



Given the security of a proper lease, this club would continue to flourish. Other organisations – notably Riding for the Disabled – would consider the site favorably to offer their safe and beneficial program to a new group of riders who currently cannot access RDA at the limited venues.

Walking SA, Bike SA and the International Mountain Bike Association are very interested in being involved in coexistent discussions once the future of this current open space has been defined.

Collectively, we feel this site is symbolic of the gradual diminution of the horse sector in South Australia. Horse-activity sites in the metropolitan area are disappearing rapidly. We have seen venues such as racecourses at Cheltenham and Victoria Park close and watched as associated businesses and formerly thriving horse-related activities have disappeared from those localities.

Even if they could find an alternative venue, what would it cost the government to help this club in endless grant applications to recreate the safe environment they are expected to abandon? At a conservative estimate, the Club has invested more than \$800,000 in developing the site from an unattractive creek-bed filled with rubbish to the clearly desirable plot. Relocation would come at a cost of over one million dollars and would therefore mean the end of the club.

Blackhill Pony Club volunteers cleared the land, turning it from an eye sore into a recreational facility. This has saved the tax payer from paying for wages, plant hire, sub-contractors and materials.

We firmly believe there is a win-win potential for this site.

The government could win

- by allowing a vibrant club of young people to continue to exist
- by retaining valuable open space, a principle highly regarded by you
- by averting the cost of dealing with the consequences of losing this club, such as the cost of replacing the existing assets dealing with young adults dispossessed from their sport and in danger of
 - Self esteem issues
 - Obesity
 - Lack of motivation
 - Loss of community

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