

Somerset Region

# Showgrounds Network Review



Final Report  
November 2024

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*Image Credits:  
Front Page - Fernvale Campdraft Facebook page  
Inside Cover - Stanley River Polocross Facebook page*



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# Executive Summary



Image Credit:  
Queensland Working Cow Horse Club Facebook page

Participation in equestrian activities is popular within the Somerset region. There are five showgrounds (two of which are privately owned) and three additional privately owned sites within the region that provide comprehensive facilities to support a multitude of equestrian activities. Whilst consideration of the private venues has been undertaken, recommendations within this report only apply to the Council-owned sites.

Since 2020, master plans of the three Council-owned and managed sites have been undertaken with a large number of high-cost projects identified by site stakeholders to further enhance use of the sites.

Additional consultation with advisory committees has identified any additional site user groups and changed project priorities. Not all original projects have been identified within this report, with the preference to focus in on projects that have emerged through the consultation phase.

To aid prioritisation of investment a decision making framework has been developed with the following projects identified as high priorities across the three sites.

#### Esk Showgrounds

- Refurbish and extend the Jockey Club and dining pavillion.
- Golf club storage shed extension.

#### Fernvale Recreation Grounds

- Upgrade surface of campdraft/main arena to support re-establishment of prior users including endurance, barrell racing and rodeo.

#### Kilcoy Recreation Grounds

- Realign internal road network.
- Construct new show pavillion and office.
- Develop new maintenance shed precinct and relocate deco pits for race club.

*The above projects are required to be undertaken to enable expansion of the main pavillion and for the development of the tie-up stall precinct for the race club to continue to host provincial race meets at the venue.*

#### Region-wide

- Reference to the development of a covered arena was considered within all three master plans. With no existing facility within the region it is recommended that a feasibility study be undertaken to establish need and preferred location.

# Background



Image Credit:  
Toogoolawah Charity Rodeo Facebook page

## Project Purpose

The Somerset Region is home to five major showgrounds precincts, also referred to as recreation grounds. Three of the five sites are controlled and directly managed by Somerset Regional Council whilst two are privately owned and managed by the respective Show Societies.

Over the past five years, Council has completed and endorsed master plans of its three showgrounds – Esk, Fernvale and Kilcoy. The total value of identified projects is in the order of \$20M, which will escalate once specific details of the projects are determined and uncosted projected are fully scoped. Council resources are unavailable to deliver all initiatives from internal budgets, and requires significant funds from partnering organisations such as external grant bodies and the user groups.

Duplicate projects were also identified across the sites – most notably the development of a covered arena. Whilst not required at every venue, it was incorporated on the Master Plans to further consider the possibility and recognise that there is a need in the region.

This Showgrounds Network Review aims to:

1. Undertake a holistic review of all projects identified on the respective Master Plans and identify changes in the recommendations, including:
  - completed projects
  - projects that are no longer required due to altered site usage
  - changed priorities due to altered site usage, change in existing facility condition and/or requirements of peak bodies.
2. Understand the various equine disciplines undertaken in the region to critically assess existing and future demand for facilities at the showgrounds, and the associated need for facility improvements.
3. Identify opportunities for additional disciplines and ancillary services that support equine activities to be based in the region.
4. Determine, through assessment of genuine demand and community value, the future facility development priorities for Council.

The outcomes of this Review are intended to guide Council's investment decisions, including opportunities to seek external grant funding, to support the continued advancement of facilities at the Showgrounds.

## Influencing Factors

This report directly links to Council's score strategic planning documents including the Corporate Plan and The Operational Plan as outlined below.

### CORPORATE PLAN 2021-2026

#### Our Vision

*The Somerset region, with its unique identity and proud heritage, is vibrant, cohesive and connected, providing the foundations for a prosperous rural lifestyle.*

#### Our Mission

*To provide leadership in making locally-responsive and informed decisions, focussing on our customer's needs to deliver the highest-quality efficient services and facilities to all communities of the Somerset region.*

#### Strategic Planning & Performance Framework

Natural Somerset

Well Planned Somerset

Prosperous Somerset

United Somerset

**Vibrant Somerset**

### OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024-2025

#### Activity

*Undertake a review of recreational grounds to determine long-term facility development priorities*

#### Output

*Comprehensive report outlining the recreational grounds of somerset (showgrounds and racecourses), their positioning within the SEQ equine facilities network, review of facility master plans, long term regional development priorities and facility gap analysis.*

The three endorsed showgrounds master plans will be further explored in more details in the following sections.

