

Taranaki Equestrian Groups, Clubs &

Participants

**This email is being sent by Sport Taranaki and Equestrian Sport NZ on behalf of the Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group. As the work of this group progresses, we expect that future communication will come direct from the Leadership Group.*

It's been six months since the official release of the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan and since this update, much has progressed. The purpose of this communication is to update you on where this work is at, where to next, and to invite you along on the journey!

You will recall that whilst the facilities plan made some strong facility recommendations it also highlighted the need for Equestrian to work more closely in partnership to realise a more sustainable future. As such, the project working group, formed initially to support the development of the facilities Plan, have continued to work together and has now evolved into the “**Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group**” (TELG).

Already the group are taking steps forward to bring the facility plan recommendations to life and to unpack what the future of Equestrian should and could look like in Taranaki, to both alleviate the challenges faced by clubs and participants and to realise the opportunities. The group has connected to Equestrian Sport NZ and have their support and backing, with Both Jo Colin and Ashra McAvinue helping to propel this work forward, through connection to the Strengthen & Adapt national project.

The Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group have members from around the region and across the various disciplines. The group are pictured below at a

recent meeting. They have met 6 times this year, with meetings held approximately every two months.

Left to right: Megan Gundesen, Halina Sarten, Allie Black, Georgina Maud, Sharon Robinson, Emily Perrin, Brendan Attrill, Bev Mulder, Sharon Stevens.

Not pictured but also part of this work are: Dale Moseley, Jen Blyde, Julie Roberts, Tracey Mackenzie-Kyle, Maree Collins, Kelly Teasdale, Jo Colin (General Manager Community & Participation - Equestrian Sport NZ), Ashra McAvinue (General Manager – Strengthen & Adapt – Equestrian Sport NZ) and Tara Fevre (Spaces & Places Advisor – Sport Taranaki).

The Facilities Plan makes an impact!

To date, the [Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan](#) has been used in a range of ways to support and guide facility developments around the region.

Examples include:

- Supporting Egmont A&P as the identified regional facility to obtain funding and complete much needed facility work; including a re-roof of the indoor arena and pony paddock re-surface.
- Providing a clear evidence base to support submissions to New Plymouth District Council on the Draft Plan for [Colson Road](#), where Equestrian is requesting a facility development that addresses two high priority projects as identified in the facilities plan; 1 - The need for more bridle trails and 2- Exploration of a District Equestrian Park considering the need for covered provision in North Taranaki and the tenure challenges faced by New Plymouth and Waitara Pony Clubs. The Facilities Plan provided the platform for equestrian to present one voice to NPDC, which you can read more about here: [Front page Taranaki Daily News feature](#) We are eagerly awaiting the next steps from council to progress this planning.

- Informing the Equestrian requirements of the Stratford Park development. Phase 1 of the Stratford Park project is focused on re-locating the existing facility to the South side of Flint Road, and in doing so, improving surfaces to negate weather impacts.

What have the Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group been working on?

In addition to the facility work detailed above, the Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group have spent the past few months interrogating the 'WHY'. After much discussion and workshopping, it has been agreed it is the role of the TELG to:

"Connect Taranaki Equestrians to create enjoyable opportunities for all in our community"

What next?

Now that the TELG have solidified the WHY, but before they progress to plan the WHAT and the HOW it is vitally important that there is connection back to the equestrian community. Through the process of developing the facilities plan, considerable feedback was received from the community via the Have your Say Survey. Resultingly, there is a reasonable understanding of the key challenges and opportunities faced across the regional equestrian network. These insights have been used to draft the TELG's areas of focus moving forward.

The TELG would like your feedback on the three focus areas below:

What work you would like to see driven by the Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group?



Where are we heading?

The Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group are next meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 18th September.

Should you be interested in the work the TELG are doing, want to join the group, have questions or feedback on the focus areas drafted, please connect with any of those pictured above, or directly with Tara - tara.fevre@sporttaranaki.org.nz who is providing interim administrative support whilst the TELG establish themselves.

Thanks and we look forward to your feedback and contributions.

Taranaki Equestrian Leadership Group