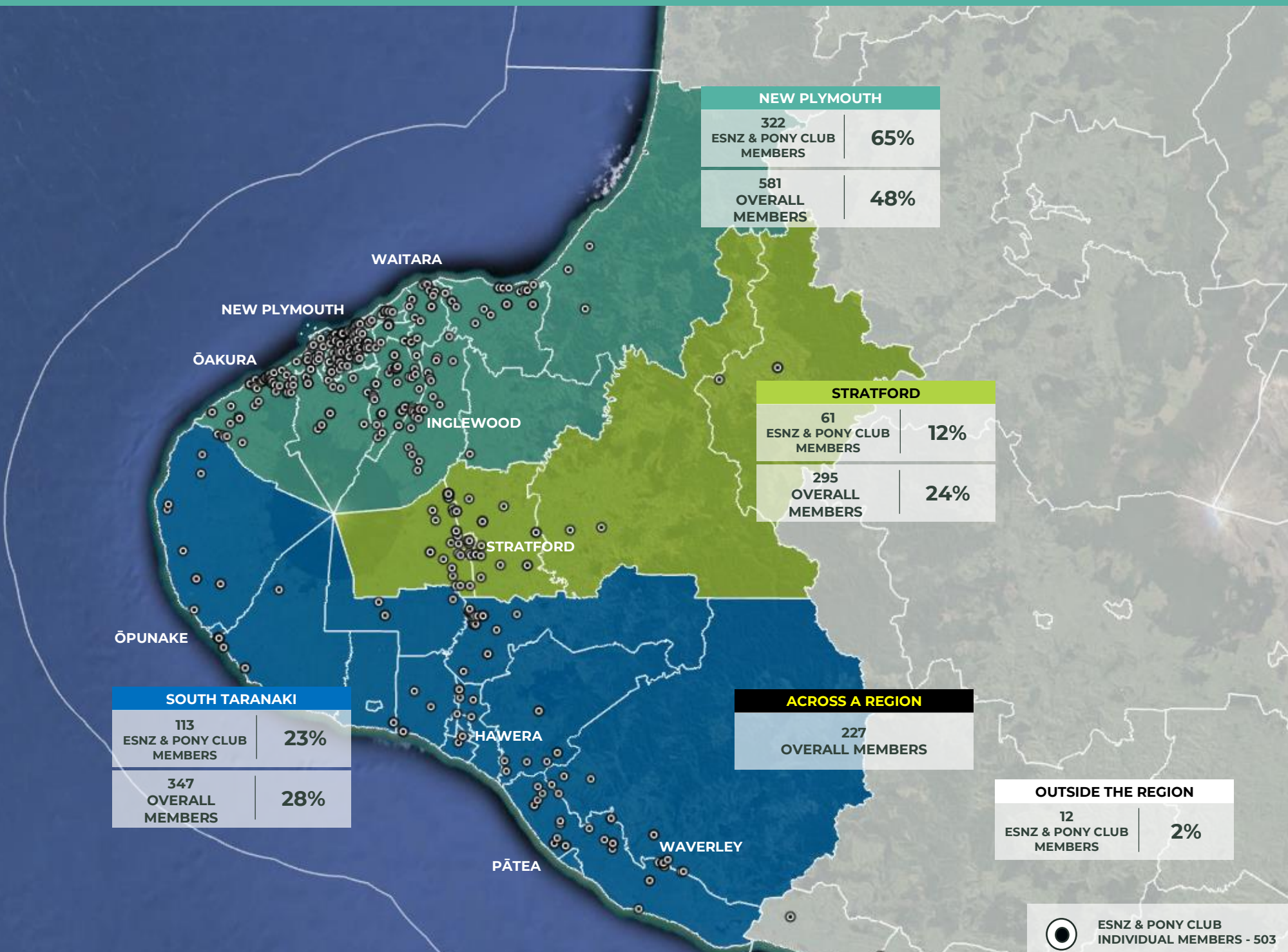
TABLE 8.3 – ESTIMATED NUMBER OF TARANAKI EQUESTRIANS

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION RATE	2023 POP.	EQUES. 2023	2038 POP.	EQUES. 2038	2048 POP.	EQUES. 2048
0.80%	128,150	1,025	136,100	1,089	138,500	1,108
Adjusted by Membership	128,150	1,400	136,100	1,487	185,500	1,513

As the sample size is too small to apply at a Territorial Authority level, the distribution of equestrian members has been applied against the indicative equestrian bandings from Table 8.3. This provides an indicative number of equestrians per territorial authority. This is shown in Table 8.4.

TABLE 8.4 – ESTIMATED EQUESTRIANS BY TERRITORY AUTHORITY

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	DISTRIBUTION RATE	ESTIMATED EQUESTRIANS - 2023
New Plymouth District	48%	492-672
South Taranaki	24%	287-392
Stratford District	28%	246-336
Total		



8.3 GRAZING SITES

While the residential addresses provide a general overview of where the membership is concentrated, the location of grazing sites for horses and ponies is of more importance to the equestrian facility network.

Grazing sites provide more in depth understanding of where horses and ponies are located across the region, their location relative to equestrian facilities and overall travel time for members to participate.

Tables 8.5 to 8.8 provide analysis from data sourced through the Taranaki Equestrian 'Have Your Say' survey.

SUMMARY

- Over 70% of survey respondents graze their horses and/or ponies at their residential address (similar results were found in other regions).
- Therefore, grazing sites across the region resemble the residential data of ESNZ and NZPCA membership.
- There is a significantly higher proportion of grazing sites located in New Plymouth District.
- Most grazing is concentrated in rural areas (81%), with lower proportions of rural grazing occurring in South Taranaki and Stratford (due to the number and distribution of small towns and villages).
- 71% of all non-residential grazing occurs in New Plymouth District. South Taranaki shows the lowest proportion of non-residential grazing and Stratford the highest proportion.
- Survey respondents indicated they typically travel between 1-15 minutes to their grazing site (where applicable). More refined analysis shows this is typically between 11-12 mins and generally longer for equestrians residing in New Plymouth District.

WHAT CAN WE MAKE FROM THIS?

The data illustrates some notable trends and patterns which are also evident in Section 8.1 and further reflected in other areas of the country.

- Around 70% of grazing occurs at the residential home which removes any additional drive time to access equestrian facilities (aligning with preferred drive times).
- Survey respondents typically drive up to 16-30 mins (largest concentration) for rallies/training and horse welfare/health services, and most travel over 60+ mins for regional shows/events from their grazing site. 90% deem these drive times as suitable.
- Therefore, future provision should consider the importance of local sites to support day-to-day activity for optimising and maximising use (formal and informal) and the positioning of higher tiered sites to host regional shows and events.

TABLE 8.5 – GRAZING SITES BY TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY (SURVEY FINDINGS)

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	NUMBER	PROPORTION
New Plymouth District	274	70%
South Taranaki	60	15%
Stratford District	60	15%
Total	394*	

*Total numbers vary as some address data was not provided, inaccurate or incomplete so were unable to be coded.

TABLE 8.6 – BREAKDOWN OF GRAZING LOCATION

LOCATION	NUMBER	PROPORTION
Home Grazing	281	71%
Non-Residential Grazing Sites	113	29%

TABLE 8.7 – NON-RESIDENTIAL GRAZING BREAKDOWN

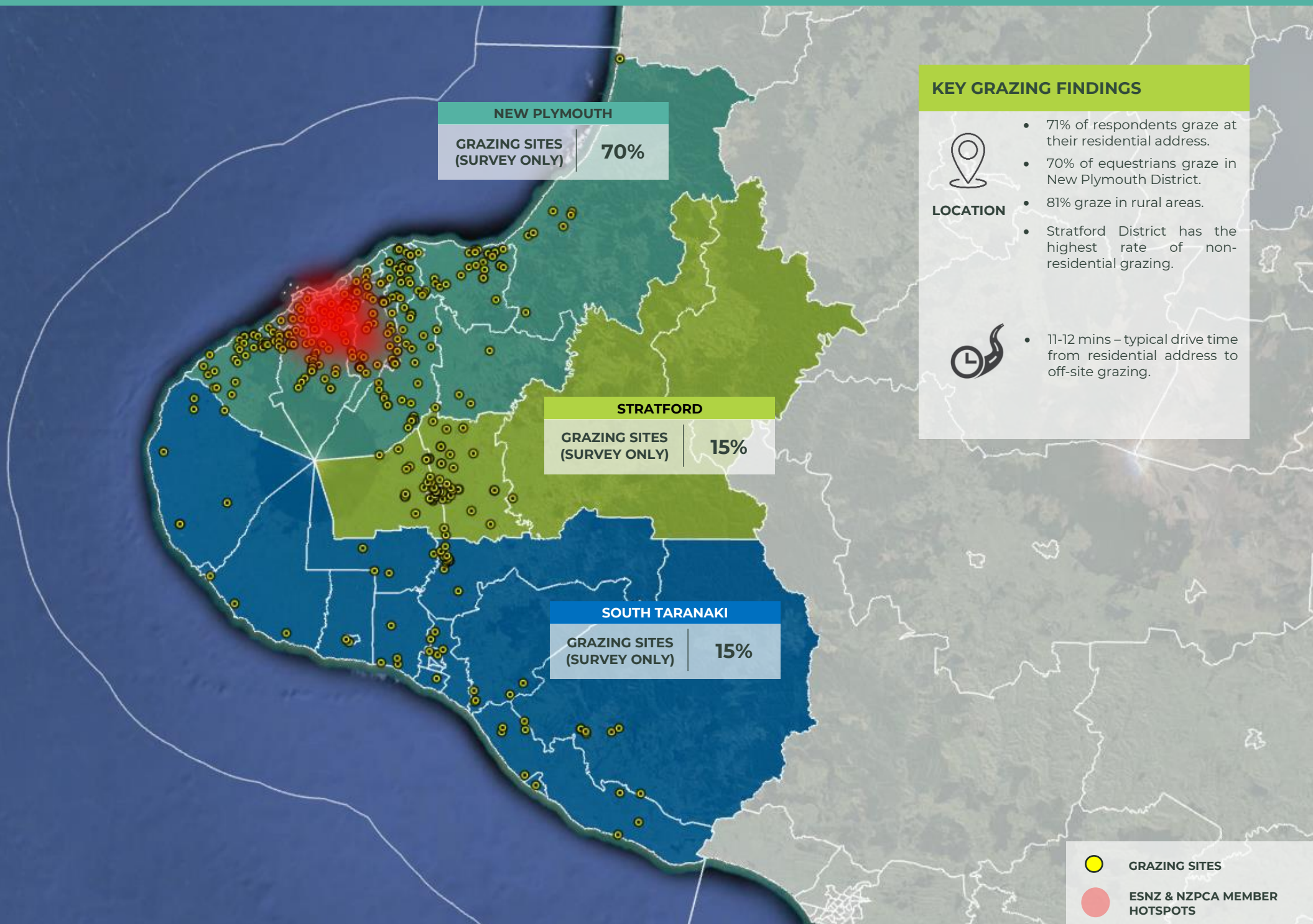
TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	% OF NON-RESIDENTIAL GRAZING	% OF ALL GRAZING
New Plymouth District	71%	29%
South Taranaki	12%	22%
Stratford District	18%	33%

TABLE 8.8 – AVERAGE DRIVE-TIME ANALYSIS FROM HOME TO GRAZING SITE

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY (HOME OF RESIDENCE)	AV. TRAVEL TIME FROM HOME TO GRAZING SITE
New Plymouth District	12 mins
South Taranaki	10 mins
Stratford District	8.5 mins
Overall	11-12 mins

TABLE 8.9 – URBAN AND RURAL SETTINGS

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	URBAN GRAZING SITES	RURAL GRAZING SITES	RURAL %
New Plymouth District	38	232	86%
South Taranaki	17	45	73%
Stratford District	19	40	68%
Overall	74	317	81%





NEW PLYMOUTH
GRAZING SITES (SURVEY ONLY) | **70%**

STRATFORD
GRAZING SITES (SURVEY ONLY) | **15%**

SOUTH TARANAKI
GRAZING SITES (SURVEY ONLY) | **15%**

KEY GRAZING FINDINGS

-  **LOCATION**
 - 71% of respondents graze at their residential address.
 - 70% of equestrians graze in New Plymouth District.
 - 81% graze in rural areas.
 - Stratford District has the highest rate of non-residential grazing.
-  **TIME**
 - 11-12 mins – typical drive time from residential address to off-site grazing.

 **GRAZING SITES**
 **ESNZ & NZPCA MEMBER HOTSPOTS**

9.0 EQUESTRIAN NETWORK

The equestrian facility network has been split into two distinct categories:

- 'Base' Equestrian Sites:** these are the core equestrian facilities typically used for more structured and organised equestrian activities and generally associated with hire or lease arrangements for access. These include pony club grounds, A&P Showgrounds, Racecourses, Equestrian Parks and other dedicated equestrian activity sites.
- Public Open Spaces:** these are generally sites which attract more casual/recreational use and are open to the wider equestrian community. Typical sites are bridle trails, beaches, forests, parks and the roadside.

Note: some base equestrian sites may comprise some public open spaces.

9.1 'BASE' EQUESTRIAN SITE OVERVIEW






A dashboard overview of base equestrian sites is outlined in the adjacent table, shown in Map 9.1 and a full inventory list detailed in Appendix A.

The following high-level insights are derived:

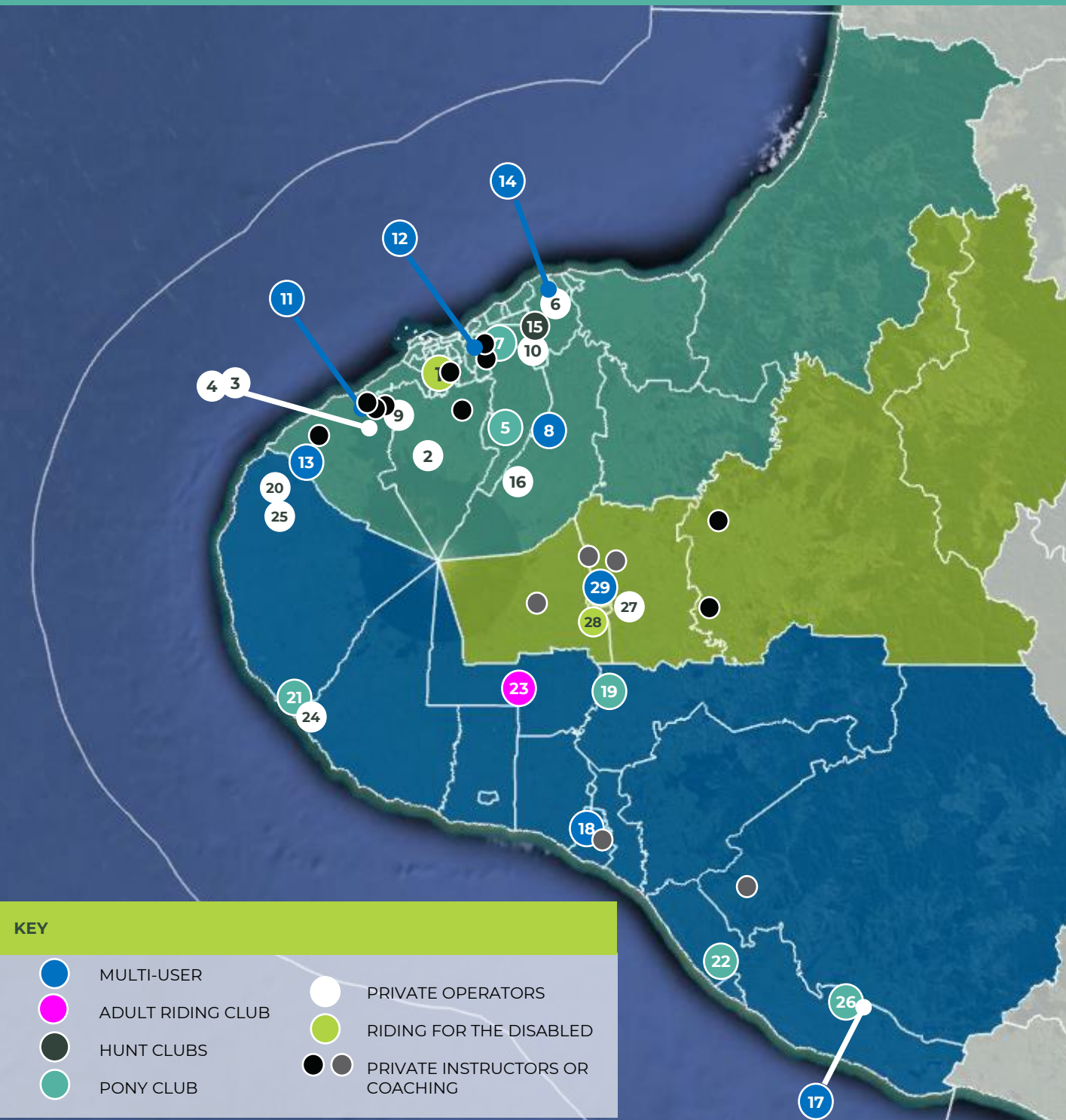
- There is a generally well distributed network of single activity sites used by clubs, groups and disciplines. This is primarily borne by the need to service local communities in remote areas.
- Most sites are concentrated in New Plymouth District (high relative population), followed by South Taranaki District (large geographic area with a mostly rural profile) and Stratford.
- These sites and services are complemented by a range of private facilities (i.e. riding schools and therapy). Additionally private instructors who own land and facilities, and private land for use by coaches who travel from outside of the region are also used.
- Overall, private land ownership is most prevalent (48%), primarily associated with riding school activity. When focusing on sites used by equestrian clubs, groups and disciplines, Council ownership is most prevalent (44%), followed by club/groups (22%) and private (17%).
- Management and maintenance of arena and ancillary facilities (i.e. yards) are typically the responsibility of clubs/groups (53%), which is heightened when excluding private sites.
- There is a high proportion of sites with all-weather arena across the region (61% for sites used by equestrian clubs, groups and disciplines).

There are two indoor/covered arena, one at the Egmont A&P Showgrounds and one at New Plymouth RDA.

- The equestrian network is well established with most sites over 30 years of age (55%). The emergence of privately owned facilities and delivery offerings has reduced the overall age of sites across the region.

FACILITY OVERVIEW (ALL SITES)		
<p>18/29 EQUESTRIAN SITES USED BY CLUBS/GROUPS</p>	<p>8 ARE MULTI-EQUESTRIAN SITES</p>	<p>11/29 + PRIVATE/OR OTHER FACILITY PROVIDERS</p>
LAND OWNERSHIP	MANAGE & MAINTAIN	AGE
<p>PRIVATE 48%</p> <p>COUNCIL 28%</p> <p>CLUB 14%</p> <p>A&P 7%</p> <p>TRUST 3%</p>	 <p>53% CLUB/GROUP</p>	 <p>55% OVER 30 YEARS OF AGE</p>
ALL-WEATHER ARENA	SITE LOCATION	
 <p>55% SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA</p>	New Plymouth District	16 sites (8 on private land)
	Stratford District	3 sites (1 on private land)
	South Taranaki District	10 sites (5 on private land)
FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY CLUBS, GROUPS AND DISCIPLINES)		
LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	AGE
<p>COUNCIL 44%</p> <p>CLUB 22%</p> <p>PRIVATE 17%</p> <p>A&P 11%</p> <p>TRUST 6%</p>	 <p>61% SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA</p>	 <p>67% OVER 30 YEARS OF AGE</p>

MAP 9.1 – BASE EQUESTRIAN FACILITY NETWORK



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

- 8 Jubilee Park
- 11 McKellar Park
- 12 New Plymouth Racecourse
- 13 Okato Domain
- 14 Ranfurly Park
- 1 Barrett Domain
- 5 Egmont Village Riding School
- 7 Glenara Farms
- 15 Taranaki Hunt
- 2 Clearwater Riding school
- 3 Deken Dressage
- 4 Dressage Vanessa's Way
- 6 Equine Interactive
- 9 Kererū Crossing
- 10 Madison Park
- 16 Winterland Riding Centre

STRATFORD DISTRICT

- 29 Stratford A&P Showgrounds
- 28 Pioneer Village Stratford
- 27 Karla Jamieson – Riding School

SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT

- 17 Dallison Park
- 18 Egmont A&P Showgrounds
- 19 Eltham Pony Club
- 21 Opunake Pony Club
- 22 Patea Pony Club
- 26 Waverley Pony Club
- 23 Taranaki Adult Riding Club
- 20 Horses Helping Humans
- 24 Tots can Trot
- 25 Warea Stables

KEY

● MULTI-USER	● PRIVATE OPERATORS
● ADULT RIDING CLUB	● RIDING FOR THE DISABLED
● HUNT CLUBS	● PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS OR COACHING
● PONY CLUB	

9.2 'BASE' EQUESTRIAN SITE INSIGHTS





The main constraints and insights about the network are summarised below, and further highlighted in the adjacent dashboard, in Appendix B and shown geographically in Maps 9.2 and 9.3.

SUMMARY

- Overall, the network is relatively settled with general security of tenure. However, there are three sites located in New Plymouth District which have a high degree of uncertainty and potential impact on the equestrian facility network (New Plymouth Racecourse, Ranfurly Park and Taranaki Hunt).
- There is a proposal to relocate equestrian activity to recently purchased land to help unlock the full Stratford Park master plan.
- In general, most facilities are perceived in average condition, with clubroom facilities deemed to be in the poorest condition. When considering the scale of facilities in this banding, considerable investment is required to support quality experiences and equine welfare.
- A majority of sites have available capacity which can be optimised.
- Privately owned facilities tend to have greater use levels due to the business-nature of operations. Currently, casual use is not typically captured for sites used by clubs/groups. This leads to understating facility use. Moving forward this data needs to be collected to fully demonstrate use and value.
- There is extremely good community engagement (population to equestrian members) across the region compared to national benchmarking.
- There is a relatively low number of members to sites. When this is coupled with capacity and geographic assessment it indicates there is some oversupply in the region. However, some sites service small and relatively isolated communities (equestrians typically drive under 30 minutes for trainings and rallies and longer for events).
- Access to indoor/covered arena is restricted by geographic location and sufficient size of arena to enable activity by a wide range of equestrian users.

- A large proportion of activity centres around Egmont A&P Showgrounds, Stratford A&P Showgrounds and Ranfurly Park for event hosting, access to cross-country courses and accommodate most equestrian activity.

INSIGHTS DASHBOARD

POOR CONDITION	ARENA CAPACITY	TENURE
		
ARENA – 6% (56% AV.)	50-60% Have Available Capacity	25% Uncertain Future
YARDS/STABLES – 29% (Av.)		
OTHER ANCILLARY – 25%		
NATIONAL BENCHMARKING		DRIVE TIME
HIGH % ALL-WEATHER SITES	LOW MEMBERS TO SITE #	
HIGH # OF SITES FOR GEOGRAPHIC AREA	HIGH ENGAGEMENT	
There is variability of the above variables across the districts.		61% Travel less than 30 mins to rallies and trainings

NATIONAL BENCHMARK INSIGHTS

To provide a level of consistency with national benchmarking, analysis is undertaken on sites used by pony clubs and ESNZ discipline groups (which accounts for the majority of non-commercial equestrian facilities across the country). Note this does not include sites used sparingly (i.e. Glenara Farms). Benchmark analysis is shown in Table 9.1.

Based on national benchmarking the Taranaki Region has:

- A high number of sites in the region (as a ratio of the number of sites compared to the total geographic size of the region).
- A low proportion of members per site in comparison to the national benchmark.
- High engagement for the region, with a low number of residents to provide one equestrian).
- High proportion of all-weather sites across Taranaki.

There appears to be a correlation between the high number of sites which service local communities and high community engagement (population capture rate). The low members per site is relative to some of the smaller population areas each site is servicing.

When refining this analysis by council boundaries, there is considerable variability across the region. Key findings include:

- New Plymouth District has the highest number of sites relative to land area, moderate membership to sites, high proportion of all-weather sites and slightly lower engagement levels. Some consolidation, future partnerships and/or changes to delivery may need to be considered.
- Most activity in Stratford is centralised which results in having the highest land area to site, member to site ratio and level of community engagement.
- South Taranaki have a relatively high number of sites but have low membership numbers. This reflects the large geographic area and the small communities that are dispersed across its expanse.

TABLE 9.1 – BENCHMARKING OF SITES USED BY PONY CLUBS AND DISCIPLINES

Area	Land Area : Sites	Members : Sites (2023)	Members : Sites (2048)	Pop. : Members	All-Weather : Sites
Taranaki	55,808	43	46	231	69%
National Benchmark	111,000	55	55	348	42%
Territorial Authorities					
New Plymouth	36,760	45	51	279	67%
Stratford	216,300	61	62	168	100%
South Taranaki	59,583	19	19	262	67%

GENERAL USE

- In general, organised use is notably higher with private operators. This is generally due to the ‘business-nature’ of the operations as it is their livelihood. Therefore, there is a need to maximise use and ensuring good quality facilities are maintained to retain users.
- There is variability of organised use across the sites which reflects the type and nature of the facilities provided and the communities they are servicing. Most pony club sites are used for 15-30 rally/training days annually plus events.

As organised use is only one way of engaging in equestrian activity, it is important to consider casual use of equestrian sites. Currently there are large data gaps across the region as casual use is not typically collected from site-to-site.

To assist with this data gap, the Taranaki Equestrian ‘Have Your Say’ survey provides a high-level indication of wider use. 71% of survey respondents indicated they use ‘base’ equestrian sites for training or casual use. Overall, 46% of respondents use ‘base’ equestrian sites greater than once a week (29% 1-2 times a week), 17% fortnightly and 22% monthly. Frequency of use drops slightly during winter (subject to ground and area suitability).

While use cannot be attributed to single sites, overall frequency levels far exceed annual training days – therefore in most cases utilisation data is understated. Moving forward, it is recommended this data is collected in some form to fully demonstrate use and value of the site/facilities.

- While a majority of sites have arena capacity to accommodate more use, there are some sites which are at capacity. This can be due to high

demand and scheduling capacity, lack of volunteers/workforce to activate or support more use, and/or the need to provide recovery time of paddocks or preserving arena surface quality.

Of geographic note is central New Plymouth District where Egmont Village Riding School (with Pony Club accreditation), Jubilee Park (Inglewood Pony Club) and Winterland Riding Centre have all expressed they are operating at capacity.

Where there are identified capacity pressures being experienced, the sites are typically located in relatively close proximity to another site which could absorb more demand.

CONDITION

- A majority of arena were cited to be in average condition, typically associated with surface quality (i.e. too hard, dusty) and/or prone to flooding. With a high proportion of arena in average condition, investment and regular repairs and maintenance are required or the condition is likely to reduce further, impacting the equestrian experience and equine welfare.
- Furthermore, New Plymouth Racecourse was cited in poor condition due to high grass length. The clubroom building is also in relatively poor condition with use of a generator and no running water.
- The indoor arena at the Egmont A&P Showgrounds is in average condition and has had some compatibility issues with other users impacting the surface (i.e. BMX). Half of the roof has been replaced and requires the other half to be completed. Furthermore, yards, stables and clubroom/event facilities are also deemed in average condition and require attention.
- Overall, arena appear to be in slightly better condition than supporting ancillaries (i.e. clubroom/event facilities and changing rooms/toilets). This demonstrates the priority placed on arena as the key enabler of equestrian activity with available resource.

SECURITY OF TENURE

29% of sites used by equestrian clubs and groups (and 25% of all survey respondents) cited security of tenure concerns. This creates notable uncertainty with potential impacts on the wider equestrian network. The key sites include:

1. **New Plymouth Racecourse** – planned development of the Tūparikino Active Community Hub at New Plymouth Racecourse will result in the displacement of New Plymouth Pony Club (lease has now expired and rolling month-to-month). While the community hub project is to be staged and some timelines extended, development of the site and the displacement of pony club activity is imminent. Therefore, the future network needs to consider the potential implications and opportunities this may present.
2. **Ranfurly Park, Waitara** – Ranfurly Park has split ownership between Crown (Department of Conservation) and Council. Under Section 12 of the Waitara Lands Act both land parcels are options for transfer to Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana. The overall site has underlying residential zoning and can be transferred as freehold land. Reserves Act status is immediately revoked before the land transfer takes place.

The current lease will remain in effect with Council until such time as Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana chooses to take up land transfers (both or either parcels). It should be noted Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana are unable to exercise the Landlord's right to terminate the lease without the prior written approval of council.

While Te Kōwhatu Tū Moana have not made any decisions regarding Ranfurly Park, the current lease expires in 2032. This places a high level of uncertainty on what the future may hold for equestrian activity. The park is a prominent equestrian site, supports a relatively high membership base, and plays a critical functional role for cross-country and event hosting. Therefore, any future restriction of activity, or repurposing the site altogether, will have serious implications on the equestrian network.

3. **Taranaki Hunt** – although the group owns the site, their tenure has been cited as uncertain due to noise control concerns. The group are aware of potential noise impacts for neighbours relating to running a pack of hounds.

Network vulnerability is specifically heightened in New Plymouth District, but felt more widely across Taranaki, when overlaying the possible access and functional impacts associated with potential high scale change.

FUNCTION

There are three primary multi-use equestrian sites across Taranaki. These consist of Ranfurly Park, Waitara, Stratford A&P Showgrounds and Egmont A&P Showgrounds (primarily operating as an events venue). Most equestrian clubs, groups and disciplines, as well as individual equestrians, utilise one or more of these three sites. The sites are geographically spread across the region and play a critical and complementary role for equestrian activity.

Indoor Arena – there are currently two indoor/covered arena located in New Plymouth and Hawera. The Egmont A&P Showground in Hawera comprises a standalone indoor arena which is 35m x 70m. However, there are some condition issues highlighted with both the surface and roof. The site is also located relatively far away from grazing sites and the primary equestrian membership concentrations which is not conducive or viable for high-levels of day-to-day equestrian use.

