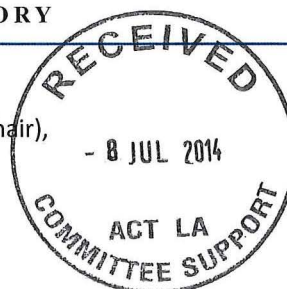




LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mr Steve Dospot MLA: To ask the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

In relation to: ACT Government agistment paddocks

- (1) How many ACT Government agistment paddocks are currently available
 - (a) By number
 - (b) By size
- (2) How does this compare with areas/paddocks available in
 - (a) 2010
 - (b) 2012
 - (c) 2013
- (3) What is the maximum carrying capacity in the currently available paddocks?
- (4) What is the current capacity in these paddocks?
- (5) Is there a waiting list and if so, how many are on it?
- (6) What is the shortest/longest/average length for someone on the waiting list?
- (7) What is the eligibility criteria for someone wishing to agist a horse in an ACT Government paddock?
- (8) What is the management plan for government paddocks in terms of
 - (a) Resting
 - (b) Weeding
 - (c) Fertiliser

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Context:

There are currently sixteen areas of unleased land comprising 980.9 hectares that have had basic infrastructure established and maintained to support horse agistment. Each area is referred to as a complex and comprises a number of paddocks.

The day-to-day management of the horse paddock complexes is through a Service Level Agreement between the ACT Government and Territory Agistment Pty Ltd.

(1) How many ACT Government agistment paddocks are currently available

(a) By number

(b) By size

The current complexes and their sizes are:

Complex	Area (Ha) - 2014
1. Arawang	75.6
2. Cook	40.6
3. Nth Curtin	31.9
4. Duntroon	54.3
5. Hackett	52.9
6. Hall	47.3
7. Hume	58
8. Illoura	80.8
9. Kaleen	67
10. Macarthur Park and Gilmore	95.7
11. Mt Taylor	42.3
12. Neighbour	54.3
13. Oaks Estate	22.2
14. Parkwood	99.1
15. Rose Cottage	106
16. Yarralumla	52.9
TOTAL	980.9 Ha

(2) How does this compare with areas/paddocks available in

(a) 2010

(b) 2012

(c) 2013

Complex	Area (Ha) - 2010	Area (Ha) - 2012	Area (Ha) - 2013
1. Arawang	73.2	73.2	73.2
2. Cook	40.6	40.6	40.6
3. Nth Curtin	31.9	31.9	31.9
4. Duntroon	55.7	55.7	55.6
5. Hackett	53	53	52.9
6. Hall	47.3	47.3	47.3
7. Hume	44.1	44.1	42
8. Illoura	80.8	80.8	80.8
9. Kaleen	67	67	67
10. Macarthur Park and Gilmore	81.5	90	90
11. Mt Taylor	42.8	42.8	42.3
12. Neighbour	57.2	57.2	54.3
13. Oaks Estate	22.1	22.15	22.2
14. Parkwood	75	92	99.1
15. Rose Cottage	179.1	166	166.4
16. Yarralumla	44.4	53	52.9
TOTAL	995.7	1016.75	1018.5

(3) What is the maximum carrying capacity in the currently available paddocks?

Context: The term carrying capacity is a theoretical agronomic term used to describe the number of grazing animals that the amount of feed in a paddock can sustain – assuming average seasonal conditions. This does not necessarily correlate with the number of grazing animals that can be held in a paddock at any one time. In the case of the horse complexes, the decision on the number of horses that can be grazed in any one paddock is a decision for Territory Agistment who are very experienced in horse husbandry.

The **maximum** carrying capacity for each of the complexes is:

Complex	Max Carrying Capacity
1. Arrawang	60
2. Cook	27
3. Nth Curtin	26
4. Duntroon	45
5. Hackett	18
6. Hall	15
7. Hume	29
8. Illoura	50
9. Kaleen	38
10. Macarthur Park and Gilmore	33
11. Mt Taylor	25
12. Neighbour	25
13. Oaks Estate	15
14. Parkwood	90
15. Rose Cottage	40
16. Yarralumla	35
TOTAL	571

(4) What is the current capacity in these paddocks?

Bearing in mind the response to question 3 above and the difference between the term “carrying capacity” and the possible “number of horses”, the number of horses currently in each of the complexes is:

Complex	Number of Horses at March 2014*
1. Arrawang	37
2. Cook	23
3. Nth Curtin	16
4. Duntroon	26
5. Hackett	8
6. Hall	7
7. Hume	19
8. Illoura	27
9. Kaleen	28
10. Macarthur Park and Gilmore	17
11. Mt Taylor	11
12. Neighbour	16
13. Oaks Estate	10
14. Parkwood	69
15. Rose Cottage	11
16. Yarralumla	29
TOTAL	354

*Note that horse numbers are updated quarterly. June quarter horse numbers have not yet been received from the contractor.

(5) Is there a waiting list and if so, how many are on it?

Each complex has a waiting list of people who would like to move their horse(s) to that particular complex. There are currently 298 people on waiting lists with 310 horses.

(6) What is the shortest/longest/average length for someone on the waiting list?

Based on advice from Territory Agistment there is no average length of time someone might be on a waiting list. Some clients have been on the waiting list for four or more years before getting a placement, others are placed within a much shorter amount of time; however it is entirely dependent on the complex they want to go to and the amount of movement within that complex. Not all complexes are the same and some are more desirable than others.

(7) What is the eligibility criterion for someone wishing to agist a horse in an ACT Government paddock?

Any person can apply to go on the wait list subject to their willingness to accept the agistment terms and conditions of the client agreement.

(8) What is the management plan for government paddocks in terms of

The Service Agreement between the ACT Government and Territory Agistment Pty Ltd is a performance based contract which stipulates the parameters for paddock condition:

- the number of horses must not exceed the maximum carrying capacity of a complex without approval from the Territory;
- pasture height minimum of 8-10cm;
- pasture cover maintained above 80%

(a) Resting

Territory Agistment have committed through their Business Plan to a management strategy of rotational grazing that will be used to ensure pasture health and availability all year round. Rotational grazing timings will vary across complexes depending on the stocking rate, paddock size and pasture quality. The Territory Contract Manager confirms the appropriate rotations have been occurring through regular liaison and site inspections with the contractor.

(b) Weeding

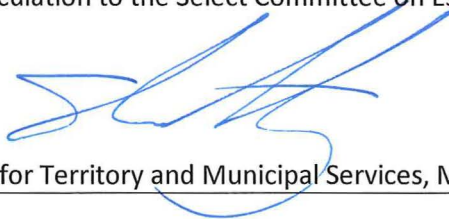
The Service Agreement between the ACT Government and Territory Agistment Pty Ltd requires the contractor to undertake effective weed control or local eradication of agricultural and environmental weed plants in the horse holding paddocks in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 1997. The contract also requires the contractor to undertake regular weed survey and take necessary action to control these. The Territory Contract Manager confirms the necessary weed control has been done through regular liaison and site inspections with the contractor.

(c) Fertiliser

The Service Agreement between the ACT Government and Territory Agistment Pty Ltd requires the contractor to develop in consultation with the Territory a fertilizer program covering at least 50% of the area of the horse holding paddocks for each year of the agreement. The Territory Contract Manager confirms the necessary fertilising has been done through regular liaison and site inspections with the contractor.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



Date:

7/7/14

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA