

LOCKYER VALLEY EQUINE PRECINCT

PROJECT SUMMARY

A Collaborative comprising the Lockyer Valley Turf Club, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Racing Queensland, Equestrian Queensland, The University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science and Regional Development Australia (Ipswich and West Moreton) have been developing a plan to redevelop the Lockyer Valley Turf Club.

The Collaborative have developed a Master Plan to create a multi-use racing and equine precinct with ability to host a variety of national and international world class equine events. A business case is currently being prepared to understand the feasibility of the proposed facility and support future funding applications – stakeholder and community feedback is being sought to support this process.

The facility has been designed to support use by racing and equine groups, in addition to a range of facilities and spaces that will be available for the community to use or hire. This could include spaces for functions, conferences, community events and gathering as well as dining and parklands.

To develop an equine precinct which is sustainable over the long term, and also supports the growth in thoroughbred racing, equine industries and associated businesses whilst generating additional jobs in the region and across South East Queensland.

Vision for Lockyer Valley Equine Precinct

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARISES THE KEY FEATURES OF THE MASTER PLAN THAT WILL BE STAGED OVER TIME:

Thoroughbred racing track & facilities

The existing racetrack (course proper) will be relocated and redesigned to provide a flat track, ideally 25m wide, with wide contoured bends, long straights and flexible starting points (850m up to 2200m).

Future stages could also include a second grass training track located on the inside of the course proper which would be 15m wide and capable of conducting official trials. A 10m wide all-weather poly/sand/training track, with an adjacent safety vehicle road and horse path could also be included.

The concept also includes an all-weather track crossing for emergency vehicles and inner road surface located on the inside of all racing and training tracks to enable all emergency and maintenance vehicles clear access.

A dedicated tunnel for horses, people, and equipment under the racing and training tracks will be included to provide access to the centre field.

Once fully constructed, the facility could support a 300-horse training stable complex in blocks of 60 boxes, as well as 120 race day horse stalls.

Equine facility

The facility will include a new equine facility to support thoroughbred racing and equestrian events, training and activities.

This includes provision for a stabling complex, spectator viewing, aqua training facility, stable complex parking and horse float parking.

The facility will be designed to incorporate modern environmental design elements including best practice irrigation and water storage and reuse water, solar energy and green space.

Centre arena / field of play

The centre arena / field of play is proposed on the inside of the race and training tracks.

It includes a large, covered arena as well as fields that can be configured into different sizes and orientations, that could potentially host activities like dressage, show jumping, polo and polocrosse.

This space could be utilised for large equestrian events or events that have an equine flavour or focus.

Grass berm spectator seating will circle and overlook these areas as well as a space for food and beverage stalls or food trucks.

Community parkland

Community parkland is proposed around the outside of the racetrack, adjoining Lockyer Creek. The parkland may include pedestrian pathways and tracks around the outside of the facility. It may be possible to use this parkland area for camping and caravans during events.

It is envisaged the sites surrounding parklands will be open to the public and provide an opportunity to attract visitors with an interest in the behind the scenes workings of horses training and competing with a safe immersive experience.

Multi-purpose hospitality and accommodation

The multi-purpose hospitality will be the most prominent architectural feature of the new facility. It will directly link with the entry plaza to the main spectator viewing and entertainment area and includes a variety of permanent and temporary spectator food and beverage outlets, amenities, retail stores, media and VIP spectator boxes, a corporate dining area and a boutique hotel.

There will be a range of spectator viewing options, including grandstand seating, trackside grass terrace seating, grass berm seating and an elevated trackside viewing terrace all overlooking the track and finish line.

A parade ring, horse mounting parade circle area and parade exit to the racetrack will be located on the ground level, surrounded by spectator seating and viewing platforms. Race day services, including jockey rooms, medical facilities/services, stewards' rooms, and race caller box will be located centrally within the facility.

Multipurpose education, exhibition, and spectator facility with accommodation

The education and exhibition facility provides flexible learning, conference, event and function facilities. Serviced apartments could also be incorporated into this building, providing another accommodation option for students or visitors.

The spectator seating will comprise grass berm seating that overlooks the racetrack with a raised spectator concourse and facilities for temporary food and beverage.

Entry plaza

The entrance will feature a large public plaza that will include a vehicle drop off/pick up zone, public transport interchange, access to undercover vehicle parking and informal (overflow) event parking. It will be a shared space for pedestrian and vehicles, with a separate driveway to the equine facilities.

The entry plaza will also be designed to be used for recreational activities, in time this could include event day fan experiences, pre and post-event entertainment, markets and food truck areas.
