

Horse keeping activities

Effectiveness of the horse keeping guidelines

Community feedback report October 2025

Executive summary

1.0 Background

- In 2024, the City of Marion released the Quick reference guide to horse keeping, intended to provide both horse stable operators and residents with an overview of what council considers to be the reasonable operation of horse keeping facilities
- The guide also set out the requirements for the placing of manure bags for public collection.
- Over the last 12 months monitoring has been undertaken on how well the guidelines have worked
- This consultation was designed to invite feedback from stable owners, operators, and local residents to help us understand whether the guidelines effective, whether there are there any ongoing concerns, and what improvements could be made to the guidelines

2.0 Response summary

2.1 Making Marion responses

- 28 responses were received via the online Making Marion survey
- 3 (11%) responses were from stable operators / owners
- 15 out of 25 (60%) residential respondents indicated that horse keeping activities did not impact negatively on them
- All responses from stable owners / operators indicated that they were not supportive of creating a central collection area for manure
- 12 respondents (48%) believe that the guidelines help to effectively manage horse keeping activities, 9 respondents (36%) are unsure and the remaining 4 respondents (16%) don't believe they are effective

2.2 Door knocking

Approx. 35 people including stable owners / operators were engaged face to face to discuss the consultation and ensure they knew how to provide feedback if they wanted to. Discussions highlighted generally positive feedback on current activities including positive feedback from residents on how respectfully stables operate. Stable owners / operators reported no issues with the guidelines and appreciated being advised of the review.

3.0 Key themes from the feedback

Supportive views: stables and horses are an integral part of Morphettsville's identity, bringing character, heritage, and enjoyment to the area. Residents valued seeing and hearing the horses, considered the facilities well maintained, and felt the industry added vibrancy and purpose to the community. Some also noted that manure bags did not negatively affect them and even saw them as a positive resource.

Concerns: were mainly regarding manure bags left on footpaths causing smell, leakage, and inconvenience; traffic safety risks from speeding cars and limited visibility around horse crossings; and congestion from horse floats blocking driveways. A number of residents felt Council was not enforcing its own guidelines on waste and safety. Others expressed distrust, believing the stables are ultimately destined for closure and redevelopment, while some residents argued the land would be better used for housing.

Engagement Snapshot

Timeframe

Community consultation commenced on **18/08/2025** and closed on **08/09/2025**.

How we engaged:

- Emails to key stakeholders
- On site signage
- Direct mail notification
- Door knocking residents



Direct mail delivery area (193 properties):

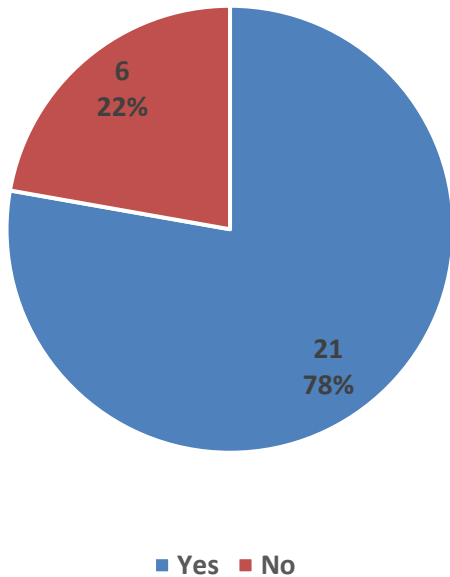


Responses

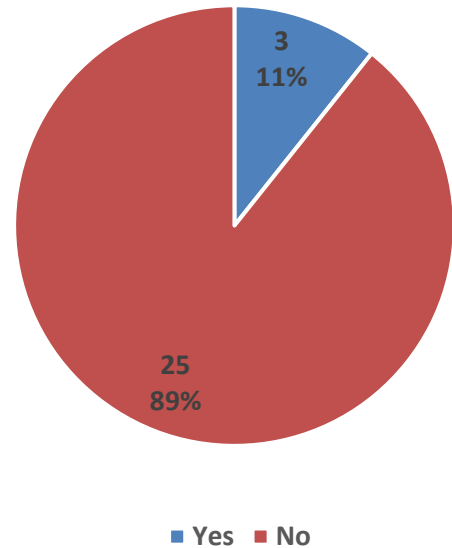
Suburb

Suburb	Total
Glenelg East	1
Glengowrie	2
Morphettville	23
Park Holme	1
Plympton Park	1

Were you aware of the guidelines?

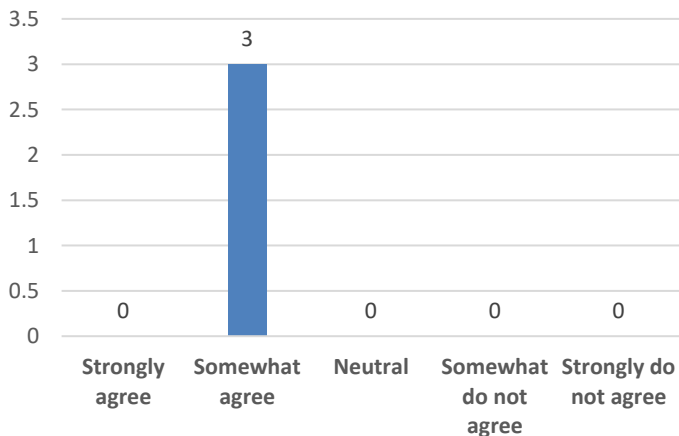


Are you a stable owner or operator?

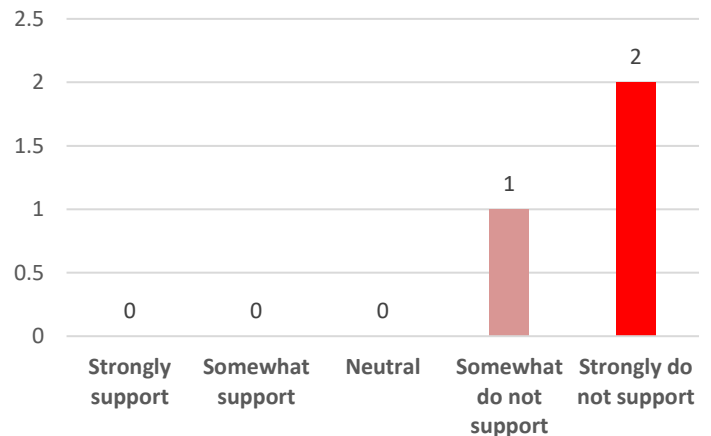


Stable owners / operators (3)

The conditions in the guidelines are easy to follow?

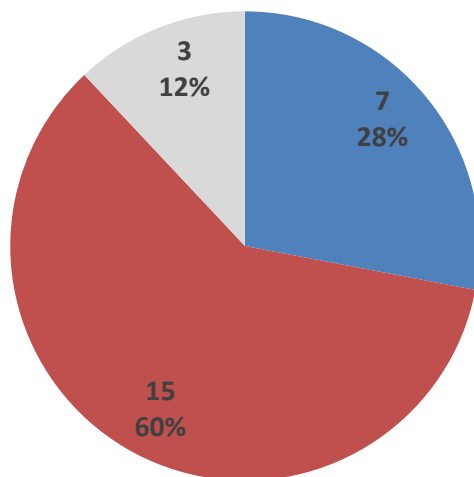


Would you support a process of delivering horse manure to a central collection area?



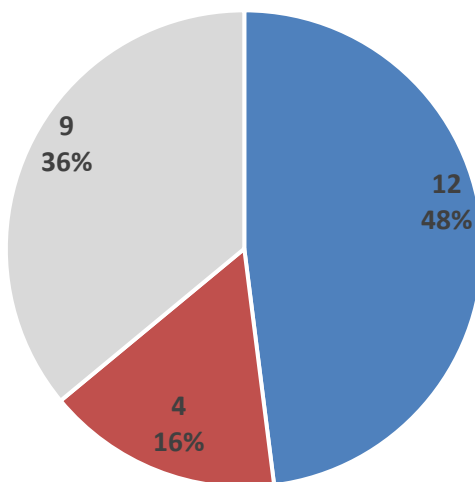
Residents' responses

Does the operation of horse keeping activities negatively impact on you as a resident?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other (please specify)

Do you believe the guidelines help to effectively manage horse keeping activities in the Morphettville area?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure

Comments

Comments

Are there any conditions in the guidelines that make operations hard for your organisation?

- 1 No
- 2 No
- 3 No it is straight forward and fair

Would you support a process of delivering horse manure to a central collection area? (Not supported comments)

- 4 It would create a lot more work in an already time poor environment. The people who collect are generally regulars that also return the bags to us for re use. Who returns bags that we do desperately need if it all goes to a central location and imagine the odour and flies of such a large amount in one place. It would be a bad idea.
- 5 For day to day hygiene in stable yards, keeping manure and collecting in a central location is completely and physically impractical. This practice would definitely encourage more flies to the area! Flies breed in manure. At the moment manure is collected and removed multiple times a day and flies do not get a chance to breed. If you introduce a central location for manure it will not be removed daily and this will give flies the opportunity to breed very nicely indeed. I have seen this practice in other states and it does not work. The current method used around Morphettville is tried and true, it works for everyone and it gets rid of the manure before flies get a chance to breed.

