

**FINAL DRAFT VARIATION TO THE TERRITORY PLAN # 281  
MOLONGLO AND NORTH WESTON**

**SUBMISSION**

**Keryn Kefous**  
34 Buvelot St Weston on behalf of  
**Illoura Horse Owners Group, Devonport St, Lyons, ACT**

**This submission from the Illoura Horse Owners Group proposes that**

**1. the ACTPLA design a multipurpose trail from from the Illoura Horse Holding Complex at Devonport St Lyons to North Weston parallel to Devonport St and then parallel to the Tuggeranong Parkway through North Weston, under the Cotter Rd and connecting with the Bicentennial National Trail.**

**The trail would allow horse riders - including children - safe trails and access to riding facilities such as the Bicentennial National Trail and the Equestrian Park**

**This shared trail would have the additional benefit of allowing Weston residents to walk or cycle from North Weston to Woden and join existing cycle paths without going on the road.**

**2. We ask that the ACTPLA consider horse access (including people on foot leading horses) when designing any planned underpasses that would go under new or relocated roads such as the Cotter Road.**

**3. Members of the IHOG group be incorporated in any community consultation process for the planning of open space and horse trail development in North Weston.**

**Introduction**

Illoura Horse Owners Group (IHOG) is a community group of 30 horse owners who agist horses at the Illoura Horse Holding Paddocks Complex between Curtin and Weston. Illoura Horse Owners Group is a community group who are a recognised Landcare group under the South Canberra Catchment group and their communal interests are horse management and welfare, horse trails access and maintainence and sustainable land management.

The Illoura Horse Owners Group submission concerns horse access trails. It would like to ensure that existing trails are kept and recognised and officially gazetted on the plans for North Weston.

The Illoura Horse Holding Paddocks Complex is part of the ACT Government Agistment Paddocks and is managed by Capital Weed Control on behalf of the ACT Government ddress is Devonport St Lyons.

**Issues**

Horse riding is a sport that promotes independence, responsibility and healthy outdoor activity. The Weston Creek area is full of people who chose their home because of its proximity to agistment and riding facilities. The Weston Creek area is full of people who chose their home because of its proximity to agistment and riding facilities.

Parents grandparents and children keep horses at Illoura and trail riding is a key feature of their family lives. There are many riders in their 60s in the group. IHOG is a real community group, The group organises parents and children for day rides and longer rides along the tracks to the National Bicentennial Trail (BNT). Access to the Illoura complex is important and to safe riding trails is very important, as is safe access to the BNT and to the Equestrian Park and riding schools located at Curtin.

Safe horse trails (including shared riding, cycling and walking trails) are very important to the community of Weston Creek and they add value to the land and the neighbourhood.

Ungazetted trails that presently exist between Illoura Horse Holding Paddocks and the BNT are under threat from the Molonglo development and there are no indications in the Draft Variation that these trails are recognised. Nor is there any indication of obvious provisions to ensure that access and connectivity are under consideration.

### **Consultation**

The Illoura Horse Owners Group has consulted with members by email and in person at meetings and has consulted with paddock managers Capital Weed Control.

Illoura Horse Owners Group has also obtained support from consulted the ACT Equestrian Association (ACTEA) and the Weston Creek Community Council. There is full support for a proposal to put in a submission to ACTPLA..

The IHOG group fully supports the ACTEA submission on wider horse trails, and would like this proposal considered in conjunction with the wider proposals.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Variation must recognise that equestrians are major users of the open space system in the Weston Creek area and include access and facilities for them in any new developments particularly in regard to recreation corridors and shared paths between Illoura and North Weston**

Horse riders are happy to share open space, if that space is designed as a 'slow way' and wide enough to allow safely for cycle paths and dog walkers. There are many areas in Canberra where this is the case but it requires a minimum width of 80 metres and the minimum number of traffic intersections.

### **Recommendation**

- 2. That ACTPA amend the current plan to include a multi purpose trail from Devonport St Lyons via Illoura paddocks parallel to through North Weston and then crossing the Cotter Road and linking with the BNT trail in accordance with the Submission proposed by the ACTEquestrian Association. A map showing the recommended route from North Weston to Devonport St Lyons is following by mail.**