The following Council Plans influence development, management and operation of Showgrounds sites in the region.

- Somerset Region Planning Scheme v4.2.
- Subordinate Local Law No. 1.6 - Operation of Camping Grounds 2015.
- Subordinate Local Law No. 1.8 - Operation of Caravan Parks 2015.
- Subordinate Local Law No. 1.12 - Operation of Temporary Entertainment Events 2011 (amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 2015).

# The Equine Network



Image Credits:  
Lowood Show Society Facebook page

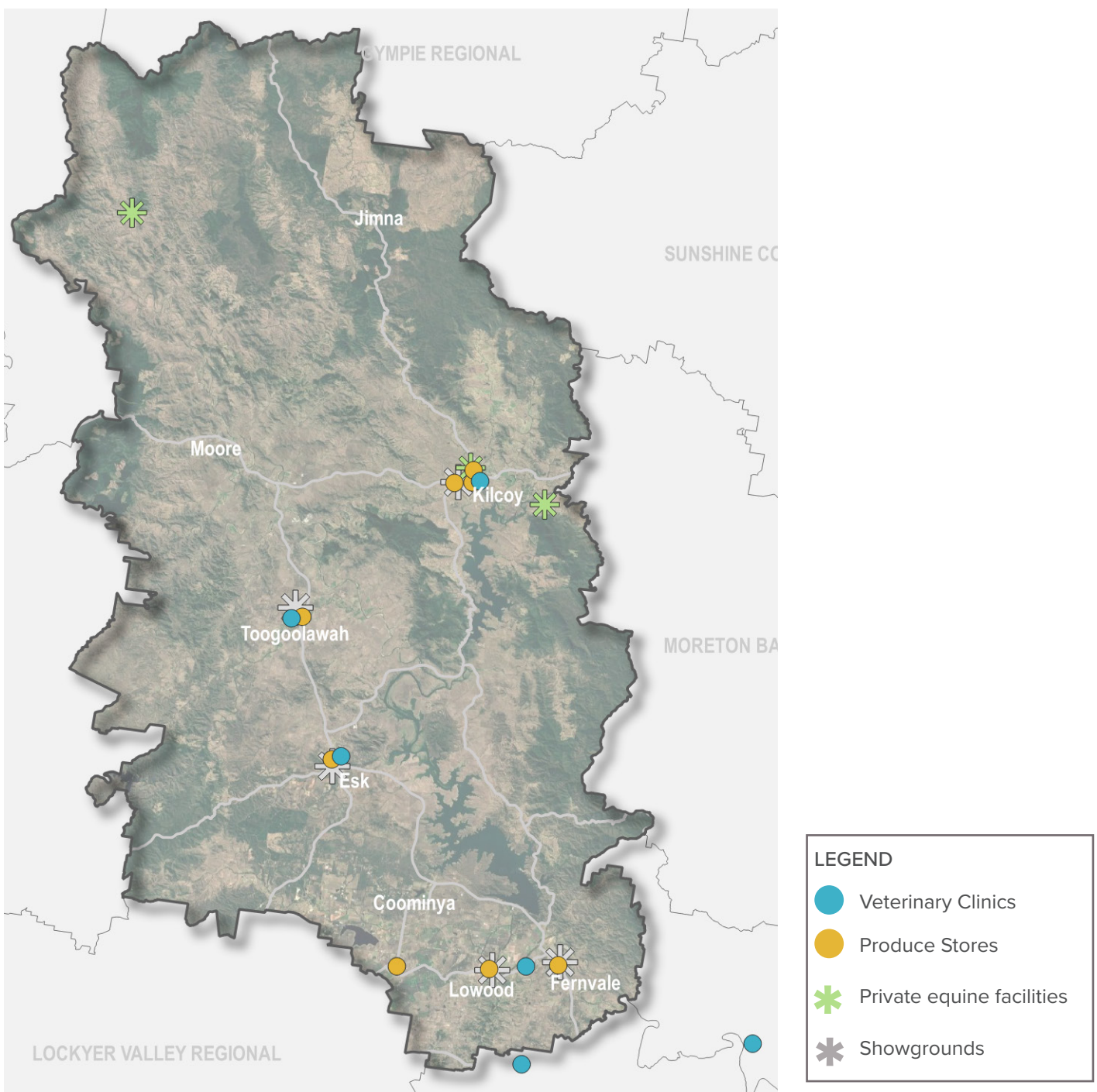


The equine industry is broader than user groups of the showgrounds, with a significant economy associated with the support services, including:

- veterinary services
- equine therapists
- horse breaking/training/retraining providers
- farriers
- equine dentists
- produce stores
- hay suppliers
- accommodation providers
- tradespersons and suppliers of goods and services relating to facilities and activities.