Does the operation of horse keeping activities negatively impact on you as a resident? (Comments for yes and other)

- 6 Trucks and vehicles parking on yellow lines and at times blocking off the whole street
- 7 Horse droppings in the street and on my footpath on Agars.
The dwelling has had two lots of white ants with substantial damage - I attribute the presence of white ants to the stables.
The area is heavily infested with pigeons also because of the stables (they need to be culled).
Noisy horses banging their hooves in their floats as they travel along Agars and Austral.
- 8 Traffic hazards, in the morning they cross anywhere along bray street and the visibility is poor to nil...ive been abused at the lights by a strapper at the jolley stables because my brakes squeaked ...allergies,, during the warmer month the flies are in plaque amounts the smell is hideous
- 9 Brings too many pigeons into the area which then defecate everywhere.
There are horse floats often left on the streets which are wide and cause a traffic hazard stopping two cars from passing each other.
We then are 2-3 streets away but still have floats parking on our street.
- 10 Large horse transportation vehicles parked outside of our house taking up all the street parking.
- 11 The excessive horse manure on the footpaths
 - Impedes on the safe foot traffic
 - causes uncontrollable flies in warmer months.
 - creates a sludge in the rain going straight into the stormwater.
 - sticks the metropolitan neighbourhood.
- 12 When we walk our dog she constantly stops to eat even the smallest drop of manure it is a frequent occurrence along the footpaths surrounding the stables
I question whether the horses are what attract the many pigeons that frequent our yard they pose health risks to my dog she has been frequently sick and required a vet trip for antibiotics due to the diseases the pigeons carry

Comments

Does the operation of horse keeping activities negatively impact on you as a resident? (Comments for yes and other)

- 13 I work in the racing industry & it is very obvious the council want horse keeping/training operations to cease at Morphettville.
- 14 As a resident on Ellis Ave/Bray St, I generally have a neutral attitude to horse keeping activities, with some minor negative impacts, in particular in summer months.
- 15 Only with regards to manure on footpaths and water run off containing manure in the gutter past my house to the storm water drain

Do you believe the guidelines help to effectively manage horse keeping activities in the Morphettville area? (Comments for no)

- 16 There's is no monitoring of horse traffic , and they are pedestrians they need to cross at crossings
- 17 It's my experience that some sections of the guidelines aren't being strictly adhered to, in particular, manure clean up (on public land) and manure bags for public collection.
- Bags for collection are often left open and overfilled. Bags are sometimes spilled at collection, and commonly not cleaned up after until the next morning's post-morning-training blower vac. On weekends, bags are not uncommonly left for more than 24 hours. Last summer around the Christmas period, when collection seemed extra low over public holidays, there was a period of 5 days where some bags didn't move.
- Clean up of manure left on public footpaths and roads following morning training can be lacking, and in summer this attracts flies. Manure in the road gutters / drains leading to the gutters causes water to pool and the area becomes very bad for mosquitoes.
- Having said that, I observe that the sections of the guidelines that seem to be complied with are ensuring bags are placed against property boundaries, and only 2 x deep, if that.
- 18 There has been no change since the guidelines were introduced.

What do you think could be done to improve the guidelines?

- 19 I feel there is enough in place now
All the council is trying to do is make it harder and harder for everyone

