

Mick Gentleman MLA

Manager of Government Business

Minister for Planning and Land Management

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

Member for Brindabella

Our ref: 23/80001

Personal information

Dear Julia

Thank you for your letter of 25 July 2023 to Chris Steel MLA expressing your ideas about the need for facilities, including holding paddocks to accommodate rescued horses and other large farm animals in the ACT.

I also acknowledge your email of 3 September 2023, specifically in relation to potential sites for this purpose. I am responding on behalf of the ACT Government as the matters that you have raised fall primarily within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Planning and Land Management. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

With respect to your suggestion of potentially suitable sites for horse paddocks in the Gungahlin District, I am advised that Gungahlin Rural Block 745 is now a retired block (i.e no longer used and replaced by another block) that is associated with Old Well Station Road (located in East Gungahlin).

In this vicinity of Hall, Casey and Taylor (located in West Gungahlin), the land that I believe you are referring to, which is located immediately to the west of the suburb of Casey, is the Kinlyside Nature Reserve that includes Block 843, Gungahlin. This area was recently withdrawn from the rural lease for conservation purposes, not development. Ongoing future development in this area is planned for land within the urban area identified by the Territory Plan including parts of Taylor and Jacka. This information is publicly available on the ACT Government ACTmapi website via the following link [ACTmapi viewer](#).



appropriately sized site means that, once operational, the RSPCA expects to be able to accept large animals where no other opportunities exist to care for them.

The ACT has a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT which provides for the care and management of horses in general, including those kept at commercial horse-riding establishments. Following a review, the ACT's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) determined that the current Code of Practice required updating and redrafting. The AWAC considered similar codes of practice in other jurisdictions while drafting the revised Code, which will be considered by the relevant Minister.

Thank you for raising this important matter. I don't believe we need to meet to discuss this matter further. However, I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management

6/10/2023