Two of the primary support services – vets and produce stores – are identified on the map alongside the showgrounds and primary private equine facilities in the region. All of the above support services are available within the region as mobile service providers rather than a fixed location. Additional equine-specialist vets and hospitals have been identified outside of the region.

All venues are adequately serviced by these ancillary services, and there are no apparent gaps that could be considered a concern for event organisers or user groups at any given facility.



There are a multitude of different activities and disciplines involving horses, ranging from casual trail riding to formal hacking (led and ridden) to rodeo and western disciplines involving cattle.

A summary of the activities undertaken within showgrounds is provided in the table below.

Discipline/Activity	Council Managed			Privately Owned and Managed	
	Esk Showground	Fernvale Recreation Grounds	Kilcoy Recreation Grounds	Lowood Showgrounds	Toogoolawah Showgrounds
Barrel Racing		~	✓	✓	✓
Campdraft	✓	✓	✓		✓
Equestrian (Other)				✓	
Endurance Riding		~*			
Hacking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horse Racing	✓		✓		
Polocrosse			✓		
Pony Club		~	✓		✓
Rodeo		~	✓	✓	✓
Show Jumping	✓		✓	✓	✓
Trail Riding	*			*	*
Western Performance		~	✓		

~ Previously undertaken at the site; not in past 12 months.

\* Use grounds as a base to access the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and/or other trails.

# Barrel Racing

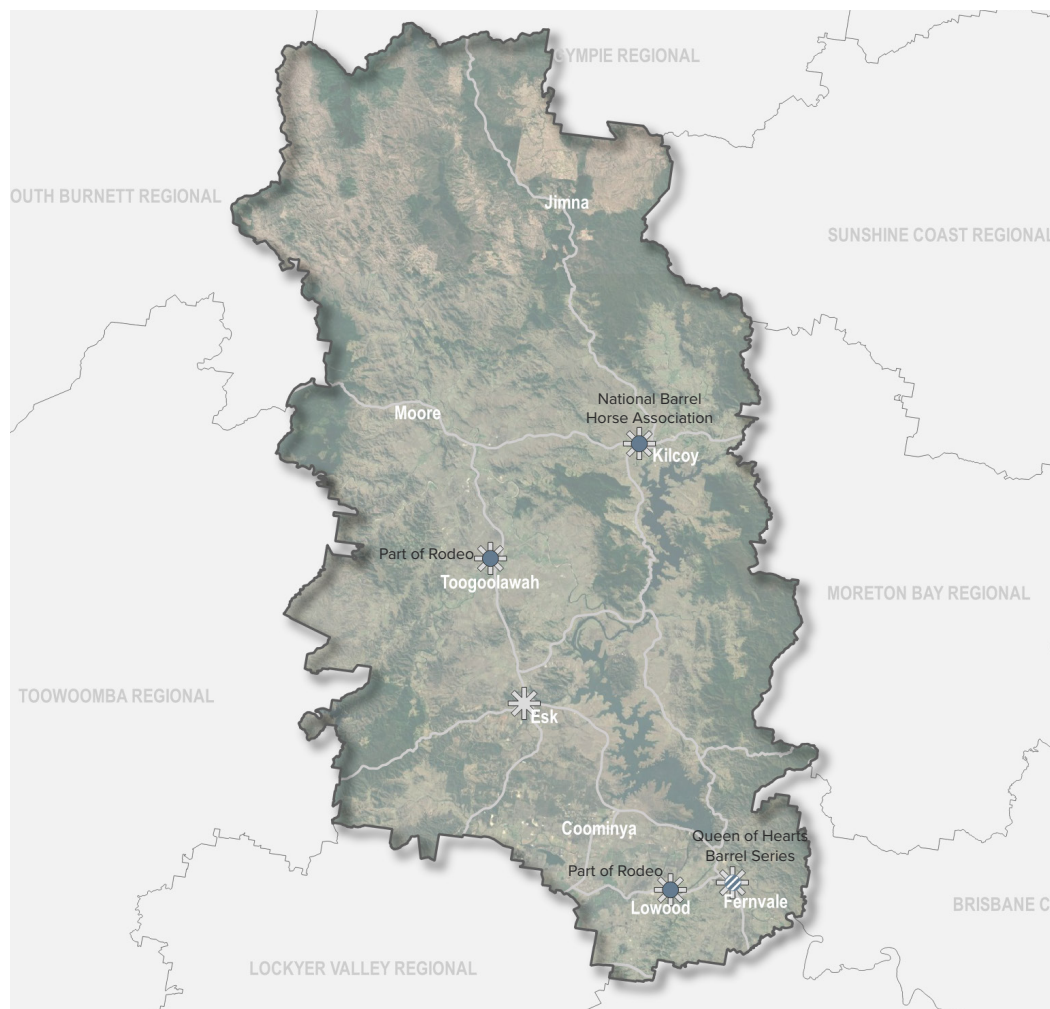
Event in which a horse and rider attempt to run a cloverleaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time.

## Peak Body

- Australian Barrel Horse Association
- Australian Rodeo Federation
- National Barrel Horse Association

## Key Facilities Required

- Large outdoor sand arena with fencing
- Lights preferred
- Parking for car and floats, goosenecks and/or horse trucks



## LEGEND

- Existing barrel racing locations
- ◐ Previously used site for barrel racing
- \* Showgrounds

## Assessment

Barrel racing is undertaken at various venues throughout the region and at many venues in surrounding areas. There are limited infrastructure requirements, with the course able to be set up in most multipurpose sand arenas.

Barrel racing is either conducted as an event within a rodeo or as a stand alone activity (often as part of a series) – both forms are undertaken in Somerset. Regular hire previously occurred at Fernvale Showgrounds and there is an expressed interest for a club to regularly hire (monthly) Toogoolawah Showgrounds.

## Gaps

Nil – usage is possible at any of the Showgrounds if the surface is suitably ripped.

## Opportunities

Barrel racing would likely return to Fernvale Showgrounds for regular use if the surface quality was improved and did not require ripping of the sand prior to each use.

# Campdraft

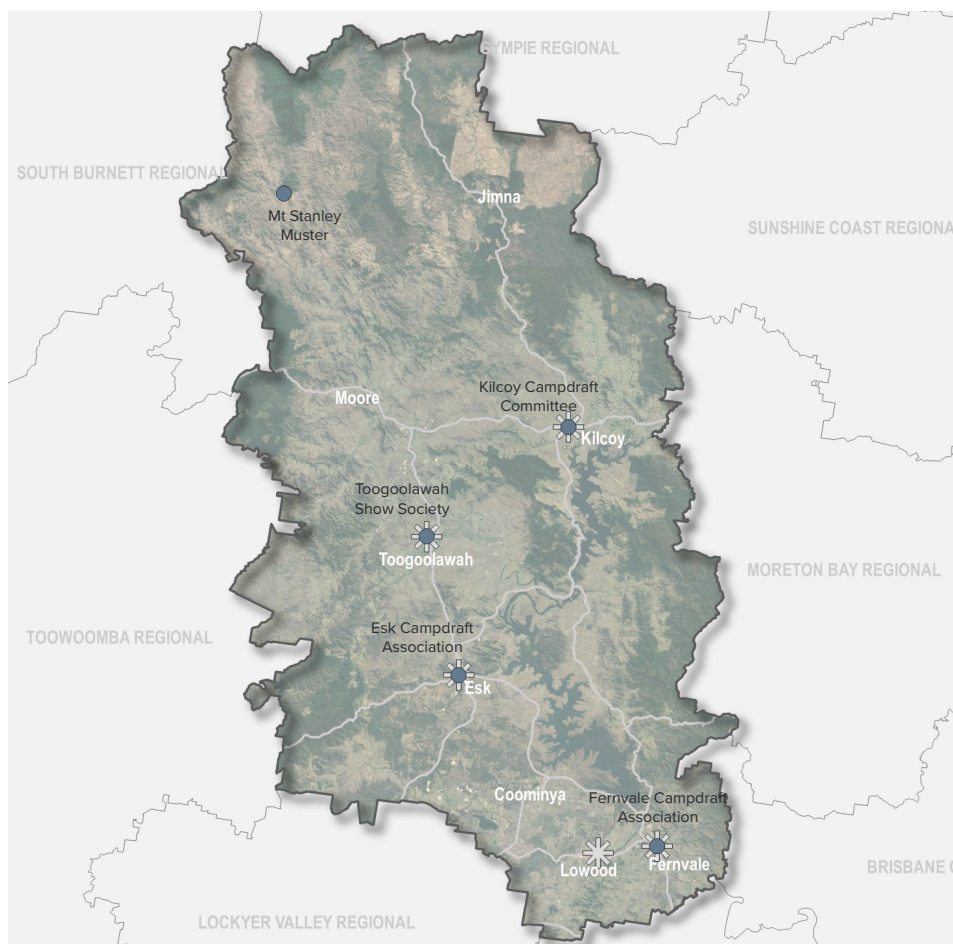
*Rider cuts out a beast from a herd of cattle, turns the beast two to three times and then moves the beast out to a large arena around pegs in a figure eight before guiding it through two pegs known as the gate.*