Comments

Any other comments

- 20 The council has an agenda of wanting all horse stables gone
So all employees are out of a job and on the dole queue
Instead of worrying about a bag of manure how about policing speeding drivers around the area especially early in the AM
- 21 I have NOT seen a significant change to the manure bags for public. I agree that it is a good public service but the volume kept on the footpaths is not monitored or removed. Bags are not sealed. Water washed from the stables is entering the road way and settling in the gutters. It often doesn't get washed to the storm water drain and during the summer the accumulation of horse manure and sludge can become enormously offensive smelling. It is a hazard for entering or exiting a vehicle parked on the side of the road. As there are always vehicles parked on the road, the council street cleaner NEVER clears the debris.
- 22 My family have just moved back to SA from Vic 2 mths ago. We live on Bray st and have had no issues or concerns regarding the horses at the horse stables.
We love seeing them as we drive past the stables, and see them race sometimes.
Very well kept stables, always very clean.
We've even walked past there a few times, nil odour.
Horse keeping standards are definitely being fulfilled at all times.
- 23 Having lived in the area for 20 years it's a real pleasure having housekeeping in such close proximity and seeing the movement of horses between the stables and training facilities. I consider it an extra amenity to the suburb.
The stables are unobtrusive and the surrounding areas are well maintained.
I'd like to see improved signage for motorists alerting them and encouraging extra vigilance and consideration before the road crossing locations. In particular many motorists disregard the existing 50km/hr speed limit on Bray Street, and extra measures should be considered at the two crossings on this street between training areas and stables.
- 24 The horse keeping is a welcome benefit to living in the vicinity of Morphettville Racecourse and the surrounding stable complexes. Having lived in the Glengowrie for 20 years it's a pleasure seeing the movement of horses between stables and training facilities. The stables are not intrusive at all and surrounding areas are well maintained.
I'd like to see improved signage for motorists to improve their awareness and encourage them to slow down and be extra vigilant around the road crossing areas. In addition many drivers exceed the 50km/hr limit on Bray Street.
- 25 I would like to see Marion council improve its practices in removing weeds around the footpaths and streets. Much has been missed by recent persons spraying. Also take care of the many (lovely) trees and shrubs that have been newly planted around the streets at the ratepayers expense. Many are dead or dying, the wooden posts are either broken or knocked over and looking very unsightly and are a hazard for people walking along the footpath.
- 26 Ideally all stables moved elsewhere with new residential housing built
- 27 I love having the industry integrated into the community. It provides a distinct and unique community identity. This is part of the reason we chose to live in this zone.
- 28 Most of the racing community are under no illusions that the ultimate goal is to cease horse training operations in the Morphettville area & redevelop. This survey has been created purely for non-horse related residents to whine about the area they chose to invest in, & shut it down. I have no doubt they'll get their way eventually. Until then, perhaps council could actually consider the welfare of our horses & do something about the safety hazards of horses walking to & from the track along Bray street and the adjoining side streets. There is not enough signage or lighting or speed restrictions on motorists to respect that there are horses on the roads & exercise caution. I would suggest council implement better signage to notify motorist's that horses share the road, better street lights so that motorists can SEE horses on the roads, and reduced speed limits in the area. None of this will happen because this is not about horse welfare, or the livelihoods of people within the industry, this is about getting public support to push training operations out of Morphettville.

Comments

Any other comments

29 Separate from the topics covered by the guidelines, I have concerns about the visibility of horses and stable workers in the early hours of the morning, and the speed limit of Bray Street.

As I reside on a street that is mostly stables, it's a very busy street for parking in the mornings while people attend work. Cars cram in, sometimes over our driveway, and it can be difficult to navigate getting my own car out from my driveway into the street. This also causes visibility issues of whether a horse is being walked to/from the racecourse. Sometimes they are walked down the footpath, but other times down the road, and if it is still dark, they're very difficult to see coming. While workers often wear high-vis, in the dark or in winter when it can be foggy, and the clothing isn't reflective.

Additionally, the speed limit is 50km/h on Bray Street, and while there is signage to "Drive with care", this is regularly not adhered to. It's not clear who has right of way when a horse is crossing Bray St, and drivers often stop late, drive too fast or stop but drive away while the horse is still on the road. It's not uncommon for yelling to occur between workers and drivers and I've seen this escalate into road rage incidents before.

30 Please ask people not to park horse floats on Austral Tce, it adds even more risk to the parked cars.

Should only be able to park cars on one side of the road.
Accident waiting to happen.

31 I love living in the area, the horses, the stables, the racetrack and even the bags of manure all help make the area different and special. I have never been negatively impacted by the bags of manure but have had some good chats while out walking with people collecting the manure

32 Attach my email address to my previous comments on this matter

33 I do have 3 stables in my back yard but they have not been used for about 20 plus years. My following comments can now be taken as that of a resident .

The issue that I have is in regards to the many bags of manure that remain on the footpaths in Ellis and Grafton Avenues beyond the stipulated time stated in the guidelines. Not only is it an inconvenience to pedestrians, the smell is quite unpleasant, and seepage causes stains on the footpaths.

Another matter however, but does not relate to the above, is the unsightly eyesore in the south eastern corner of the racecourse premises. It has always been a forgotten corner by SAJC but in recent times been made worse by the dumping of many tonnes of soil and aggregate. It shows a lack of consideration to the people living in the immune area. The Marion Council should take the necessary steps to have this area properly landscaped as quickly as possible.

I would appreciate you passing this message on to the appropriate authority within the the Council.....with thanks.

34 I feel that our street should be permit parking only.

35 The Marion council created the guidelines however have not enforced a single one of them since the implementation.

If any other property owner was to behave in a similar matter leaving rubbish on the footpath they would be infringed almost immediately.

36 They're not in the way. I have no problem with them. No smell or noise issues.

37 No flies at property. Been here 60 years

Comments

Any other comments

38 I live across from the racecourse ! I love the horses . I love hearing them as I wake up . I love driving past them on my way to work .

The horses are our community the Morphetville community and I choose to live here to enjoy them .

I feel the trainers / owners are respectful of our community and I have absolutely no issues at all .

I'd rather have the horses & trainers with a purpose in life .

If people are unhappy put your focus more on moving out the housing trust residents, lurking the streets of Morphetville high on drugs . Theft abuse at all hours of the night ! Now that's a real issue in the community .

The horses bring peace to our area !