

14<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
Councillor Robyn Prestons  
Hawkesbury City Council  
[hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**RE: Rumours of Closure to Horse Trails in Hawkesbury Region**

Dear Ms Prestons,

I'm writing you to introduce myself. I am the Horse Representative for Animal Care Australia.

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of pet and companion animals in Australia, including private horse owners.

In NSW, Animal Care Australia is recognised as a key stakeholder with the Department of Primary Industries for the current review of their Animal Welfare Action Plan (reviewing POCTAA), with Department of Planning, Industry & Environment as well as the Office of Local Government.

ACA is concerned to learn of a rumour that Hawkesbury Council is looking to restrict horse access on established riding trails in the Hawkesbury LGA.

Safe riding areas are already extremely limited around Sydney, and we see any trail closures as a serious safety and welfare risk to horses and riders, who will be forced to ride on roads and other public areas to exercise their horses.

The Hawkesbury Region has the largest population of private horse owners in Australia, with many people moving to the area for its horse friendly environment and safe riding. The closure of safe horse riding trails is a serious issue of concern to all horse owners, not just those living in the Hawkesbury, but to those who also visit the Hawkesbury for safe riding venues.

Any closure of trails in the Hawkesbury Region will be met with resistance from Animal Care Australia, along with the 200,000+ members that our organisation represents in NSW.

I would like to request an urgent meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss this further, to establish why this has been raised at all, what the current issues are, and how we can help.

Kind Regards,

Karri Nadazdy  
Horse Representative  
Animal Care Australia

Phone: 0402 074 447



### **About Animal Care Australia**

Animal Care Australia is a national incorporated association established to lobby for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Animal Care Australia or ACA encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, companion animals, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation.

### **Mission Statement**

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is the Peak Animal Welfare Body representing the keepers and breeders of animals in Australia as pets and companions.

### **Objects**

- To represent Animal Care Groups as the peak animal welfare body
- To engage and advise Government and legislators on welfare issues relating to pets and companion animals.
- To protect the rights of ethical hobbyists & animal keepers to breed and keep pets and companion animals.
- To clarify the difference between animal rights and animal welfare
- To promote higher Animal welfare outcomes