## Peak Body

National Campdraft Council of Australia

## Key Equine Facilities

- Large fenced arena connected to smaller fenced area (camp)
- Cattle yards
- Horse yards
- Elevated announcers box
- Suitable access for horse and cattle trucks, floats, goosenecks
- Camping facilities
- Water and power



## LEGEND

- Existing Campdraft Groups
- \* Showgrounds

## Assessment

Campdrafting is undertaken at four of the five showgrounds plus one private facility in Mt Stanley.

These campdrafts all provide for local-level campdrafting (although attracting elite competitors), whilst Queensland's premier campdraft is held each year at Warwick Showgrounds.

The existing facilities are generally sufficient to host each event, with the limiting factor generally being the number of cattle available for each event. Nominations are generally capped based on cattle supply.

## Gaps

Nil - sufficient facilities are available to host campdrafts within the region.

## Opportunities

Each venue generally hosts only one event per year. Where there is site availability, there is potential to host multiple campdrafts per year at the existing venues.

# Equestrian (other)

**Dressage:** *Horse and rider perform a series of predetermined movements, known as 'figures' or 'movements' in an arena. In all competitions, the horse has to show the three paces: walk, trot and canter as well as smooth transitions within and between these paces.*

**Carriage driving:** *Drivers compete in demanding phases, similar to those in the popular ridden sport of eventing.*

**Eventing:** *Equestrian event which comprises dressage, cross-country and show jumping.*

**Vaulting:** *Gymnastics on horseback.*

## Peak Body

- Equestrian Qld
- Pony Club Qld

## Equine Disciplines

- Dressage
- Carriage Driving
- Eventing
- Vaulting

## Key Equine Facilities

**Dressage:**

- 20m x 40-60m arena with 12 lettered markers.
- Indoor sand or outdoor grass arena.

**Eventing:**

- Open grass arena with perimeter fencing for showjumping and dressage
- Cross-country course (at least 1km in length – longer preferred)

**Carriage Driving:**

- Large open grass arena that can be set up for the various event elements, including a 80m x 20m arena and an obstacle course.

**Vaulting:**

- Large open grass arena with perimeter fencing.

## Assessment

There are limited formal opportunities to regularly undertake these activities within the Somerset Region. Carriage driving, dressage and vaulting can be undertaken within multipurpose grass arenas, which are available at all showgrounds except Fernvale. Eventing requires specific facilities which are not available in the region, and only available at limited locations throughout South East Queensland that have sufficient land to construct a cross-country course. Elite dressage facilities are available nearby at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre in Caboolture.

## Groups within Somerset

There are no formal regular user groups or events of these disciplines.

Lowood Showgrounds recently hosted the Queensland State Carriage Driving Championships as a one-off event.

## Gaps

There are no formal user groups seeking these activities, however, residents are likely to travel outside the region to participate in their preferred discipline. Apart from eventing, multipurpose facilities available at most of the showgrounds are suitable to accommodate the activities. There is no demonstrated demand at this stage to construct a cross country course.

## Opportunities

Four of the five showgrounds are suitable to accommodate most of these equestrian disciplines, should demand become apparent. No specific facility development is required.