New Plymouth RDA (located at Barrett Park) developed a covered arena which opened in 2021. The structure has open ends and sides to let in natural light (no lighting is currently in place) and provides ventilation. While there is considerable capacity for more use after 2:30pm on weekdays and during weekends, use is limited by the arena size and parking capacity. The arena is 24m x 46m which is suitable for some dressage training but does not accommodate a full dressage arena/ring and it is not suitable for jumping. Combined with carparking limitations (maximum of 6 floats at once), the arena size restricts overall use by individuals and/or clubs/groups.

The New Plymouth RDA site does present equestrians with some opportunities for accessing quality facilities, although restricting the nature of what can be undertaken.

This analysis suggests there is a gap in accessible and suitable indoor/covered arena provision situated to best service the core catchment of grazing locations. Suitable location for a future indoor/covered facility needs to consider the other variables highlighted in this section including tenure issues and future proposed developments.

Cross-Country Courses – the region is reliant on Ranfurly Park, Waitara and Egmont A&P Showgrounds, Hawera, for accommodating full sized cross-country courses – complemented by numerous smaller paddocks at smaller local sites which comprise a range of jumps.

Ranfurly Park - there is some uncertainty regarding future land provision which may impact use (primary training site for equestrians regionally).

Egmont A&P Showgrounds – private adjacent land is used to accommodate events and not accessible for training opportunities.

Pony Clubs – there are various pony clubs geographically dispersed across the region. These sites provide localised equestrian opportunities in primarily small catchment areas which are evident across South Taranaki. It is important that local provision is provided for accessible opportunities for these more remote communities – with the level and type of facilities commensurate to membership size and nature of activity (focus placed on suitable core facilities i.e. arena and paddocks).

Events

- Most sites accommodate events with varying levels and activities at local, district and regional level. There are three sites which were scheduled to host ESNZ events across Taranaki in the 2022/23 season. These sites include Egmont A&P Showgrounds (6 scheduled events), Stratford A&P Showgrounds (1 event) and Waverley A&P Showgrounds – see Table 9.2 and Map 9.3.
- Egmont A&P Showgrounds is the primary events site in Taranaki, with 6 of the 8 originally scheduled ESNZ sanctioned events to be held in Hawera. Outside of Endurance and CTR, all other equestrian disciplines are accommodated at the showgrounds. While show hunter events are held in Stratford and Waverley respectively.
- When considering the wider ESNZ events network (2022/23 season), there are various jumping and/or show hunter events which are hosted in neighbouring Manawatū-Whanganui (as shown in Map 9.3). There are no dressage, eventing or endurance events beyond those held in Hawera in close proximity to Taranaki.

To participate in dressage events outside of Taranaki, equestrians are required to travel into the Waikato, Manfeild Park (Feilding), or further

afield. By contrast eventing equestrians need to travel as far as Taupō, Hamilton, Takapau, Hastings and beyond.

To participate in endurance events, equestrians are required to travel further afield to Scotts Ferry Beach (coastal from Feilding/Palmerston North), Waitahora or Pukeatua (Waikato District). Note sites for endurance events change based on availability and access to suitable sites.

TABLE 9.2 – ESNZ SCHEDULED EVENTS IN TARANAKI (2022/23)

DISCIPLINE	SITES USED	LEVEL OF COMPETITION (#)
DRESSAGE	Egmont A&P Showgrounds	Local (#1) Premier League (#1)
JUMPING & SHOW HUNTER	Egmont A&P Showgrounds	Grand Prix (#1) - jumping Premier (#2) – jumping & jumping/show hunter
	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	Not Specified (#1) – show hunter
	Dallison Park, Waverley	Not Specified (#1) – show hunter
EVENTING	Egmont A&P Showgrounds	CCN65-CCN2*-S (#1)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

While numerous groups and facility operators/owners are planning developments to upgrade and improve facilities to respond to issues outlined earlier, the most notable proposed development surrounds Stratford Park.

The proposed development of Stratford Park is extensive as it encompasses a wide range of facilities and services. A key component and activator of the overall master plan is the establishment of an Equestrian Park.

To unlock land to enable the development of the Motorsport Park and other facilities, land has been purchased by the A&P Association directly opposite the current site (adjacent to the Te Kapua Park Racecourse).

As a large greenfield site, it provides various development opportunities to meet equestrian needs. Additionally, it is well positioned to connect with Te Kapua Park Racecourse and to establish trails through the wider site.

The Equestrian Park concept was originally designed to complement Egmont A&P Showgrounds and not take away from hosting national and regional events. The primary focus is providing accessible and suitable equestrian facilities on a day-to-day basis (with key anchor user groups and high casual use) with the ability to host quality events.

Development of the Equestrian Park will be staged, with the proposed components to include:

- Large outdoor all-weather arena,
- Covered all-weather arena,
- Yards & stables,
- Grass arenas,
- Large flexible multi-use grass areas,
- Truck/float parking,
- Administration offices and ablutions.

Consideration should be given to accommodating Central Riding for the Disabled who are based at Egmont Village (with their lease expiring in 2026). Opportunities exist to consolidate sites and facilities, maximise use and increase the value proposition for investment (opex and capex).

The full development will need a primary domiciled anchor user (i.e. a riding school), supplemented by high organised and casual use to cover tenure costs and repairs and maintenance to ensure quality standards are in place to drive ongoing use.

TYPICAL DRIVE TIMES

The network needs to carefully balance and recognise the roles of localisation for typical day-to-day use and hosting events. As shown in Table 9.3, drive times vary based on the types of use.

There is a preparedness of equestrians to travel which is evident across the respective activities and services. Typically, the highest proportion of equestrians travel between 16-30 minutes for rallies and training (30%), with a notably higher proportion of equestrians travelling under 30 minutes (61%) than over 30 minutes (29%).

For attending local shows and events, drive times increase with 56% typically driving more than 30 minutes (majority within 31-60 minutes).

While drive times extend to primarily 60+ minutes for attending regional shows and events (34%).

90% of survey respondents indicated drive times were suitable to meet their equestrian needs. Where needs were not met, these related to a variety of reasons including more localisation (for trails and base sites mainly in North and South Taranaki) and closer access to vet services.

TABLE 9.3 – TYPICAL DRIVE TIMES FOR TARANAKI EQUESTRIANS

From Grazing to:	0 mins onsite	1-15 mins	16-30 mins	31-45 mins	46-60 mins	60+ mins
From grazing site to rallies/trainings	6%	26%	30%	14%	9%	6%
From grazing site to local shows/events	2%	4%	23%	23%	18%	15%
From grazing site to regional shows/events	2%	1%	8%	14%	18%	34%
From grazing site to horse welfare/health services	15%	19%	27%	12%	5%	12%

When considering the overall equestrian facility network with drive time analysis, there are enough base sites to service the activities. And in some cases, an oversupply in line with benchmarking analysis. However, the impact of other variables such as function, condition and tenure impact the ability of the network to operate in its optimal state.

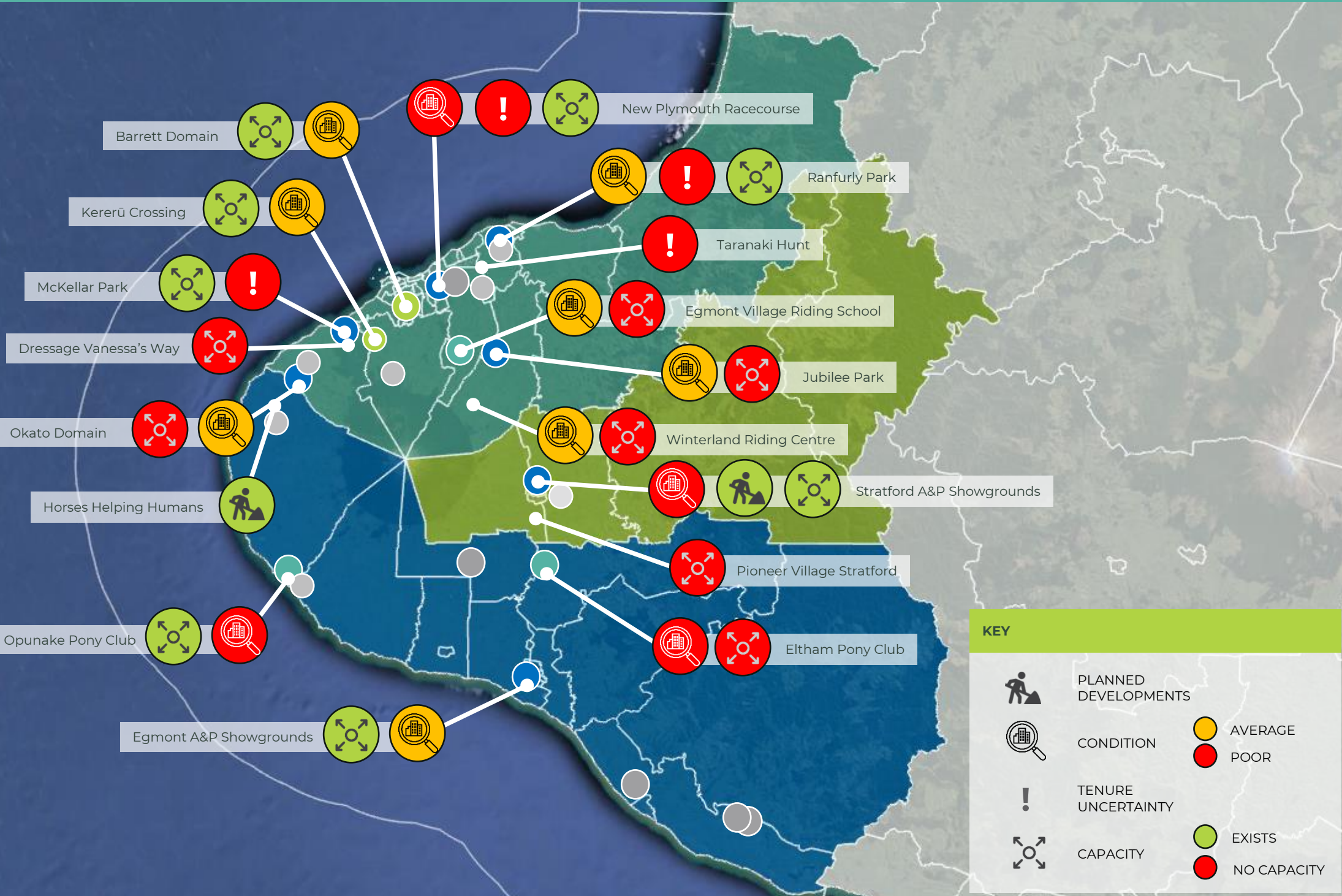
ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

A full range of environmental practices are utilised across the equestrian facility network. The primary practices include:









1. Vegetation and green spaces have generally been retained (90%).
2. Areas are set aside for restoration of natural habitats/vegetation (50%).
3. Vehicle use is minimised onsite to protect surfaces (45%).
4. Rainwater is collected and used for water/cleaning arena surfaces and wash bays (30%).
5. Stables, manure areas and wash bays are designed to hold water, avoid run-off and reduce contamination into natural streams (25%).
6. Organic waste is used to fertilise the land (25%).
7. Durable materials are used on built infrastructure (25%).

While priorities for future environmental sustainability practices vary, the most common practices cited included setting aside areas for restoration of natural habitats/vegetation, using LED lighting and collecting rainwater for reuse on the site.

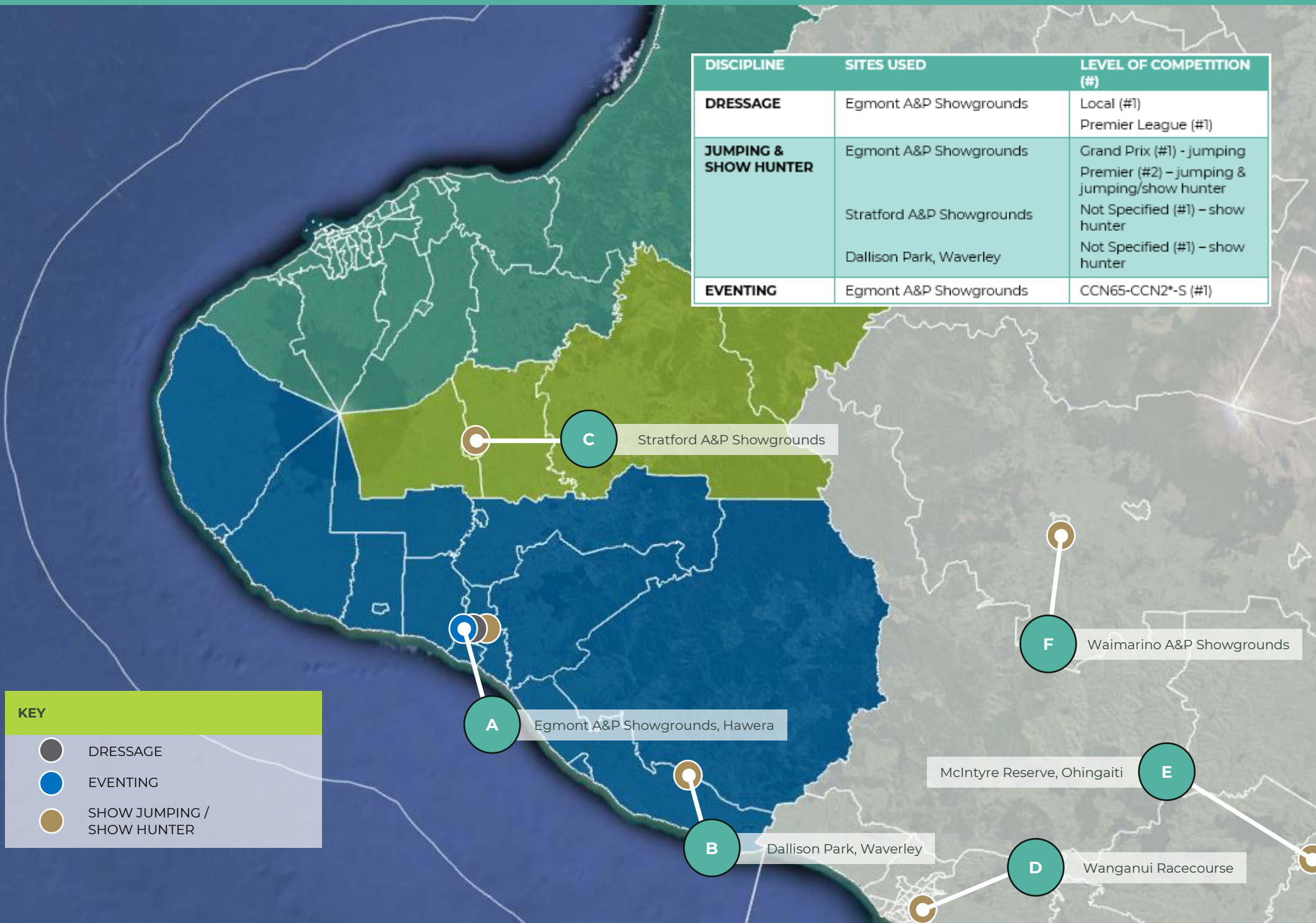
MAP 9.2 – EQUESTRIAN NETWORK OVERVIEW



KEY

	PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS	
	CONDITION	 AVERAGE  POOR
	TENURE UNCERTAINTY	
	CAPACITY	 EXISTS  NO CAPACITY

MAP 9.3 – ESNZ EVENT DELIVERY NETWORK



KEY

- DRESSAGE
- EVENTING
- SHOW JUMPING / SHOW HUNTER

C Stratford A&P Showgrounds

A Egmont A&P Showgrounds, Hawera

B Dallison Park, Waverley

F Waimarino A&P Showgrounds

E McIntyre Reserve, Ohingaiti

D Wanganui Racecourse

9.3 TARANAKI NETWORK

The National Equestrian Facilities Strategy (currently being drafted) outlines the optimal equestrian facility network and associated specifications to provide future direction for equestrian facilities.

These are designed to guide the identification of geographic and functional gaps across the network and to support the overall equestrian experience and equine welfare.

It is important to recognise the proposed network is an 'optimal state' and will take an extended period of time to develop. Making change will require an iterative and phased approach which will be guided by the priorities outlined in this regional plan. Changes and improvement can also be limited by available resource, political appetite and capacity of the sector to drive the projects. The network and specifications should be used to guide how we can move towards providing the best equestrian experiences.

There are five tiers to the national equestrian network which are outlined in Appendix D (specifications are detailed in the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy).

MOVING FORWARD

What does this mean for Taranaki?

Network guidelines recommend each regional council area comprise a Regional Equestrian Park (or a higher tier - International or National) and located around 2 hours or more from a Tier 1, 2 or 3 site.

There are no Tier 1 (International) or 2 (National) equestrian sites located in Taranaki and when applying drive time distances from the closest Tier 1 and 2 sites (National Equestrian Centre, Taupō and Manfeild), both are situated outside the 2-hour drive time catchment. On this basis, Taranaki is well positioned to accommodate a Regional Equestrian Park.

Where should the Regional Equestrian Park be located?

It is recommended Egmont A&P Showgrounds remains the Regional Equestrian Park and hosts premier events in Taranaki. This is under the assumption and requirement that condition issues are addressed and certain facility upgrades are undertaken over time (including arena surface, re-roofing and covered yards).

This recommendation is based on:

- a. Significant existing infrastructure exists on the site (including an indoor arena). This ensures other required equestrian facility related investment could be further distributed across the wider network – thus optimising available funds and extracting maximum value across the region.
- b. The showgrounds are in slightly closer proximity to large equestrian membership concentrations across mid-North Island.
- c. The site can effectively accommodate all equestrian disciplines.
- d. Facility upgrades are already planned.
- e. Strong Council support for hosting events in South Taranaki.
- f. There are tenure concerns across key sites in New Plymouth District.
- g. Notable investment is required to enable core equestrian facilities to be developed as part of the proposed Stratford Park project (not duplicating the level of facilities in Hawera).
- h. Highest certainty of use as the site is less susceptible to inclement weather (lowest comparative rainfall area and provision of an indoor arena).

The Wider Network

As the location of the Egmont A&P Showgrounds exceeds the typical 30-minute drive time threshold for casual use, training and rallies (for the bulk of the equestrian population), the site is primarily operating as an event venue. Therefore, the Egmont A&P Association will need a strong business plan and value proposition for attracting a wide range of regular/ongoing users for the site to be financially sustainable and to continue reinvesting back into the assets.

While equestrians are prepared to travel for events, travel time preferences reduce for more regular and localised activity. Therefore, the Regional Equestrian Park needs to be complemented by District Equestrian Parks in both Stratford and New Plymouth Districts to service respective catchment areas.

These are required as they:

- a. Are located closer to large equestrian participant concentrations – more accessible and appealing for regular use.
- b. More clubs and groups are located in these areas to be domiciled and anchor tenants (establish regular ongoing use).
- c. Provides good geographic spread and equestrian opportunities for the public to engage in the activity.
- d. Provides opportunities for site consolidation of some activities to maximise use and increase revenue to sustain operations.

The tiered facility approach needs to be supported by well-located and maintained local sites. These sites service local communities and reduce access barriers which can be created by the natural topography and geographic spread across Taranaki.

IMPLICATIONS

We need to carefully consider and assess the financial sustainability of the network as much as we consider the capital funding landscape.

The development or investment of one site should not undermine or be detrimental to another. Therefore, facilities at Stratford Park should enable the relocation to the new land parcel to start unlocking the potential of the site, but not duplicate or divert event hosting from the Egmont A&P Showgrounds. Should this occur in time, this will likely have a significant negative impact on financial operations and general facility upkeep of the Egmont A&P Showgrounds.

However, the facilities provided at Stratford Park need to be of a level and standard which attract ongoing use to help service loan repayments (due to land acquisition) and maintain the assets. A balance is required between meeting the core facility requirements, driving sufficient revenue and not undermining another equestrian site.

It is recommended a Taranaki equestrian event approach and associated calendar is devised by the equestrian community to clearly outline what events will be held, targeted and distributed across the region.

9.4 NORTH TARANAKI

The Tūparikino Active Community Hub at New Plymouth Racecourse will result in the displacement of New Plymouth Pony Club (lease has now expired and rolling month-to-month). While the community hub project will be staged over time, and the exact timeline for the pony club to vacate is not yet known, a proactive response to the impending change is required.

The key variables underpinning the current state are outlined in Maps 9.4 and 9.5, Table 9.3 and supplemented by other insights highlighted in other sections of the plan. The following findings can be drawn:

- New Plymouth Racecourse has the largest catchment area (across grazing sites), the only site without an all-weather arena and the lowest membership (it has been noted that 50% of membership has shifted to other pony clubs).
- There are condition issues associated with the clubroom facilities and length of grass at the racecourse.
- Most population growth is forecast for Bell Block (between New Plymouth Racecourse and Ranfurly Park, Waitara) over the next 25-years.
- When removing New Plymouth Racecourse equestrian provision there is suitable drive time access under 30 mins across numerous sites.
- There is sufficient capacity at McKellar Park, Ōakura and Ranfurly Park, Waitara for collocation of pony clubs or for merging. Surface improvements at Inglewood (Jubilee Park) may increase capacity and capacity exists further down in Stratford A&P Showgrounds.
- There are also tenure risks associated with Ranfurly Park in Waitara (as outlined in Section 9.2).

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

When taking a wider network perspective, the main risk facing North Taranaki is the collective tenure uncertainties surrounding the racecourse and Ranfurly Park (in the immediate and medium terms respectively).

Collectively, this would include the possible displacement of over 100 pony club members, access to cross-country courses would be severely limited across the region, and there would be a large provision gap where the greatest level of population growth is anticipated to occur.

It is only under the collective basis of potential displacement that future provision options should be explored in North Taranaki. In isolation, it does not warrant developing a new site for New Plymouth Pony Club as there is minimal value for capital investment. This is based on low membership, a small volunteer base, and other equestrian sites being located within suitable drive times and have sufficient available capacity.

This does not necessarily mean ceasing New Plymouth Pony Club operations as two clubs can collocate and run on alternating days or weeks. This could shape as a short, medium and/or long-term option(s) as deemed necessary.

Under the assumption that tenure will likely end at both the racecourse and Ranfurly Park in time, it is recommended that a proactive approach is taken to exploring options to minimise impact should this transpire. These options could include:

1. **Colson Road** (old landfill site) – the site can service grazing sites located around the fringe of New Plymouth and sites stretching through and out past Waitara. Furthermore, trail opportunities exist to extending the equestrian offering outside of membership. This approach could enhance the trail network and utilise infrastructure to support numerous activities. The site would also maintain localised catchment areas for other equestrian sites i.e. Egmont Village and Inglewood.

As an old landfill site, future construction opportunities would need to be confirmed based on capping level, land suitability and timing. It is likely this site could only accommodate very localised provision as the cap is sensitive and only one relatively small land parcel could be developed on.

2. **Lepperton** (Waitara Road) – the site was previously discounted due to its proximity to the Waitara Pony Club catchment. The site is 4

hectares, comprises a stream and is currently used for grazing. It has a slightly lower equestrian grazing catchment area and is marginally closer to Inglewood than Colson Road.

It is recommended that a range of options are fully explored for determining a long-term site (enabling contingency plans to be activated). This may include well-located and suitable land at prospective sites that may need to be purchased or unlocked in some form.

TABLE 9.4 – NORTH TARANAKI OVERLAYS

SITE	MEMBERS	CAPACITY	15 MINS - GRAZING	30 MINS - GRAZING
New Plymouth Racecourse	11-22	-	106	292
Jubilee Park	63	No	69	279
McKellar Park	50	Yes	58	196
Ranfurly Park	79	Yes	45	192

INDOOR/COVERED ARENA

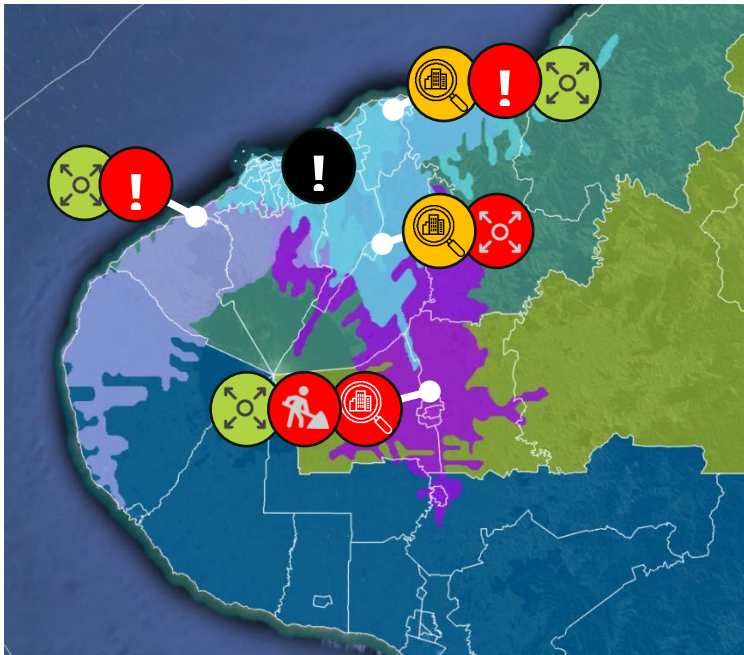
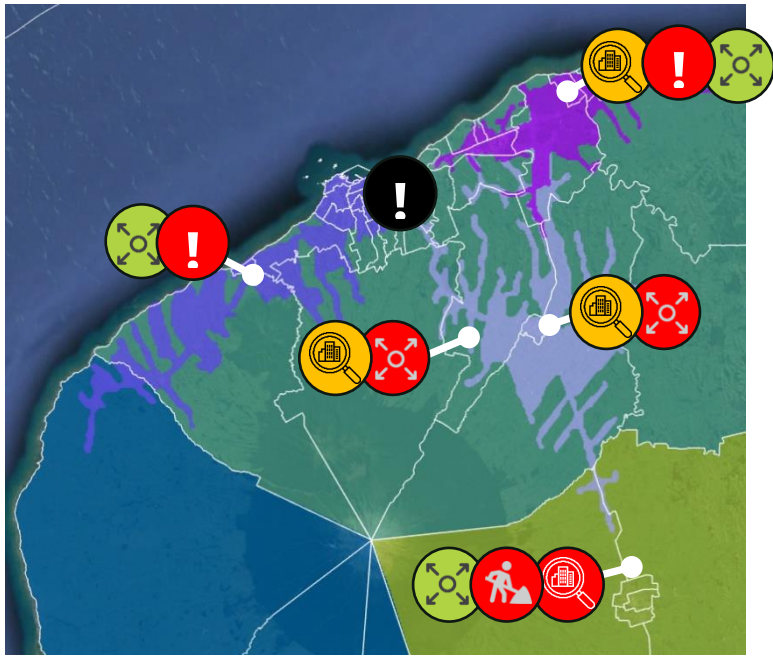
It is further recommended that indoor or covered arena provision is explored in New Plymouth District as the initial priority for North and Central Taranaki.

This is due to the large concentration of equestrians residing and grazing across the New Plymouth District (decreasing travel barriers and encouraging frequent use) and accessible to a range of clubs/groups who may need facilities which are not subject to weather conditions. Location in North Taranaki would complement the indoor arena located in Hawera maximising accessibility options for all equestrians.

North and Central Taranaki can only sustain one indoor/covered area as multiple arena would likely directly compete against one another. As there is limited demand, the ability to maximise and drive diverse revenue streams is restricted and the capital funding landscape is constrained, a pragmatic and measured approach is required.

In the first instance, it is recommended that a range of prospective sites are identified and explored in North Taranaki. And should the viability, suitability and/or timelines associated within the New Plymouth District are deemed prohibitive to meeting equestrian outcomes, then Stratford Park should be further considered for future covered arena provision.

MAPS 9.4 & 9.5 – 15 & 30 MINS DRIVE TIME WITH OVERLAYS



9.5 PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN SPACES

Various sources were used to identify and understand use of public equestrian spaces across Taranaki. The primary sources used include the Taranaki 'Have Your Say' survey and council bylaws.

OVERVIEW OF WHAT WE HAVE

Map 9.6 shows geographically the full extent of public spaces used by, and/or available to, the equestrian community (and further outlined in Appendix B). Key findings include:

- 77% of all public equestrian spaces are located in New Plymouth District (70% are beaches) which is notably higher than the proportion of equestrians residing in the district.
- Beaches are the predominant type of public equestrian spaces across Taranaki which are accessed – accentuating the vast coastline around Taranaki. Although many beaches are connected and ridden/lead in one visit. While various beaches are less than 1km long catering for local riders (not destination sites).
- During summer, beach access is restricted primarily in highly populated areas – namely Ahu Ahu Road Beach, Fitzroy Beach, Ōakura Beach and Cave Beach. Specifically, beach access is prohibited between 9am-6pm during daylight savings.

Furthermore, Ngāmotu Beach (including the reserve, beach and playground) and Ōpunakē Beach and Camp Ground are prohibited at all times.

These areas are highlighted with exclamation marks in Map 9.6.

- Access to beaches is further restricted to low tide use placing extra importance on inland-based spaces.
- There are a limited number of inland spaces and formal tracks/bridle trails across Taranaki. The most prominent of all public equestrian spaces available is Lake Mangamahoe which comprises four bridle trails – around 5km long over 150 hectares of forest.

Comparatively, all other sites with trails are relatively short with some access restricted.



Note: it is not permitted to ride or lead a horse on the New Plymouth Coastal Walkway (except at an approved crossing).

- Beaches and trails are complemented by general park/paddock spaces (not defined tracks) and use of roadsides across the region (as well as using private farmland – not publicly accessible).
- Use of roadsides is restricted in urban areas in New Plymouth District – horses are not allowed along any footpath, grass berm or other grassed areas in an urban area unless it is a designated horse riding area.
- Hickford Park (Bell Block, New Plymouth) has previously been identified for developing bridle trails. However, the land is of special spiritual, cultural and significance (wāhi tapu) of Puketapu Hapu and Ngāti Tawhirikura.

PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN SPACES

- 1 Ahu Ahu Beach
- 2 Audrey Gale Reserve
- 3 Back Beach
- 4 Balsom Park
- 5 Barrett Domain
- 6 Bell Block Beach
- 7 Corbett Park Beach
- 8 Fitzroy Beach
- 9 Lake Mangamahoe Bridle Trail
- 10 Lake Rotomanu
- 11 New Plymouth Racecourse
- 12 Ōakura Beach
- 13 Onaero Beach
- 14 Pitone Beach
- 15 Tapuae Beach
- 16 Wai-iti Beach
- 17 Waitara Beach
- 18 Waiwhakaio Beach
- 19 Weld Beach
- 20 Ohawe Beach
- 21 Rahoitu Beach
- 22 Waiinu Beach
- 23 Manutahi Beach
- 24 Cave Beach
- 25 Patea Beach
- 26 Stratford A&P Showgrounds




NETWORK OVERVIEW

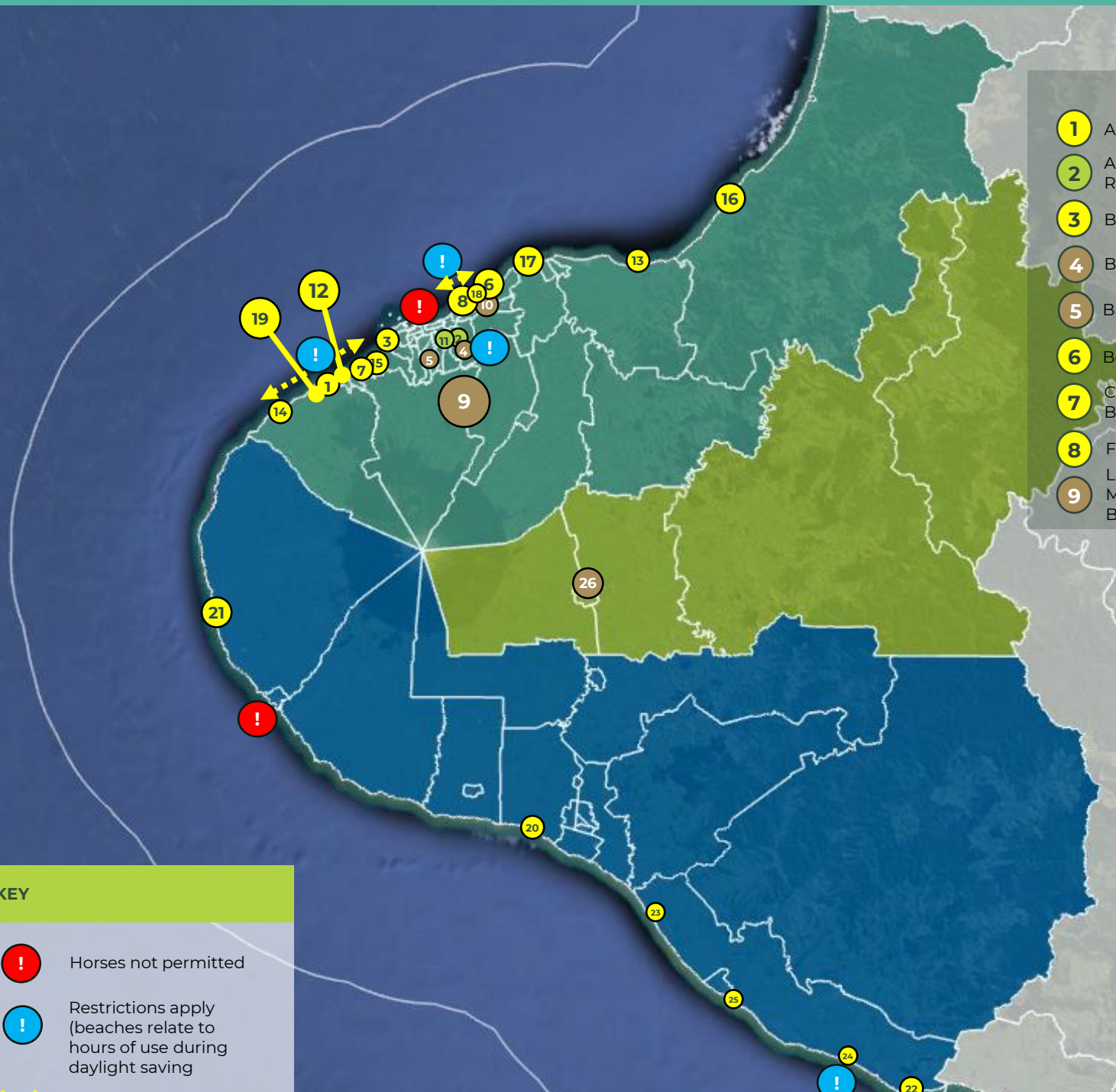
	BEACHES	19 SITES
	OPEN SPACE	2 SITES
	TRAILS	5 SITES

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY OVERVIEW

NPDC	20 SITES
SDC	1 SITES
STDC	5 SITES

KEY

-  Horses not permitted
-  Restrictions apply (beaches relate to hours of use during daylight saving)
-  Connected beaches



9.6 PUBLIC SPACES - COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

A high-level overview of community insights is outlined in the 'Community Dashboard' on the following pages and further detailed below (from the Taranaki Equestrian 'Have Your Say' Survey).

What is Used?

- Beaches (85%) are the primary public space used by survey respondents, followed by trails (83%) and roadside (71%).
- In line with coastal access across the respective council boundary areas, survey respondents residing in New Plymouth and South Taranaki District had higher proportionate use of beaches than Stratford residents.

New Plymouth and Stratford District respondents cited more access to trails than South Taranaki residents – representing proximity to sites such as Lake Mangamahoe and Stratford A&P Showgrounds.

With a large geographic expanse, South Taranaki has a notably higher level of roadside use than both New Plymouth and Stratford District equestrians.

- Map 9.6 shows the number of respondents who indicated they use specific public spaces across the region. Larger circles indicate higher response frequency.

Respondents clearly cited Lake Mangamahoe as the most common equestrian site used across the region (more than three-fold to the next highest identified site). The next clear banding of sites included Weld Beach (unrestricted use) and Ōakura Beach (restrictions apply during day light saving).

All other sites were cited by less than 10% of survey respondents.

Frequency and Time of Use

- Overall, respondents that use the roadside for riding or leading are more likely to have a higher frequency of use throughout the year (limited variation between summer and winter). All other public spaces show a notable drop in frequency during the winter.
- 40% of respondents use beaches at least once a week during summer (21% fortnightly and 27% monthly). Frequency reduces to 26% weekly use in winter (31% monthly and 25% once-a-season).
- Primary trail use is relatively evenly split between 1+ times a week (33%) and monthly (31%) during summer. Frequency decreases to monthly (32%) and once-a-season (34%) during winter.
- Most use occurs between 9am and 6pm over the weekend across all types of public spaces (far exceeding weekday use between 9am-6pm.)
- There is notable variance regarding beach access. It has the lowest proportion of all public spaces between 9am-6pm which directly correlates with beach access restrictions (see Section 9.5). Consequently, weekend and weekday use after 6pm was far higher than all other public spaces outside of roadside use.
- Roadside use is comparatively high after 6pm as travel and set-up requirements are typically lower enabling daylight hours to be maximised.

Travel Time

There is a necessity and preparedness to travel for accessing public equestrian spaces. 58% of survey respondents travel less than 30 minutes while a further 42% of survey respondents travel in excess of 31 minutes to undertake equestrian activity (18% travel 41+ mins).

Reasons for Using Public Spaces

There are four key reasons for using public spaces across Taranaki.

1. Offers different terrain (45%)
2. Best place(s) to ride (45%)
3. Only space(s) publicly available (40%)
4. Close to home (39%)

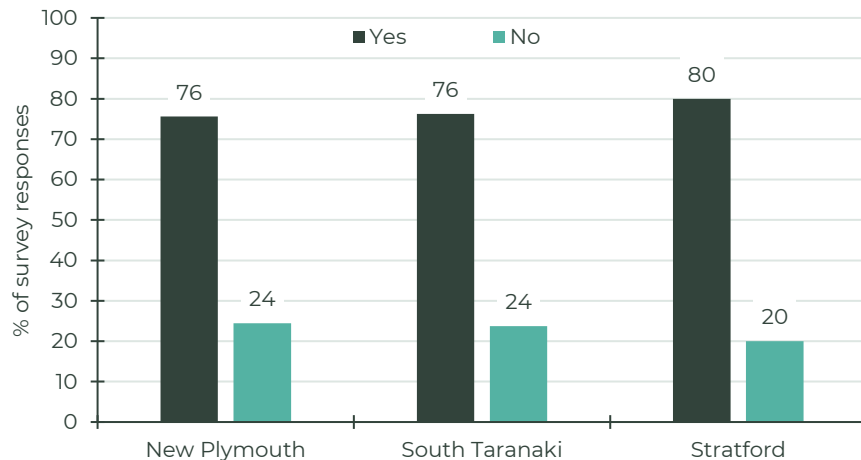
What is important to consider here is the need for suitable access to a range of terrain to provide diversity of experiences, offering different distances, not subject to poor weather (leading to poor condition and limiting use), suitable for differing levels and in a safe and controlled environment.

MEETING NEEDS

Overall, the public spaces meet the needs of 3 in every 4 equestrians (based on survey respondents). This is further refined by council area in Figure 9.1.

There was very little variance between residents of the respective councils, with slightly higher satisfaction of Stratford District residents.

FIGURE 9.1 – DO PUBLIC SPACES MEET YOUR NEEDS?



The rationale for not meeting needs was varied and not isolated to geographic areas. Some general common issues raised include:

- The need for more variety. This includes different terrain, longer rides, and more obstacles.
- Limited trails outside of Lake Mangamahoe. More use and events are restricting access to the site during summer and the trails are slippery during winter.
- Limited safe spaces to ride during winter.
- Beach access is restricted during summer.
- Unsafe roadside environment with speed of traffic and driving behaviours.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

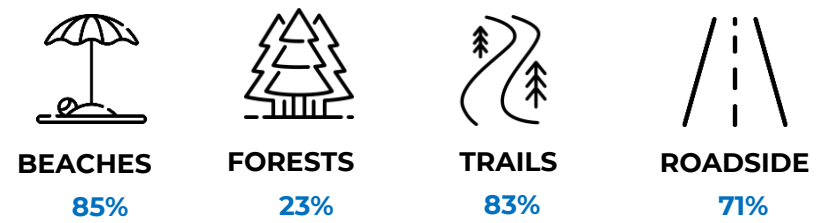
- A higher proportion of survey respondents from New Plymouth District favour more dedicated spaces for horse riding/leading. There were no predominant sites or geographic areas identified.
- Overall, there is desire for more access to shared public spaces. This approach was more favoured by New Plymouth District residents, and notably lower for Stratford District residents.
- Improved trail surfaces are desired for both New Plymouth and Stratford residents, which primarily relate to Lake Mangamahoe (lower favoured improvement for South Taranaki residents)
- Better parking and creating connection with existing equestrian sites were notably higher for South Taranaki residents.
- 94% of respondents indicated that improvements would increase their level of use.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

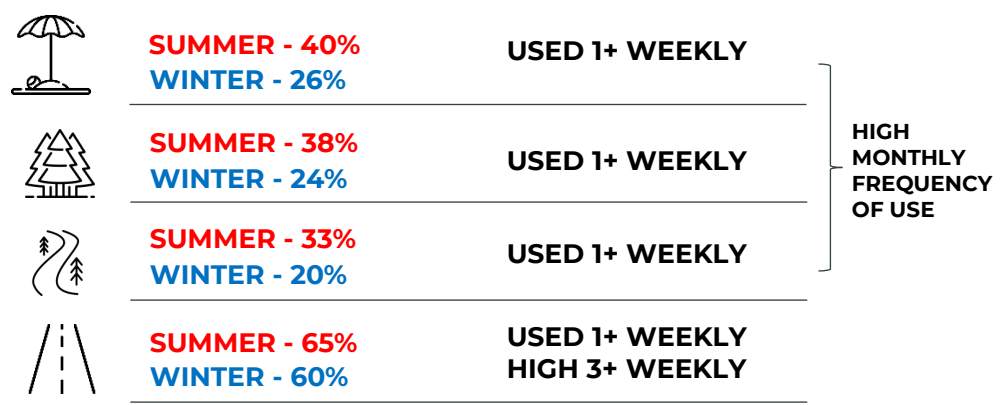
Based on findings from earlier sections, the following are identified for public equestrian spaces in Taranaki:

- Establishing a trail network across the region building from existing sites and locations. Providing more opportunities will help to offset beach restrictions during summer (and based on tides) and increase access to public spaces from 9am-6pm (primary use period).
- Consideration given to trails in South Taranaki for providing geographic spread and contributing to a wider trail network. A key driver is reducing distance/drives times from South Taranaki – enabling more accessibility for equestrians. This could include more publicly accessible public spaces and/or equestrian access to existing spaces.
- Seek to improve trail quality at Lake Mangamahoe to increase use during winter. A balance needs to be found between the number of non-equestrian events held and providing regular ongoing use of equestrian trails. Establishing alternate sites may contribute to balancing wider community needs and event opportunities.
- Any future trail site options should consider trail type and susceptibility to inclement weather for all-year access/use.
- Where possible, trails and general open space riding/leading areas are connected to existing or proposed equestrian base sites. This will lead to optimising site use, utilising existing infrastructure (less capex), best use of available resources, and increasing the value proposition for funding (capex and opex).
- Maintain access to beaches as the primary public space used by Taranaki equestrians. Consideration should be given to suitable roadside access leading to all equestrian spaces (i.e. beaches, trails and base equestrian sites). This will support longer riding/leading opportunities, reduce parking constraints and support environmental outcomes.
- Review roadside standards/requirements and possible interventions to encourage and facilitate safe riding/leading across the region. Due to its localisation, roadsides are the highest frequented public equestrian space.

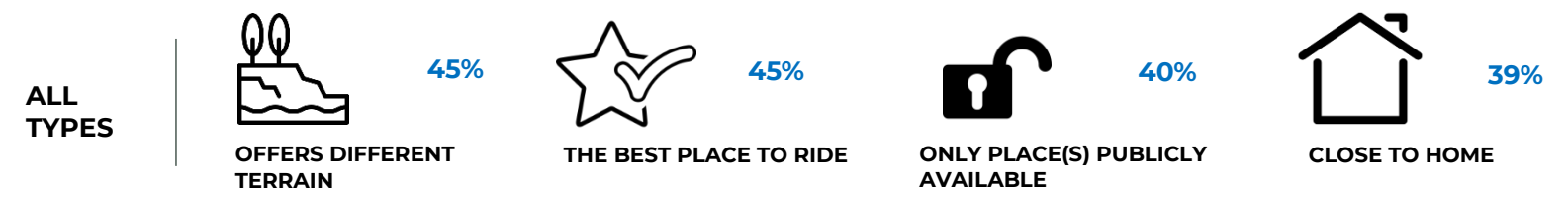
PUBLIC SPACES - TYPE OF USE



PUBLIC SPACES - SEASONAL USE



WHY THESE SPACES?



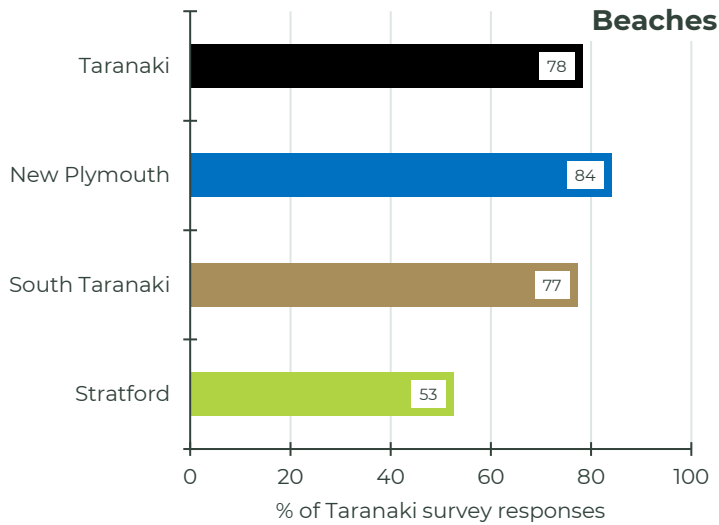
DO THESE SPACES MEET YOUR NEEDS?



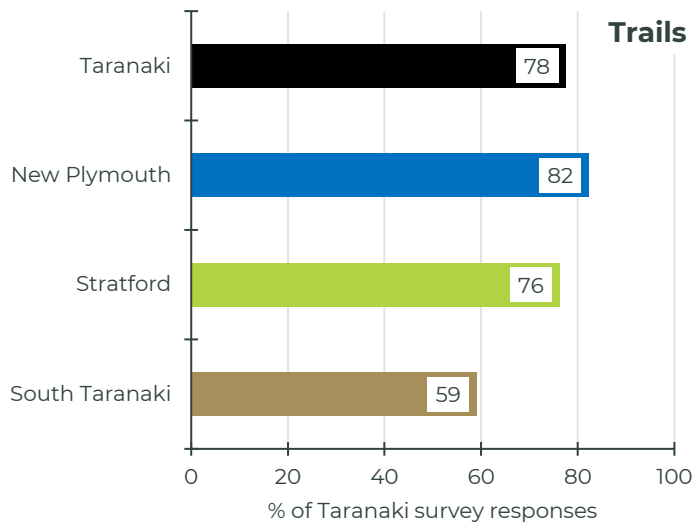
FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS?



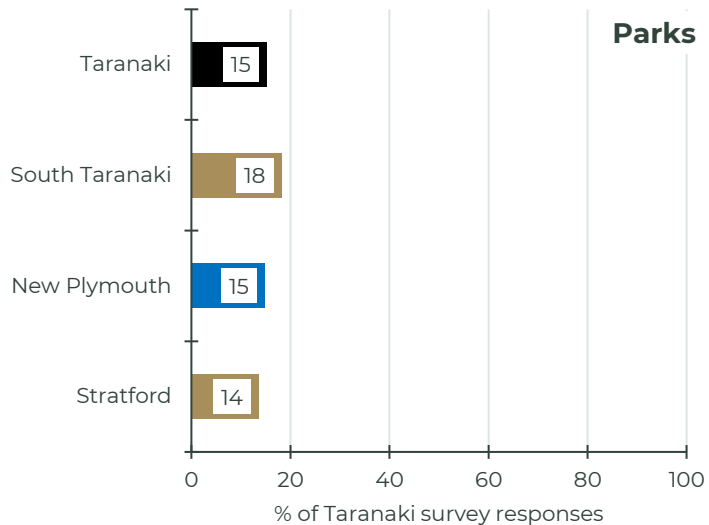
Beaches



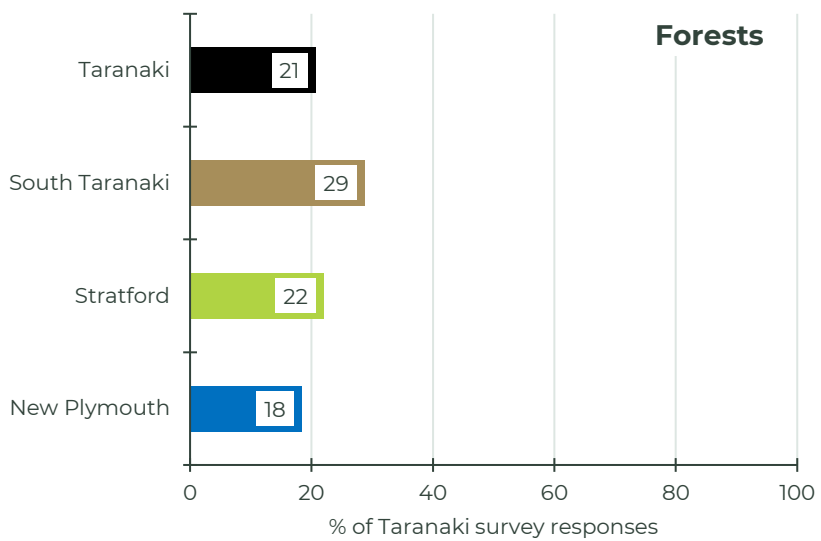
Trails



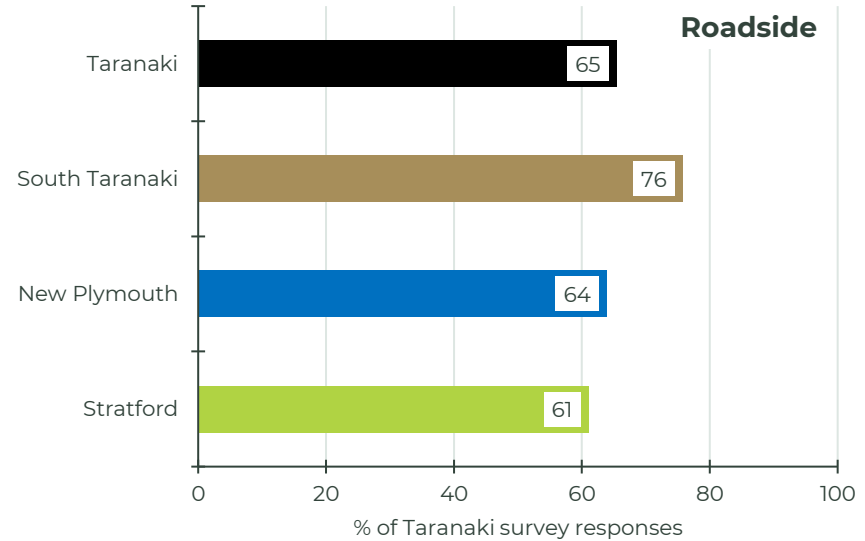
Parks



Forests



Roadside





APPENDIX

APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP

GROUP	ACTIVITY	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PRIMARY SITE	NUMBER OF MEMBERS/PARTICIPANTS
Egmont A & P Association	A&P Association	South Taranaki	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	20
Waverley A and P Association	A&P Association	South Taranaki	Dallison Park, Waverley	100
Stratford Agricultural and Pastoral Association Inc	A&P Association	Stratford	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	30
New Plymouth & Districts Riding Club	Adult Riding Club	New Plymouth	Ranfurlly Park	45
Waverley Adult Riding Club	Adult Riding Club	South Taranaki	Various	5
Taranaki Adult Horse Riding Club	Adult Riding Club	South Taranaki	Taranaki Adult Riding Club	10
Coastal Adult Riding Club	Adult Riding Club	Stratford	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	35
New Plymouth Pony Club - Horse Masters Group	Club	New Plymouth	New Plymouth Racecourse	Included as part of NPPC
Mountain to Surf Miniature Horse Club	Club	South Taranaki	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	20
Taranaki Arabian Horse Club	Club	South Taranaki	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	20
Taranaki Miniature Horse Society	Club	South Taranaki	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	24
Dressage Taranaki*	ESNZ Discipline	Regional	Various	54
Eventing Taranaki*	ESNZ Discipline	Regional	Various	27
Taranaki Equestrian Jumping & Show hunter*	ESNZ Discipline	Regional	Various	103
Egmont Wanganui Hunt Club	Hunt	Regional	Various	97
Taranaki Hunt	Hunt	New Plymouth	Ninia Road, New Plymouth	60
Taranaki Mounted Games Association	Other	Regional	Various	8
Taranaki Working Equitation Inc.	Other	Stratford	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	22
Egmont Village Riding School*	Pony Club	New Plymouth	Egmont Village Riding School	34
Inglewood Pony Club*	Pony Club	New Plymouth	Jubilee Park	63
New Plymouth Pony Club*	Pony Club	New Plymouth	New Plymouth Racecourse	11
Ōakura Pony Club*	Pony Club	New Plymouth	McKellar Park	50
Okato Pony Club*	Pony Club	New Plymouth	Okato Domain	12
Waitara Pony Club*	Pony Club	New Plymouth	Ranfurlly Park	79

GROUP	ACTIVITY	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PRIMARY SITE	NUMBER OF MEMBERS/PARTICIPANTS
Eltham Pony Club*	Pony Club	South Taranaki	Eltham Pony Club	50
Opunake Pony Club*	Pony Club	South Taranaki	Opunake Pony Club Grounds	9
Stratford Pony Club*	Pony Club	Stratford	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	21
New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled	RDA	New Plymouth	Barrett Domain	100
Hawera RDA	RDA	South Taranaki	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	16
Central Taranaki Riding for Disabled	RDA	Stratford	Pioneer Village Stratford	20
Horse Helping Humans Taranaki	Therapy			122
Alex Nash Horsemanship and Equine Facilitated Therapy	Therapy	New Plymouth	Ranfurly Park	24
Taranaki Western Riding Club	Western	Stratford	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	40 (20 families)

*For consistency membership data has been sourced from Equestrian Sports New Zealand.

*For consistency membership data has been sourced from New Zealand Pony Club Association.

APPENDIX B – FACILITY INVENTORY

BASE EQUESTRIAN SITES – HIGH-LEVEL INVENTORY OVERVIEW

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	SITE AGE	LAND OWNERSHIP	USED BY	LAND AREA (HA)	LEASE EXPIRY	USE TYPE	HIGH-LEVEL FACILITY OUTLINE
1	Barrett Domain	New Plymouth District Council	Over 30 years	Council	New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled, Horses Helping Humans Taranaki	12	2050	RDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor Arena - 1 (26m x 46m) – not floodlit • Outdoor Arena - 1 outdoor arena (20m x 20m) • Yards/Stables - 11 covered yards • Grazing - 12 hectares of paddocks. • Parking - Float parking (up to 6). • Ancillary - Small facility with office, kitchen and toilet
2	Clearwater Riding School	New Plymouth District Council		Private	Clearwater Riding School	8		Riding School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather & 1 grass arena. • Cross-Country - multiple full cross-country courses from 0.5m to 1.05m.
3	Deken Dressage	New Plymouth District Council	20-29 years	Private	Deken Dressage	2		Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena. • Yards - 5 covered yards. • Parking - driveway with available space. • Ancillary - 2 toilets.
4	Dressage Vanessa's Way	New Plymouth District Council	10-19 years	Private	Dressage Vanessa's Way	6		Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena. • Yards/Stables - 6 • Grazing - 2.4 hectares • Parking - metal drive • Ancillary - large facility with 4 toilets, and a bed (accommodation).
5	Egmont Village Riding School	New Plymouth District Council	5-9 years	Club/Group	Egmont Village Riding School, Winterland Riding Centre, Pony Club	6.27	-	Pony Club / Riding School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena (40mx60m) • Yards/Ancillary - 4 uncovered yards, 2 covered cross ties, tack room, feed room and open storage bay. • Grazing - approx. 5 hectares in 12 paddocks. • Parking - small number off floats
6	Equine Interactive	New Plymouth District Council		Private	Equine Interactive			Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 grass arena.
7	Glenara Farms	New Plymouth District Council		Private	Inglewood Pony Club (alternate facility)	48.6		Pony Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 grass arena.

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	SITE AGE	LAND OWNERSHIP	USED BY	LAND AREA (HA)	LEASE EXPIRY	USE TYPE	HIGH-LEVEL FACILITY OUTLINE
8	Jubilee Park	New Plymouth District Council	Over 30 years	Council	Inglewood Pony Club, Dressage Taranaki, Winterland Riding Centre (contracted out service),	2.8	2032	Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena (50mx90m). • Cross-Country - small partial course with jumps suitable for training. • Yards/Stables - 4 uncovered yards • Parking - limited parking, but saleyard parking can be used across the road. • Other - storage in shipping container.
9	Kererū Crossing	New Plymouth District Council	10-19 years	Private	Kererū Crossing	4.86		Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 2 grass arena (20mx60m and 20mx40m). • Cross-Country - 8 jumps of varying types that can be jumped in both directions (16 jump course). • Yards/Stables - 3 uncovered yards, 2 stables. • Grazing - 5 paddocks (around 1 hectare) – 3 horse capacity. • Parking - can accommodate around 5 floats/trucks. • Ancillary - 2 toilets; 12mx14m barn which includes 2 stables, tack/feed room, hay storage, equipment storage and an aisle for grooming/meeting.
10	Madison Park	New Plymouth District Council		Private	Taranaki Hunt, LQ Equestrian				
11	McKellar Park	New Plymouth District Council	20-29 years	Council	Ōakura Pony Club, Kereru Crossing, New Plymouth Pony Club	1.19	2038	Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena (40mx60m). • Cross-Country - small paddock with 7 jumps. • Yards - approx.. 10 uncovered timber post and rail yards. • Parking - use of NPDC Matakai Carpark and some parking inside the grounds. • Ancillary - garage shed with cold water, toilet and storage.
12	New Plymouth Racecourse	New Plymouth District Council	Over 30 years	Council	New Plymouth Pony Club, Horse Masters Group, Taranaki Mounted Games Association	1	Expired	Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 grass arena. • Cross-Country - 1,000m with up to 20 jumps varying in size (65-95cm). • Parking - capacity for up to 100. • Ancillary - small clubroom without electricity; 2 toilet blocks.

