

25 May 2022

TO THE TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

I am writing this letter on behalf of Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) in support of the New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network submission in support of the petition of Arthur Yeo which states:

“That the House of Representatives ensure, through legislation, that central and local government designers and planners of public works and policy are required to consider, inform, consult and include equestrian user’s needs in the design and construction of all roading, pathways, reserves and parks.”

HRNZ acknowledges the many benefits brought about by the relationship between humans and horses. These benefits include, but are not limited to, increasingly documented positive effects both on physical and mental health for those who regularly interact with horses.

Many horses are kept solely for the purpose of pleasure or trail riding, and Standardbreds are frequently used for these activities when they transition into their life after racing. HRNZ recognises that trail riding away from the public roads, is an important aspect of educating an equine in a fun and safe environment. Many small businesses, such as horse trekking companies, are also heavily reliant on having safe access to public land for their continued operation.

HRNZ considers that it is extremely important that due consideration be given to the need for legislation ensuring that the horses right to access public land intended for recreational use is upheld. Similarly, attention should be given to infrastructure to ensure that those horses accessing recreational areas are able to interact with other users, such as those in motor vehicles, in a way that compromises neither party’s safety.

We ask that you support the submission that is being made by the New Zealand Equine Advocacy Network to ensure that the needs of the Equestrian community are factored into the planning of recreational spaces across the country.

Yours sincerely



Liz Bishop
GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES