

Coonabarabran Show Ground Trust (R85201)

Crown Lands Division, part of NSW Department for Trade and Investment, has been in long term discussions with Warrumbungle Shire Councils Director of Corporate and Community Services when assistance was needed in getting appropriate Licence agreements for users at the Coonabarabran Race Course Reserve (R47760) in early 2012. Council's primary contact at Crown Lands Dubbo office for these matters was Renate Sherring, the then Senior Property Management Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Catchments & Lands. Renate Sherring also was the point of reference for the Coonabarabran Showground Reserve Trust amongst many crown properties in our area.

The Coonabarabran Showground and Racecourse are linked by the area under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) enacted in 2004 between The Minister Assisting the Minister for Natural Resources (Lands) for the State of NSW, The Kamilaroi People, Coonabarabran Pony Club, Coonabarabran Showground Reserve Trust and Warrumbungle Shire Council. The area under the MOU is an old Travelling Stock Reserve (64894) which was also under a native title claim. Part of that claim being accepted meant that the 17.6 hectares went under the memorandum of understanding to ensure that Council had access to easements for water supply and drainage and that access was still available between the Showground and the Racecourse for major equestrian events. Under the MOU the Showground Trust and Pony Club are specifically noted on the MOU to ensure that the Local Aboriginal Lands Council is informed about events on the site and that they are managed properly.

On 11 July 2012 Council was contacted by Crown Lands department after an email from the Director of Corporate Services raised some concerns about electricity and power issues at the Coonabarabran Showground site. The Showgrounds electrical systems were not managing to full capacity when events were being held. Council also wanted clarification on who would be liable if there was a major incident (email attached). Crown Lands confirmed that the issue would go back to the Trustees for liabilities. The Crown Lands department staff expressed at the time that with the issues they were experiencing at the Coonabarabran Showground it would be easier for the crown lands department if the site was managed by Council.

During the Wambelong bushfire in January 2013, Council was encouraged by the Deputy Premier, Hon. Andrew Stoner and Member for Barwon Hon. Kevin Humphries, to assist the Coonabarabran community with recovery, that Council should assist the current Showground Trustees with an application for a Public Reserve Management Fund (PRMF) grant to update the electrical equipment on the site. During Blaze Aide occupations of the Coonabarabran Showground, WorkCover investigators contacted Council regarding the electrical deficiencies at the site. Council negotiated with WorkCover to not issue an improvement notice pending Councils preparation of an application for funding to rectify the matter. Council on behalf of the Showground Trust and other showground user groups completed the application for an electrical upgrade to the site. This application was submitted on the 14 March 2013 directly to the Crown Lands Office Dubbo.

On 23 March 2013 Council received correspondence from the Deputy Premier, The Hon. Andrew Stoner (also the Minister for Trade & Investment), informing Council of the successful application for a grant of \$177,000 to rectify the Coonabarabran Showground Reserve Trust's electricity issues. In the letter of reply from the Hon Andrew Stoner, Council was informed that they were to manage the funds as well as project manage the work to be completed on site. Council received correspondence that led Council to the understanding that this was a directive of the Deputy Premier, The Hon. Andrew Stoner and the Member for Barwon, The Hon. Kevin Humphries.

On the 18 June 2013 Council was informed by Crown Lands department that due to the regulations relating to PRMF grants that the funds must be placed in the Trust account of the Reserve in question. Council was to arrange for the Trust to transfer the funds to Council to manage and Council set up a project manager for the development.

Crown Lands department was vocal to Council at this time about their concerns for the trust as it was and that they had been dealing with issues with Police and the user groups arguing about various problems with the site and equipment. It was again suggested that Council should take over the trusteeship when it fell due – which was due April 2014. Council asked Crown Lands to keep them informed on this matter

On 24 October 2013 the Application for the Appointment of Trust Board Members was advertised in the Coonabarabran Times. Renate Sherring spoke with Council to encourage Council to apply for the trust management. Renate said that she would advise council as to the advertising of the new trust and whether Council was expected to make a submission along with any other applications. Council informed Renate that Council would have to resolve to express interest in becoming Coonabarabran Showground Reserve trustees.

On the 9 December 2013 Council, in discussions with Elizabeth Burke, Group Leader, Property Management Services, Crown Lands Division, NSW Trade & Investment about a matter regarding Bingie Grumble Mountain crown road. Elizabeth Burke again asked Council to submit an Expression of Interest to manage the Showground Trust.

Elizabeth Burke confirmed that Crown Lands had received 17 applications for the trust and a letter of support for Council to manage the Showground Trust from the Local Aboriginal Land Council. Elizabeth was informed that a business paper would be written for Council to consider a resolution as to whether Warrumbungle Shire Council would be prepared to submit an Expression of Interest to become Reserve Trustee of the Coonabarabran Showground.

At the ordinary Council meeting of the 19 December 2014 Council resolved;

Item 33 Coonabarabran Showground Trust

216/1314 RESOLVED that Council approves the Warrumbungle Shire Council Reserve Trust Committee registering an Expression of Interest to become the Reserve Trustee for the Coonabarabran Showground Reserve Trust.

**Schmidt/R Sullivan
The motion was carried**

Councillors Todd, Coe and Andrews recorded their votes against the motion.

On the 24 January 2014, Council put forward a formal Expression of Interest in managing the Reserve Trust of Coonabarabran Showground and emailed it directly to Elizabeth Burke of the Dubbo office.

16 April 2014 Premier Barry O'Farrell resigned and the state government restructured. The Trade & Investment portfolio was moved from The Hon. Andrew Stoner to The Hon. Kevin Humphries the member for Barwon. All decisions about Coonabarabran trust were suspended and Elizabeth Burke informed Council that the decision about the Showground Trust would go directly to the minister to make a decision.

Council was contacted by Crown Lands departments, Elizabeth Burke on 18 June 2014 and was informed that the trusteeship would be gazetted on Friday 20 July 2014 and that Council would be made trustee. Council was told that letters to all parties would be sent out on the following Monday 23 July 2014.

On 20 June 2014 the decision was gazetted;

**APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATION TO MANAGE
RESERVE TRUST**

PURSUANT to section 95 of the Crown Lands Act 1989, the corporation specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereunder, is appointed to manage the affairs of the reserve trust specified opposite thereto in Column 2, which is trustee of the reserve referred to in Column 3 of the Schedule.

KEVIN HUMPHRIES, M.P.,
Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>
Warrumbungle Shire Council.	Coonabarabran Showground Trust.	Reserve No.: 85201. Public Purpose: Public recreation and showground

Notified: 22 January 1965.
File No.: 08/2774.

For a term commencing the date of this notice.

On Monday 23 July 2014 Council established, in discussions with, Elizabeth Burke regarding the gazettal the requirement to ensure that all property at the showground was insured. Elizabeth emailed Council a copy of the letter of confirmation (attached) and informed council of the value of the buildings and assets as per the last return from the previous committee. The value of these assets was put as approximately \$1.5 million. Cost to Council to insure was \$5,190.89.

On 25 June 2014 The Horse and Rider user group contacted council to ask who would be looking after bookings and had a record of the bookings of the Showground. To ensure that a calendar was in place on 26 June 2014 Council sent out an email to all user groups known to Council stating;

On Friday 20 June 2014 the Coonabarabran Showground was gazetted into Councils care. This site will now be managed by Warrumbungle Shire Councils Reserve Trust Committee. The Warrumbungle Shire Council Reserve Trust Committee is made up of General Manager - Steve Loane, Director of Corporate Services – Rebecca Ryan, Manager Urban Services - Harold Sutton and Manager Property and Risk – Jennifer Parker (resolution 124/1213).

Formal "hand over" has not happened between the previous Reserve Trust members and Councils Reserve Committee, but is expected to happen in the near future.

If you receive any queries on booking for this site please forward them to Administration at the Coonabarabran office. Please speak to Tyson or Sally as they will be managing the diary for the Showground. Until formal handover all bookings will be put in the Council Showground Calender as "tentative". When the booking calendar is received from the previous trust all bookings will then be confirmed.

If there are any queries about the Showground and new Reserve Trust management please do not hesitate to forward them to myself or any other member of Warrumbungle Shire Councils Reserve Trust Committee on ph. 6849 2000.

On 30 January 2014 Council received an email from Angus Atkinson.

Attention:

All Warrumbungle Shire Councillors
Mr Steve Sloan and Peter Shinton

I am writing to you regarding the sacking of the Coonabarabran Show Ground Trust and the appointment of Warrumbungle Shire Council. **This is a disgraceful decision.**

How can the Warrumbungle Shire Council support the sacking of a voluntary trust that has in conjunction with the Horse Expo committee brought Coonabarabran such a successful horse expo and managed the show ground so professionally for so many years? Now that the Shire are more involved with the day to day management of the Show Ground, it will become an expensive burden and a red tape disaster. The Council should spend more time managing the quarry and fixing roads and less time trying to take over successful community assets.

It is also essential that the Coonabarabran Horse and Rider group are prevented from selling the horse yards that were purchased to benefit all Coonabarabran horse users, not a small number of people who think that they are better than the rest of us. Mr Richard Blackman, Mr John Anderson and Mr Kevin Sharpe all clearly articulated the reasons why the yards are a community asset and not owned by the Horse and Rider Group in the Coonabarabran Times. Unlike the factually incorrect/disrespectful/disgusting letter of Peter Knight. If the sale of these community assets is allowed to go ahead, it will set a very dangerous precedent. How can the Council support the unlawful and immoral sale of community assets without even knowing what the money will be used for.

Both these issues are being driven by a small group of people that are trying to take advantage of all of the great work that the Expo Committee and the show ground trust. Both the Major and his wife have both been at the centre of this disgraceful abuse of power and influence. The Major should not be involved in any of the decisions regarding these issues. It would appear that once again some of the Councillors, the General Manager and the Major instead of working to improve our community are working with a small group to try and bring everyone else down.

I would suggest that:

- 1: The Council write to the Horse Rider group and request that the sale of the yards be called off and that the Horse and Rider group acknowledge that the yards are owned by the community; and
- 2: The Council write to the State Government and relinquish their increased involvement in the Showground.
- 3: The Council put an article in the local paper detailing the reasons why they got involved in the sacking of the Show ground trust despite the trust being a well run community organisation managing the ground.
- 4: The Major write an apology to all of the members of the show ground trust apologising for the Council's disrespectful behaviour regarding this matter.

I can only hope commonsense prevails.

Regards
angus atkinson
"Bonah"
Coonabarabran NSW

In the afternoon of Friday 4 July 2014, The General Manager received a phone call from Michael Kniepp, Director West, Crown Lands, informing the Reserve Trust Committee that the Dubbo office had made an error and that the gazette installing Warrumbungle Shire Council Reserve Trustee of the Coonabarabran Showground Reserve would be revoked and that this was a decision from the Minister Hon. Kevin Humphries. The reason for rescinding the Trust decision was given that there had been an invalidated delegated decision. The General Manager asked Mr Kniepp to confirm the revocation in writing and to formulate a press release.

At 7:30pm on 4 July 2014 Council received an email from the previous Trust Treasurer with the calendar for July and August for the Showground attached. Council updated its diary.

On 7 July 2014 Council received a letter from Pony Club.

3 July 2014

Mr S Loane
General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council
14-22 John Street
COONABARABRANNSW 2357

Dear Sir

COONABARABRAN SHOWGROUND TRUST

I am writing on behalf of the Coonabarabran Pony Club to express our disappointment in the application by the Warrumbungle Shire to become trustees of the Coonabarabran Showground. Our club has worked with the present Trust for the past 5 years providing many hours of volunteer labor to improve the showground and all user groups work together with the trust for positive outcomes.

As a club we are one of the most active in the state hosting eventing competition weekends in April and December and gymkhanas, specialist competitions and our annual camp. These events plus monthly rally days make the pony club the biggest user group of the showground and in a position to confirm the excellent work being done by the present Trustees.

Last year the new "Hut" was completed in a collaborative effort with Expo and the Trust. This facility is now used by many local organizations to run canteens at events and raise funds. As members we take pride in this building and members maintain lawns, oiling fences and keep the canteen spotless for all user groups. We are pleased that the Show Society has chosen to use 'The Hut' for their AGM and lunch later this month. The whole community has a valuable asset at no cost to the Shire or tax payers and is available to all groups for use for a very modest charge to cover power.

At our monthly Pony Club meeting concerns were raised about the future consequences of the Showground being in the Shire's control. Questions were asked why OUR showground had been targeted. We noticed that community Trustees were appointed in Baradine. We are at a loss to explain why the Shire would want to be involved in assuming trusteeship of this very well run showground.

Some examples of recent improvements achieved by community groups working together as volunteers include:

- The Warrumbungle Eventing Club, a new group running Equestrian NSW accredited events, has obtained a grant to replace the old rotted showjumping fence with a new one that meets best practice safety standards
- The Trust working with Expo has extended the power outlets to provide safe individual powered sites for all showground users. This is in addition to the grant for the power upgrade.
- All clubs worked together to apply successfully for a new shower/toilet block with a disabled unit. This is the major funding project for Expo this year. It seemed wrong to have our new clubhouse equipped with disabled access and no disabled facilities on the eastern side of the grounds.
- The Campdraft Club, another new specialist club, which uses the grounds for training and competition has applied for a grant to repair the announcer's box at the northern end of the ground.
- Coonabarabran Pony Club is in the process of applying for a grant to cover the dressage arena. This matter was only discussed at last night's meeting and other user groups are being contacted for support.
- The Showground Trust, Expo, Pony Club and Rotary are working together to repair the cool room in the bar area and provide hot water and a solid floor to this area to improve outcomes for the Show, Pony Club Camp and the Rotary canteen at Expo.
- The Coonabarabran Horse & Rider Club, Coona Campdraft and Warrumbungle Eventing contributed \$500 each to the Pony Club as a contribution towards payment of the fence around the new 'Hut'.

These improvements are examples of the groups working with the Trust. What has motivated the Shire to interfere in such a successful showground? The Showground Trust has not been made aware of any dissatisfaction from the community on their work. There has been no opportunity to address any issues. There seems to be a lack of transparency in the Shire's motivation to target this showground that is self-funding and continually improving this valuable community asset.

In conclusion I would on behalf of the Pony Club reaffirm our support for the Showground Trust and hope that the councillors consider rescinding the motion to apply to become trustees of the Coonabarabran Showground.

With thanks,
Lucy Evans
Secretary”

On 8 July 2014 Council received a letter from Ian Clifton enclosing a letter he sent to the Minister.

Dear Mr S.Loane and Councillors

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have forwarded to both Kevin Humphries and Mark Coulton.

I feel it is important that all councillors be made aware of the seriousness of the present situation in relations to the sale of the yards and the management of the showground. This is a grave concern that will affect the entire community and one every citizen needs to be informed and aware of the consequences of the actions of one community group and the long term effect their actions will have on the care and maintenance of our showground.

I look forward to pursuing this important issue further

Yours sincerely
Ian Clifton

Dear Kevin,

I write to you to show my dismay and disappointment at your recent decision to hand the management of the Coonabarabran show grounds to the Warrumbungle shire council. I was informed of this information by email from a Jenifer Parker from the Warrumbungle council on the 29/06/2014.

Jenifer explains that a formal hand over is expected to happen in the near future. There is no explanation however, as to why this decision will lead to a better community resource.

Coonabarabran has one of the most active Trusts in NSW and with the enormous amount of volunteer labour that is offered the Coonabarabran Showground an area is constantly improving. I don't know how you expect this to happen while council workers on \$35 / hour are to maintain the 100's of hours local volunteer's put in each year for nothing. I am not member of the Trust, but was asked by current members to nominate myself for the new incoming Trust.

I spend each week at pony camp pruning, planting and watering trees. I also take upon myself to spay all the 'blue heliotrope' and 'Coolatai grass' on the grounds each year. I can't imagine any shire employee taking the same care and dedication to make sure these two highly invasive weeds do not take over the showgrounds

I appeal to you to reverse this decision as I can only assume you have been given some very poor advice or information.

You may also be aware that the Coonabarabran Horse and Rider Club, which hold the community-owned Expo yards, are attempting to sell them. These yards were purchased through a Federal grant, past profits from previous Expos, and donations from the local Pony Club and the Coonabarabran High School.

The horse and rider club are acting in a most devise manner and are using the sale of the yards as a weapon against the wider community and individuals who they have personal grievances with. The most disappointing fact is that our Warrumbungle Shire Mayor, Peter Shinton, and his wife Julie, are amongst the offenders actively pushing for this sale. They have no sense of civic duty in this matter and I hope you may reprimand this proposal by contacting the Horse and Rider Club(Narelle Andrews 0417 689153) before this act of foolishness is in acted.

Yours sincerely
Ian Clifton
'Keronga'
COONABARABRAN

On 8 July 2014 Council received a copy of a letter sent to Crown Lands Department Dubbo;

Ms Elizabeth Burke
Group Leader
Property Management Services
NSW Trade & Investment
Crown Lands
PO Box 2185
Dangar2309

6 July 2014

Re Coonabarabran Showground Trust

Dear Ms Burke,

I am in receipt of your letter with regards to my application to become a member of the Coonabarabran Showground Trust. I think the decision to appoint the Warrumbungle Shire Council as Trust Manager of the Coonabarabran Showground Trust is a very wise one and one I fully support.

There are many in the community who were horrified at the goings on of the old Trust, as was well demonstrated by the extraordinary number of people who applied for a position on the new Trust. Most are very relieved at the appointment of the Council as Trustee.

In the current circumstances the new Trust Managers will need to be strong to ensure the fair and legal use of the showground as there is a particularly nasty group of people who expected to be able to take over control of the Trust to pursue their personal agenda. One particular former Trust member was even overheard telling people who he would ensure would become new Trust members.

I would suggest that this group will not give up that easily. I note that they, as is their usual modus operandi, have not accepted this decision and will leave no stone unturned to achieve their goals. As such they do appear to be mounting a campaign of harassment and intimidation to have this decision reversed. They have been scathing in their comments as to the ability of the Council to run the Trust, citing so called interference by the Council in the management of another section of Crown Land that the Council realised it has obligations to manage. What they really mean is that they were forced to toe the line and now only have the same rights as everyone else, a situation they do not like.

As well they have apparently been in contact with our local member of parliament, who just happens to be the Minister for Lands, though I am rather intrigued as to what they could be basing their complaint on. I do wonder why they think they have more right to be on the Trust than others who applied.

Hopefully now the Coonabarabran Showground can be run the way it should be.

Yours faithfully

Peter Knight
CC
Mr Kevin Humphreys MP
Mr Steve Loane – Warrumbungle Shire Council

On Wednesday 9 July 2014 Council received the following email;

Jennifer Parker
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Coonabarabran
NSW 2357

Bob Fenwick
P O Box 244
Coonabarabran
NSW 2357

6th July 2014

Dear Ms Parker,

Having had 10 years on the Coonabarabran Showground Trust in the past, many as president, I would like to express my opinion on the current situation. I have no doubt the shire would do an excellent job as custodians, however, the cost of additional workload carried out by paid council staff would have to be passed on to the users, I am very aware of the amount of work that is carried out by the volunteers of

all the user groups. I also feel that the caretakers cottage that was funded by a government grant should be used as a caretakers' cottage and not a radio station. This has, over the past years caused difficulties at the North West Equestrian Expo and the local PAI & H show through the radio volunteers having to have access to the cottage while these activities are being held.