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	SITE AGE	LAND OWNERSHIP	USED BY	LAND AREA (HA)	LEASE EXPIRY	USE TYPE	HIGH-LEVEL FACILITY OUTLINE
13	Okato Domain	New Plymouth District Council	Over 30 years	Council	Okato Pony Club, Ōakura Pony Club (alternate facility), New Plymouth Pony Club, Horse Helping Humans Taranaki	1	Unknown	Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddocks - fields/paddocks only. • Cross-Country - 1,500m course with 20 jumps. • Yards - 4 uncovered yards. • Parking - limited. • Ancillary - some toilets (25m²); shipping container for Horses Helping Humans.
14	Ranfurly Park	New Plymouth District Council	10-19 years	Council	Waitara Pony Club, Dressage Taranaki, Ōakura Pony Club (alternate facility), Taranaki Mounted Games Association, Winterland Riding Centre (contracted out service), Eventing Taranaki (cross-country), Inglewood Pony Club (cross-country), Keruru Crossing (cross-country), Okato Pony Club (cross-country), Alex Nash Horsemanship and Equine Facilitated Therapy, New Plymouth & Districts Riding Club, New Plymouth Pony Club	12	2032	Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena (60mx80m). • Cross-Country - multiple full cross-country courses from 0.5m to 1.05m. • Yards - 30 yards (but 8 are pipe yards). • Grazing - grazing for 12 horses. Local farmer grazes cattle on the land to manage the grass and cross-grazing with the horses. • Parking - parking on the paddock only. • Ancillary - small kitchen, lounge space for kids, toilets (2), showers (4) and large lock-up sheds. • Camping - no powered sites but can park in the paddock. • Other - big lockable sheds for gear and to support ground hire.
	Adjacent to Ranfurly Park - New Plymouth and Districts Riding Club Grounds	New Plymouth District Council	Over 30 years	Council	New Plymouth & Districts Riding Club, Waitara Pony Club	2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddocks - fields/paddocks only. • Yards/Stables - 4 uncovered yards. • Grazing - temporary grazing (6 weeks max. accommodating 2-4 horses). • Parking - along the fence line for 10 floats/trucks.
15	Taranaki Hunt	New Plymouth District Council	Over 30 years	Club/Group	Taranaki Hunt	8		Hunt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddocks - fields/paddocks only. • Yards/Stables - uncovered yards. • Grazing - 7 hectares

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	SITE AGE	LAND OWNERSHIP	USED BY	LAND AREA (HA)	LEASE EXPIRY	USE TYPE	HIGH-LEVEL FACILITY OUTLINE
16	Winterland Riding Centre	New Plymouth District Council	Over 30 years	Private	Winterland Riding Centre	6		Riding School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 3 grass and 1 all-weather arena. • Lunging Ring/Round Pen – 1. • Cross-Country - small range of training fences from 0.5m to 0.95m. • Yards/Stables - 4 uncovered yards. • Grazing - no outside grazing on the property. • Parking - 4 floats or 3 trucks. • Ancillary - 1 toilet.
17	Dallison Park, Waverley	South Taranaki District Council	Over 30 years	Council	Waverley A & P Association	6		Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 2 grass arena. • Parking - use of paddocks. • Ancillary - space to accommodate 150 people; 6 toilets.
18	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	South Taranaki District Council	Over 30 years	A&P Association	Dressage Taranaki, Eventing Taranaki, Horse Helping Humans Taranaki, Ōakura Pony Club (cross-country), Opunake Pony Club (cross-country), New Plymouth Pony Club (indoor), Taranaki Working Equitation, Mountain to Surf Miniature Horse Club, Taranaki Arabian Horse Club, Coastal Adult Riding Club, Taranaki Miniature Horse Club	35		Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena (35mx70m). • Outdoor Arena - 3 grass arena (90mx90m) and 1 sand arena (40x40m). • Cross-Country - multiple full cross-country courses suitable for competition (from 0.65m to 1.10m) - with two water jumps. • Yards/Stables - 170 covered yards, 117 open yards and 29 stables. • Parking - sealed and grass areas. • Ancillary - patron room overlooks the Oval, seating/dining for approx.. 100 people, kitchen, bar and toilets; 1 ablution block (6 toilets), 2 changing rooms – 2 other toilet blocks; 1 ablution block inside the Expo Hall (10 toilets & 6 showers); office building, kitchen, theatre, grandstand. • Camping - 20 powered sites + trucks/floats on site during events.
19	Eltham Pony Club	South Taranaki District Council	Over 30 years	Club/Group	Eltham Pony Club	4		Pony Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 3 grass arena. • Cross-Country - a partial cross-country course suitable for training (40cm, 60cm and 80cm course). • Yards - 7 uncovered yards. • Grazing - 4 hectares can graze 8 horses over winter and 10 during summer. • Parking - use an undulating paddock. • Ancillary - garage with running water but no power; separate toilet

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	SITE AGE	LAND OWNERSHIP	USED BY	LAND AREA (HA)	LEASE EXPIRY	USE TYPE	HIGH-LEVEL FACILITY OUTLINE
20	Horses Helping Humans	New Plymouth District Council	Under 5 years	Private	Horses Helping Humans - currently under development			Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena (20mx40m). • Lunging Ring/Round Pen - 1
21	Opunake Pony Club Grounds	South Taranaki District Council	20-29 years	Club/Group	Opunake Pony Club	5		Pony Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena. • Cross-Country - a partial cross-country course suitable for training (1,000m with 11 jumps). • Yards - 6 uncovered yards. • Grazing - 4 hectares comprising 3 paddocks. • Parking - space for 30 trucks. • Ancillary - shed with kitchen and tables; 2 toilets.
22	Patea Pony Club	South Taranaki District Council		Private	Patea Pony Club			Pony Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddocks - fields/paddocks only. • Cross-Country - small cross-country course.
23	Taranaki Adult Riding Club	South Taranaki District Council	10-19 years	Private	Taranaki Adult Riding Club			Adult Riding Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 sand arena. • Cross-Country - a partial cross-country course suitable for training. • Yards - uncovered partial yards for 8 horses. • Grazing - 2.4 hectares for 20 horses. • Parking - parking for 10 floats/trucks. • Ancillary - clubroom facility with 1 toilet; equipment and storage space.
24	Tots can Trot	South Taranaki District Council		Private	Private Riding School			Private	
25	Warea Stables	South Taranaki District Council		Private	Private Riding School			Riding School	
26	Waverley Pony Club	South Taranaki District Council		Council	Waverley Pony Club	1		Pony Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 sand arena (20mx40m). • Grazing - neighbouring farmer grazes the land when needed to maintain pasture. • Ancillary - clubroom building with storage shed.

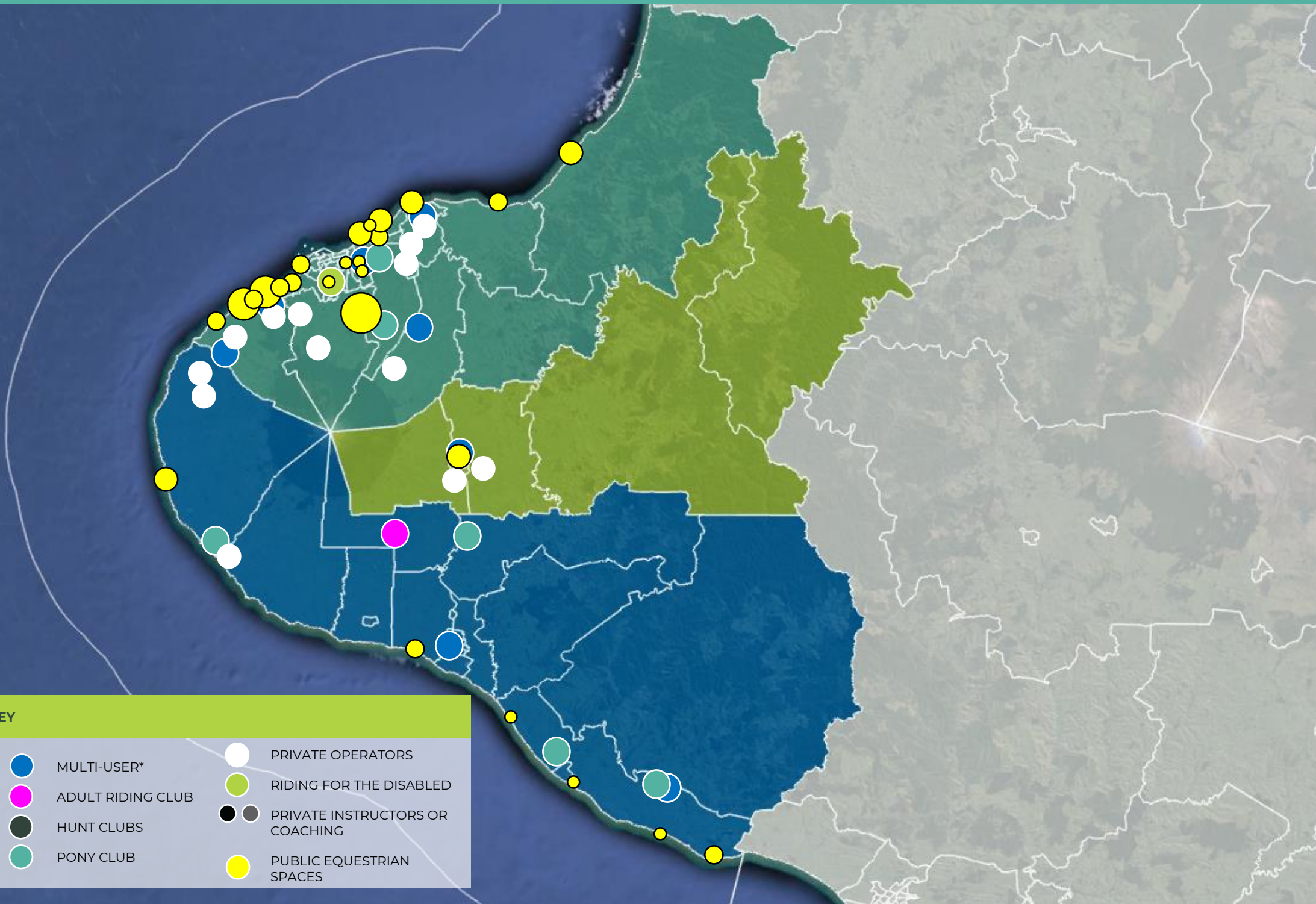
MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	SITE AGE	LAND OWNERSHIP	USED BY	LAND AREA (HA)	LEASE EXPIRY	USE TYPE	HIGH-LEVEL FACILITY OUTLINE
27	Karla Jamieson	Stratford District Council		Private	Private Riding School			Riding School	
28	Pioneer Village Stratford	Stratford District Council	Over 30 years	Trust	Central Taranaki Riding for Disabled	1.5	2026	RDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 1 all-weather arena (20mx35m). • Yards/Stables - 7 covered stalls. • Grazing - 1.5 hectares for 3 horses. • Parking - use of the paddock. • Ancillary - 2 toilets.
29	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	Stratford District Council	Over 30 years	A&P Association	Taranaki Working Equitation, Stratford Pony Club, Taranaki Horse and Pony All Breeds, Eltham Pony Club members, Taranaki Mounted Games Association, New Plymouth Pony Club (alternate), Taranaki Adult Riding Club, Taranaki Western Riding Club, Coastal Adult Riding Club, Barrell Racing Club	75		Multi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Arena - 3 grass arena (5 hectares) and 1 all-weather arena (30mx70m). • Yards - 120 • Parking - accommodate 150 floats/trucks. • Ancillary - Skinner Hall (with kitchen, St John Room); Clubroom Pavilion (limited kitchen facility); Small building with 2 rooms, sink, fridge (10 people capacity); 7 separate toilet/changing room areas; multiple storage facilities; stock yards next to sand arena; horse measuring shed and equipment. • Camping - 100 powered camp sites, numerous unpowered sites.

PUBLIC SPACES INVENTORY

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	TYPE	OUTLINE
1	Ahu Ahu Road Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Riding is prohibited east of Ahu Ahu Road from 9am to 6pm during daylight savings.
2	Audrey Gale Reserve	New Plymouth District	Park	Horse riding area on the right-hand side of the reserve.
3	Back Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Standalone beach (not connected to other beaches). No parking adequate for horse transport. Used by locals via riding/leading horses to the beach – it is a not a destination. Approximately 1km long – low tide use.
4	Balsom Park	New Plymouth District	Trails	4 hectares of exotic trees, but only available to local riders as there is no parking available. Equestrians need to apply to TEN for a key.
5	Barrett Domain	New Plymouth District	Trails	Adjacent to New Plymouth RDA
6	Bell Block Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Two beaches joined by a short grassy trail – 3kms long. Limited parking at end of Mangati Road and extensive parking on Tirimoana Crescent. Only low tide access via the concrete boat ramp and this eastern part of the beach is narrow.
7	Corbett Park Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Connected with Tapuae Beach – 3kms long. Can extend to 7-8kms when including Tapuae, Oakura, Ahu Ahu, Weld and Pitone Beaches (when tide and daylight saving hours allow).
8	Fitzroy Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Riding is prohibited East End Beach to Fitzroy Beach from 9am to 6pm during daylight savings. Connected with Waiwhakaio Beach – approx. 1.5km long. No parking at Fitzroy Beach but good available parking at Waiwhakaio River Mouth or at the end of Lake Rotomanu. Low tide use.
9	Lake Mangamahoe Bridle Trail	New Plymouth District	Trails	150 hectares of forest comprising four trails - Lazy Loop, Middle Mile, Phar Lap and Hales Trail (around 5km long)
10	Lake Rotomanu	New Plymouth District	Trails	Trail around the lake
11	New Plymouth Racecourse	New Plymouth District	Park	Use of the paddocks located at the racecourse.
12	Ōakura Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Prohibited riding between 9am to 6pm during daylight savings. Alone the beach is 1km, can extend up to 7-8km when connecting adjacent beaches (see 7 – Corbett Park Beach). Good parking available parking at Pitone Road, Weld Road and Corbett Road. Low tide use.
13	Onaero Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	No parking. Very stoney approximately 300m long. Riden occasionally at low tide by local riders. Not a destination beach.
14	Pitone Beach /Road	New Plymouth District	Beach	Alone is approximately 1km long. Can extend up to 7-8km when connecting adjacent beaches (see 7 – Corbett Park Beach).
15	Tapuae Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	No parking. Can be accessed by local riders using grass trail beside Tapuae Estate. Standalone 1km long but can extend up to 7-8km via connection with adjacent beaches (see 7 – Corbett Park Beach).

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	TYPE	OUTLINE
16	Wai-iti Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Difficult parking due to limited turnaround area – approximately 0.5km long. Difficult access – not a destination beach. Low tide use.
17	Waitara Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Difficult parking. Approximately 1km long. Not a destination beach. Low tide use.
18	Waiwhakaio Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Connected to Fitzroy Beach – approximately 1.5km long. Limited to daylight saving hours use because of restrictions with Fitzroy Beach. Low tide use. Good parking.
19	Weld Beach	New Plymouth District	Beach	Approximately 1km long alone – but extends up to 7-8km when connecting with adjacent beaches (see 7 – Corbett Park Beach). Good parking.
20	Ohawe Beach	South Taranaki	Beach	Good parking – can be rocky at times. Good access. Approximately a 40 minute ride. Can swim horses in the river. Low tide use.
21	Rahotu Beach	South Taranaki	Beach	Very limited parking. Good access to and from the beach. Ride for over an hour. Can be used at half-tide.
22	Waiinu Beach	South Taranaki	Beach	Also known as Waitotara Beach. Lots of parking. 6 kms long. Good access but can only ride north from parking.
23	Manutahi Beach	South Taranaki	Beach	Public right away used to access beach. Limited parking on public area. Locals use it to swim horses.
24	Cave Beach	South Taranaki	Beach	Riding is prohibited 9am to 6pm during daylight savings. Good parking by the playground. Access beach via a steep ramp. Ride length is approximately 15 minutes.
25	Patea Beach	South Taranaki	Beach	Good parking on grass area. Access to the main beach is currently poor due to sand around river mouth walls. Great swimming for horses in the river between the wooden jetty and boat ramp.
26	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	Stratford District	Trails	Riding trail located at the Stratford A&P Showgrounds

EQUESTRIAN FACILITY NETWORK



KEY

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | MULTI-USER* |  | PRIVATE OPERATORS |
|  | ADULT RIDING CLUB |  | RIDING FOR THE DISABLED |
|  | HUNT CLUBS |  | PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS OR COACHING |
|  | PONY CLUB |  | PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN SPACES |

APPENDIX C – INSIGHTS OVERVIEW

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	ANNUAL TRAINING DAYS	ANNUAL EVENT DAYS	EQUESTRIAN USER GROUPS	AVAILABLE CAPACITY?	AV. OR POOR CONDITION	FUTURE TENURE	FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
1	Barrett Domain	New Plymouth District Council	160	-	New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled, Horses Helping Humans Taranaki	Yes – Mon-Fri after 2:30pm and Sat & Sun	Outdoor Arena Clubroom / Event Facilities	Certain	
2	Clearwater Riding School	New Plymouth District Council			Clearwater Riding School				
3	Deken Dressage	New Plymouth District Council	200+		Deken Dressage				
4	Dressage Vanessa's Way	New Plymouth District Council	365		Dressage Vanessa's Way	No			
5	Egmont Village Riding School	New Plymouth District Council	365		Egmont Village Riding School, Winterland Riding Centre, Pony Club	No	Yards/Stables	Unsure	Seeking more float parking for grazers and potential satellite sites.
6	Equine Interactive	New Plymouth District Council			Equine Interactive				
7	Glenara Farms	New Plymouth District Council			Inglewood Pony Club (alternate facility)				
8	Jubilee Park	New Plymouth District Council	30	5	Inglewood Pony Club, Dressage Taranaki, Winterland Riding Centre (contracted out service),	No	Outdoor Arena	Certain	Seeking surface upgrade, yards, clubroom and toilets.
9	Kererū Crossing	New Plymouth District Council	365	4	Kererū Crossing	Yes – subject to weather	Outdoor Arena	Certain	Plans to develop a hard stand area and a sand arena.

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	ANNUAL TRAINING DAYS	ANNUAL EVENT DAYS	EQUESTRIAN USER GROUPS	AVAILABLE CAPACITY?	AV. OR POOR CONDITION	FUTURE TENURE	FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
10	Madison Park	New Plymouth District Council	365		Taranaki Hunt, LQ Equestrian	Yes		Certain	
11	McKellar Park	New Plymouth District Council	150	15	Ōakura Pony Club, Kereru Crossing, New Plymouth Pony Club	Yes – during weekdays		Uncertain	
12	New Plymouth Racecourse	New Plymouth District Council	20	5	New Plymouth Pony Club, Horse Masters Group, Taranaki Mounted Games Association	Yes	Outdoor Arena, Clubrooms, Toilets	Uncertain	
13	Okato Domain	New Plymouth District Council	30	2	Okato Pony Club, Ōakura Pony Club (alternate facility), New Plymouth Pony Club, Horse Helping Humans Taranaki	No	Clubroom / Event Facilities	Certain	
14	Ranfurly Park	New Plymouth District Council	30	30	Waitara Pony Club, Dressage Taranaki, Ōakura Pony Club (alternate facility), Taranaki Mounted Games Association, Winterland Riding Centre (contracted out service), Eventing Taranaki (cross-country), Inglewood Pony Club (cross-country), Keruru Crossing (cross-country), Okato Pony Club (cross-country), Alex Nash Horsemanship and Equine Facilitated Therapy, New Plymouth & Districts Riding Club, New Plymouth Pony Club	Yes	Changing Rooms / Toilets	Uncertain	
	Adjacent to Ranfurly Park - New Plymouth and Districts Riding Club Grounds	New Plymouth District Council	52	7	New Plymouth & Districts Riding Club, Waitara Pony Club				Preferential to have a toilet on site.
15	Taranaki Hunt	New Plymouth District Council	365	4	Taranaki Hunt			Uncertain – potential noise concerns with neighbours	

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	ANNUAL TRAINING DAYS	ANNUAL EVENT DAYS	EQUESTRIAN USER GROUPS	AVAILABLE CAPACITY?	AV. OR POOR CONDITION	FUTURE TENURE	FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
16	Winterland Riding Centre	New Plymouth District Council	340		Winterland Riding Centre	No	Outdoor Arena, Changing Rooms / Toilets		
17	Dallison Park, Waverley	South Taranaki District Council			Waverley A & P Association				
18	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	South Taranaki District Council	45	61	Dressage Taranaki, Eventing Taranaki, Horse Helping Humans Taranaki, Ōakura Pony Club (cross-country), Opunake Pony Club (cross-country), New Plymouth Pony Club (indoor), Taranaki Working Equitation, Mountain to Surf Miniature Horse Club, Taranaki Arabian Horse Club, Coastal Adult Riding Club, Taranaki Miniature Horse Club	Yes	Indoor Arena, Yards/Stables, Clubroom / Event Facilities	Certain	Resurface Pony Club Paddock, reroof & guttering of indoor arena, build covered yards/stables and renovate the Patrons Room
19	Eltham Pony Club	South Taranaki District Council	352	20	Eltham Pony Club	No	Outdoor Arena, Yards/Stables & Clubroom / Event Facilities Changing Rooms / Toilets	Certain	Seeking to build a shed and have desire for an all-weather surface.
20	Horses Helping Humans	New Plymouth District Council			Horses Helping Humans - currently under development				
21	Opunake Pony Club Grounds	South Taranaki District Council	15	3	Opunake Pony Club	Yes	Outdoor Arena & Changing Rooms / Toilets Clubrooms / Events Facilities	Certain	
22	Patea Pony Club	South Taranaki District Council			Patea Pony Club				

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	ANNUAL TRAINING DAYS	ANNUAL EVENT DAYS	EQUESTRIAN USER GROUPS	AVAILABLE CAPACITY?	AV. OR POOR CONDITION	FUTURE TENURE	FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
23	Taranaki Adult Riding Club	South Taranaki District Council			Taranaki Adult Riding Club				
24	Tots can Trot	South Taranaki District Council			Private Riding School				
25	Warea Stables	South Taranaki District Council			Private Riding School				
26	Waverley Pony Club	South Taranaki District Council			Waverley Pony Club				
27	Karla Jamieson	Stratford District Council			Private Riding School				
28	Pioneer Village Stratford	Stratford District Council		20	Central Taranaki Riding for Disabled	No			
29	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	Stratford District Council	365	80	Taranaki Working Equitation, Stratford Pony Club, Taranaki Horse and Pony All Breeds, Eltham Pony Club members, Taranaki Mounted Games Association, New Plymouth Pony Club (alternate), Taranaki Adult Riding Club, Taranaki Western Riding Club	Yes – weekend use	Outdoor Arena & Yards/Stables Clubroom/Event Facilities	Certain	Dedicated equestrian site following relocation to accommodate other facilities as part of the Stratford Park Project.

APPENDIX D – NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN NETWORK

TIER	EVENTS	EQUESTRIAN FACILITY TIERS
TIER 3 REGIONAL	<p>EVENTS:</p> <p>Premier and grand prix events, NZPCA National Championships¹, Island Championships and in some cases Agricultural and Pastoral Show.</p> <p>+ all other events held at district and local tiered facilities.</p>	<p>ACTIVITY/OPERATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables a diversity of everyday equestrian activity on a single or adjoining sites (in addition to events). This concept termed a 'Regional Equestrian Parks' facilitates hubbing and/or collocation of multiple equestrian clubs, groups, disciplines and/or sports. • These sites can host up to regional level events (including premier and grand prix discipline events), regional clinics, rallies and camps. • For financial sustainability and overall site operations, securing at least one core ongoing user is recommended. • On occasions some national level events could be hosted at Regional Equestrian Parks (when required and deemed suitable). This only occurs when an event cannot be hosted at a national tier facility. • It is preferable for sites to accommodate most disciplines (noting suitable land provision for cross-country courses maybe restrictive). <p>PROVISION GUIDELINES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each regional council area to comprise a Regional Equestrian Park (or a higher provision tier 1 or 2 site). • Some areas may require more provision based on site location, membership catchment and accessibility • Located at least 2 hours drive time from another tier 1, 2 or 3 site. • Note multiple tier 1 to 3 sites may exist in closer drive times where event only sites are needed (where complementary to Regional Equestrian Parks).
TIER 4 DISTRICT	<p>EVENTS:</p> <p>As above as for Tier 3 – Regional.</p>	<p>ACTIVITY/OPERATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables everyday equestrian activity on a single or adjoining sites (in addition to events) as a standalone club/group/sport site or via a multi-use equestrian facility. • Multi-use equestrian facility or collocation of multiple equestrian clubs, groups, disciplines and/or sports. • Event hosting will vary dependent on disciplines but will primarily host grand prix level events and lower. • For financial sustainability and overall site operations, securing at least one core ongoing user is recommended. • Primarily service the population and membership base in the wider district (for day-to-day equestrian activity, noting events attract a wider catchment).

¹ Based on NZPCA event strategy – rotating the events around the country.

TIER	EVENTS	EQUESTRIAN FACILITY TIERS
		<p>PROVISION GUIDELINES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service a district catchment size 30,000-40,000 population and/or • Typically located 1.5-2 hours drive time from a District or higher-tiered facility which may host events for the same discipline(s). • Multiple sites may be required where there is insufficient land or suitably specified facilities in the immediate or adjacent territorial authority boundaries (city, districts, wards or local boards).
<p>NOTE</p> <p>Note that Regional Equestrian Parks and multi-use equestrian facilities are the preferred models for operation in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise use of sites, • Enhance sustainability, • Pool volunteer and work forces, • Reinvest into infrastructure, • Increase value proposition to stakeholders and landowners for potential investment, • Security of tenure. <p>In some areas where land and facility provision cannot meet event specifications, and Equestrian Parks cannot be effectively established or optimised, event only sites will be used to complement day-to-day equestrian facilities (for example A&P Showgrounds).</p>		
<p>TIER 5 LOCAL</p>	<p>EVENTS:</p> <p>Up to local and training level, local ribbon days, club competitions, hack days...</p>	<p>ACTIVITY/OPERATIONS:</p> <p>Sites that predominately cater for local equestrian community needs and services. These can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Pony Club delivery (with a mix of rallies – branch and area, training, schooling and various competitions & shows i.e. jumping dressage, ribbon days, ODE's), • Riding for the Disabled facilities, • Adult Riding Clubs, • Western Riding Clubs, • Rodeo Riding Clubs, • Polo facilities, • Private providers (typically providing riding schools and/or private training), • Casual use/access. <p>PROVISION GUIDELINES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no set provision guidelines for local sites. Key variables such as geography, facility network, demand, offerings/function, utilisation and financial sustainability need to guide localised provision.

APPENDIX E – CRITERIA

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The facility network principles and assessment criteria have been sourced and utilised from the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy.

ACCESS & SECURITY (25%)	We have the right type of facilities, in the most suitable locations, with secured tenure to facilitate equestrian activity for all.
IMPACT (35%)	Our equestrian sites extract the greatest possible value for our communities. This includes equine welfare, making the most of what we have got (greater utilisation and more partnerships) and providing the best overall experience to all equestrians.
SUSTAINABILITY (15%)	Our facilities remain financially, operationally, and environmentally sustainable.
ACHIEVABILITY (25%)	Our facility projects are functional, practical and complementary (meets the primary needs), the ability to leverage investment is high to support project viability ('do-ability') and we have the required skillset to drive and implement the project.

Under the principles a series of 10 criteria were developed to assess and prioritise equestrian facility projects. A paired comparison matrix was used to provide focus for future support, investment, and resource.

The assessment criteria should be used to assess opportunities and projects as they arise or evolve to ensure focus and resource is best placed to meet overall equestrian outcomes. It will be a **living tool** which enables consistent evaluation of projects and opportunities as they arise and evolve over time.

Important Note: It should be noted that inclusion as a key move or identified as a high priority project/opportunity does not replace the need for detailed analysis and planning such as needs assessment, options assessment, cost-benefit analysis, feasibility analysis and/or business case.

ACCESS & SECURITY

NETWORK IMPORTANCE - (20%)



Considerations: the criticality of the facility in the network to service a geographic area or where a proposed facility may meet an identified gap (geographically and/or functionally). This also includes possible optimisation of sites to best meet network outcomes.

SECURITY OF SITE OR FACILITY PROVISION - (5%)



Considerations: The extent to which existing sites/facilities are or likely to be removed or lost (i.e. not renewing lease) – impacting on participation and/or pathway outcomes.

IMPACT

PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE - (10%)



Considerations: The potential of the proposed project to enhance the participant and spectator experience. This could be achieved by improving the condition of surfaces and facilities, limiting or mitigating adverse weather and the provision of quality support infrastructure. It could also include technology solutions and the social environment created for day-to-day and/or event activity.

EQUINE WELFARE - (10%)



Considerations: The extent to which the proposed development maintains or improves horse/pony welfare outcomes (i.e. covered yards, water supply, arena surface quality) – commensurate to facility tier specifications.

MAXIMISES VALUE – PARTICIPATION IMPACT & LEVEL OF USE - (15%)



RELATIVELY LOW-LEVEL OF USE

SUPPORTS ONGOING & HIGH-LEVEL OF USE

Considerations: How many people and/or equine benefit from the project? Does it align with projected equestrian and demographic trends? Does it facilitate use for various groups and/or partners? Does it support day-to-day and event functions throughout the year?

SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS - (8%)



LOW RETURN

HIGH RETURN

Considerations: Degree of impact the project will have on improving site operations through increased revenue and/or decreased expenditure. Consideration needs to be given to the long-term view of meeting maintenance costs, renewals, and reliance on volunteers and/or staff to undertake this work – with less reliance on grant funding. Further consideration given to site location and resilience.

ENVIRONMENT - (7%)



LOW POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

HIGH POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Considerations: Degree to which the project supports environmental practices onsite i.e. water collection, storm and waste water management, preserves land and vegetation.

ACHIEVABILITY

FACILITY SPECIFICATION - (7%)



OVER-SPECIFIED

SPECIFIED TO MEET NEEDS

Considerations: Is the specification of the proposed development commensurate with what is required in the overall network? For example, the arena surface type or size within the context of what is available and/or proposed in the wider area.

INVESTMENT ACHIEVABILITY - (13%)



LOW LIKELIHOOD OF INVESTMENT

HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF INVESTMENT

Considerations: Level of investment required to deliver the project. Investment leverage is high. High proportion of funds already in place to get the project across the line.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY – (5%)



LIMITED PLANNING & DRIVE TO DELIVER

STRONG PLAN & DRIVE TO DELIVER

Considerations: The level of capacity and capability of the project proponent to undertake the development. This includes track record, expert guidance/assistance to progress the project and a clear and defined implementation plan.