I feel the trust should be made up of seven volunteers from the present user groups having common interest in the ground.

At this stage I am on holidays, and was informed of the change just recently and I felt the need to forward my thoughts onto you and the Warrumbungle Shire on this matter.

Kind Regards

Bob Fenwick

On the 9 December Crown Lands sent out the following Media Release

COONABARABRAN SHOWGROUND TRUST TO RETURN TO COMMUNITY HANDS

The running of the Coonabarabran Showground will return to community hands, Minister for Natural Resources, Land and Water Kevin Humphries announced today.

Mr Humphries said a recent decision to exclude community members from the trust board managing Coonabarabran Showground has been reviewed and local residents with a passion for the community and the showground will now be part of the trust.

"When the Coonabarabran Showground trust was recently established, Warrumbungle Shire Council was appointed as corporate trustee and the 17 community members who applied were rejected," Mr Humphries said.

"Many in the Coonabarabran community believed the trust would be better managed if it drew upon the expertise and knowledge of local residents, and requested that a community-based trust board be appointed instead.

"A board of up to seven community members will now be appointed and Crown Lands will shortly contact the people who applied.

"Warrumbungle Shire Council has been advised of the decision and understands the reasoning behind it.

"Similar to many regional communities, the showground is a focal point for Coonabarabran, hosting the annual show, the North West Equestrian Expo and many other events.

"I believe that the best outcomes for the future of the Showground will be achieved with the community having the major say in managing the showground, particularly given the range of clubs and community events that take place there.

"I look forward to announcing the new trust board in the very near future."

MEDIA: Jeremy Scott – 0467 741 200

It has been confirmed by Michael Kniepp, Director West, NSW Trade & Investment, Crown Lands on the 9 July 2014 that, until the new trust is installed, Council will remain trustee of the Coonabarabran Show Ground.

The Mayor of Warrumbungle Shire Council received the following letter on the 10 July 2014;

3.7.14

RECEIVED
10 JUL 2014

BY: _____

Dear Councillor,

I am writing this letter in regards to the Warrumbungle Shire Council taking over our local Showground. I have lived in Coonabarabran all of my life and as both a child and now a mother have enjoyed using the wonderful facilities offered by the Showground Trust at our Showground.

My two daughters now ride for Coonabarabran Pony Club and since the building of the new Hut with thanks to Expo and Pony Club I have been taking care of the lawn directly around the building. I have been mowing and watering as needed. I only enjoy this activity as a chance to give back to and support the showground trust and the wonderful job that they do.

I will be extremely disappointed if this takeover goes ahead as I can see only good things that the showground trust have done for our community.

With Thanks



Katie Chapman

The following letters were received after the business paper was completed on Friday 10 July 2014 in the afternoon.



North West Equestrian EXPO Inc
ABN 61 718 613 232

PO Box 112, COONABARABRAN NSW 2357

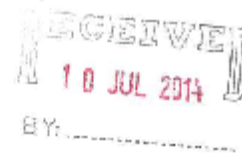
SECRETARY
Rebecca Moxham
rebecca.moxham@dst.nsw.edu.au

TREASURER
Aloey Blackburn

PRESIDENT
Kevin Sharp

2nd July 2014

The Hon. Kevin Humphries
Member for Barwon



Dear Sir,

Re Coonabarabran Showground Trust

I am writing to you on behalf of the North West Equestrian Expo Committee regarding the above matter. We were pleased that you could attend the final presentation of our 2014 event in June. You would be aware of the pride that our community takes in hosting this blue ribbon event.

I contacted your office on Monday to express our disappointment in the appointment of the Warrumbungle Shire Council as trustees of the showground. I was pleased to be advised by Richard Blackman that this decision is to be reviewed and community members will be interviewed for the positions on the trust.

The Coonabarabran Showground Trust has worked co-operatively with the Expo Committee over the past seven years to facilitate major improvements to the Showground. The power upgrade and new shower block were all supported by grants from your government via applications made by user groups working together with the Trust.

User groups including Pony Club, Campdrafting, Eventing Clubs and Expo have worked with the Trust to develop a sustainable funding model for showground infrastructure and cross country fences. The new clubhouse, freshly painted fences, new showjumps and re sown main arena surfaces are evidence of the success of this co-operative approach.

Unfortunately a very small number of people have run a campaign to undermine the Showground Trust in an effort to oust them and control the ground. We believe that the future of Expo is served by the showground remaining in the hands of passionate hard working community volunteers rather than the Shire.

Finally we would like to affirm our support for the existing trustees and welcome new members. We at Coonabarabran are fortunate to have so many talented community members willing to put up their hands to join the Showground Trust.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Moxham



9 July 2014

The General Manager
Steve Loane
Warrumbungle Shire Council
PO Box 191
COONABARARRAN NSW 2357

RECEIVED
10 JUL 2014
BY:

Dear General Manager,

I am writing on behalf of the Warrumbungle Eventing Club to express our disappointment at the Warrumbungle Shire's appointment as trustee of the Showground and adjoining half of the Cross Country course.

We are a small club that hosts an annual event in September under the umbrella of Equestrian NSW (see attached letter). We have had an excellent working relationship with the existing trustees and have been able to assist via funding and volunteer labour to facilitate improvements to the Showground and Cross Country course.

We, along with Pony Club and Expo have been setting aside \$5.00 per competitor from each competition we host to help provide funds for repairs and maintenance to the course. This is specifically for the Cross Country course and has been successful over the past five years in covering our costs. As an eventing-specific club all profits from our events go into improvements to the course.

The current working relationship with user groups works well and the Trust has always been pro-active in supporting our Club. We see no reason to alter the status quo.

Yours faithfully,

Brenda Grant
Secretary
Warrumbungle Eventing Inc

ABN 51 880 659 119



Eventing NSW
'BOONOOONA' C/- P.O.
SPRING RIDGE
NSW 2343
Ph: +61 (0) 2 6747 3887
Fax: +61 (0) 2 6747 3810

Email: eventing.nsw@bigpond.com

Tuesday, 8 July 2014

Warrumbungle Eventing

To whom it may concern:

Eventing NSW supports Warrumbungle Eventing in their efforts to have one person oversee the Cross-Country course at the Coonabarabran Showground.

Our organisation has recognised that the Coonabarabran/Warrumbungle Cross-Country course and showground facilities are up to standard, to host Equestrian Australia (EA) National competitions.

Richard Blackman is a qualified EA Course Designer and as such works with builders, and other recognised EA Course Designers to assure the required standard of the course is maintained. It is imperative that the cross-country course has a development strategy to ensure the course maintains the standard required for risk management and safety.

Eventing NSW acknowledges the time Richard Blackman and his volunteer assistants put into maintaining jumps, improving footing and developing the course. It is important that the ground owners, and/or trusts recognise that Richards knowledge and support enables the course to be maintained to a suitable standard. If state or council funds are no longer available, it is imperative that the course is preserved to avoid course deterioration.

Currently four users rely on the course being to a suitable standard, Warrumbungle Eventing, Coonabarabran Horse and Rider Club, Coonabarabran Pony Club and Coonabarabran High School Expo. Warrumbungle Eventing is an EA affiliated club, the Horse and Rider Club is affiliated with the Arabian Society - EA insured and relies on EA standards and the NSW Pony Club that recognizes EA Course Designers. Coonabarabran Expo requires and relies on EA officials to ensure all safety and risk management is maintained to the very best standard.

The Coonabarabran equestrian community benefits from grant funding available to accredited clubs to foster development of Equestrian Sport in country NSW.

Coonabarabran has a Cross-Country course that is envy of many large regional centers. It is important that only a qualified person oversees the development and maintenance of the course.

Yours faithfully,

Administration Officer Eventing NSW