# Endurance

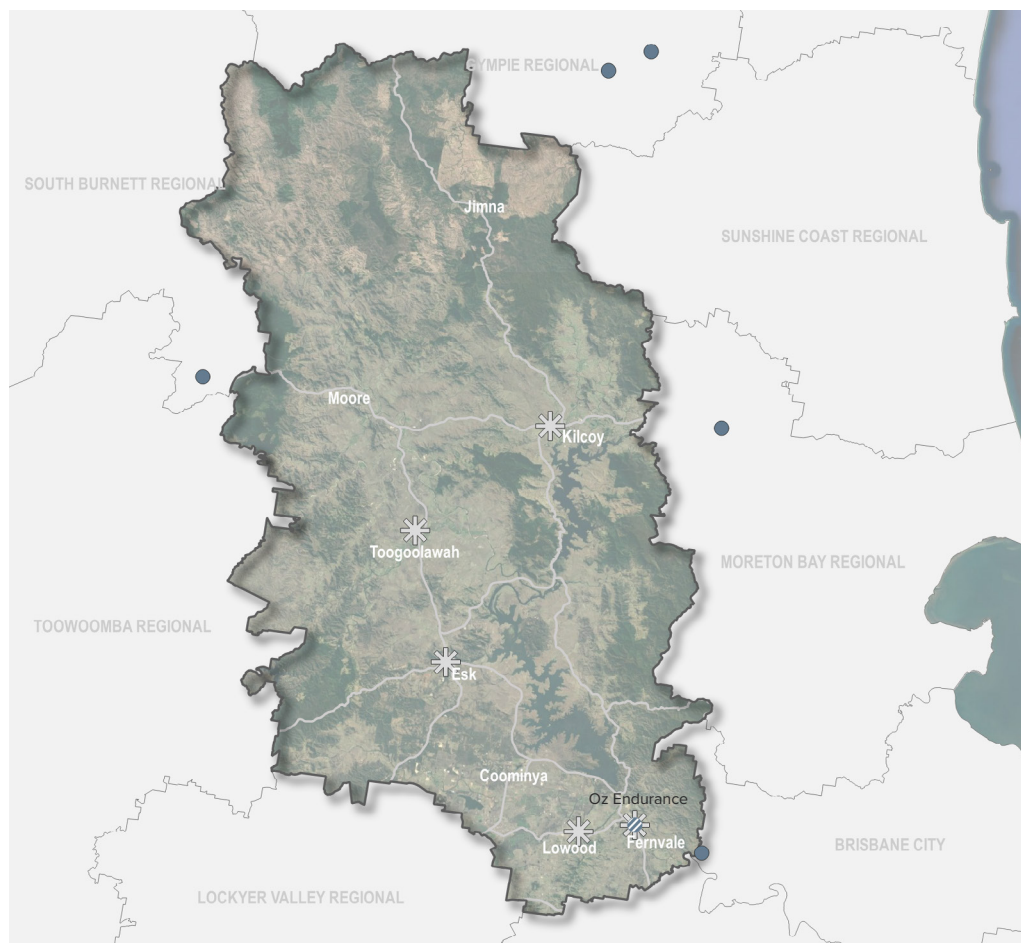
Competitive long-distance riding over challenging terrain. Distances vary from 5km to 160km in a day. It is a test of fitness and stamina that requires careful management of a horse's heart rate and soundness.

## Peak Body

Queensland Endurance Riders Association

## Key Equine Facilities

- 5km - 160km trail network
- Camping facilities
- Trot up/vetting area
- Suitable access for horse floats, goosenecks and trucks



### LEGEND

- Endurance Clubs (no longer operating at site)
- ◐ Previously used site for endurance riding
- \* Showgrounds

## Assessment

There is currently no endurance riding groups known to be based in the Somerset Region. There are groups offering endurance riding in each direction immediately beyond the region's boundaries.

Stirling's Crossing Equestrian Complex located at Imbil (north of the region) is one of Queensland's premier endurance riding facilities.

## Gaps

Based on the locations of existing groups, there appears to be no specific gap for this discipline in the region.

## Opportunities

The discipline is heavily reliant on access to suitable distance of trails with challenging terrain and attractors such as water crossings. Existing groups based outside the region may identify suitable locations within the region but are unlikely to require specific development. Showgrounds may be used as camping/staging areas on a hire basis, if suitable trails are easily accessed from these venues.

# Hacking

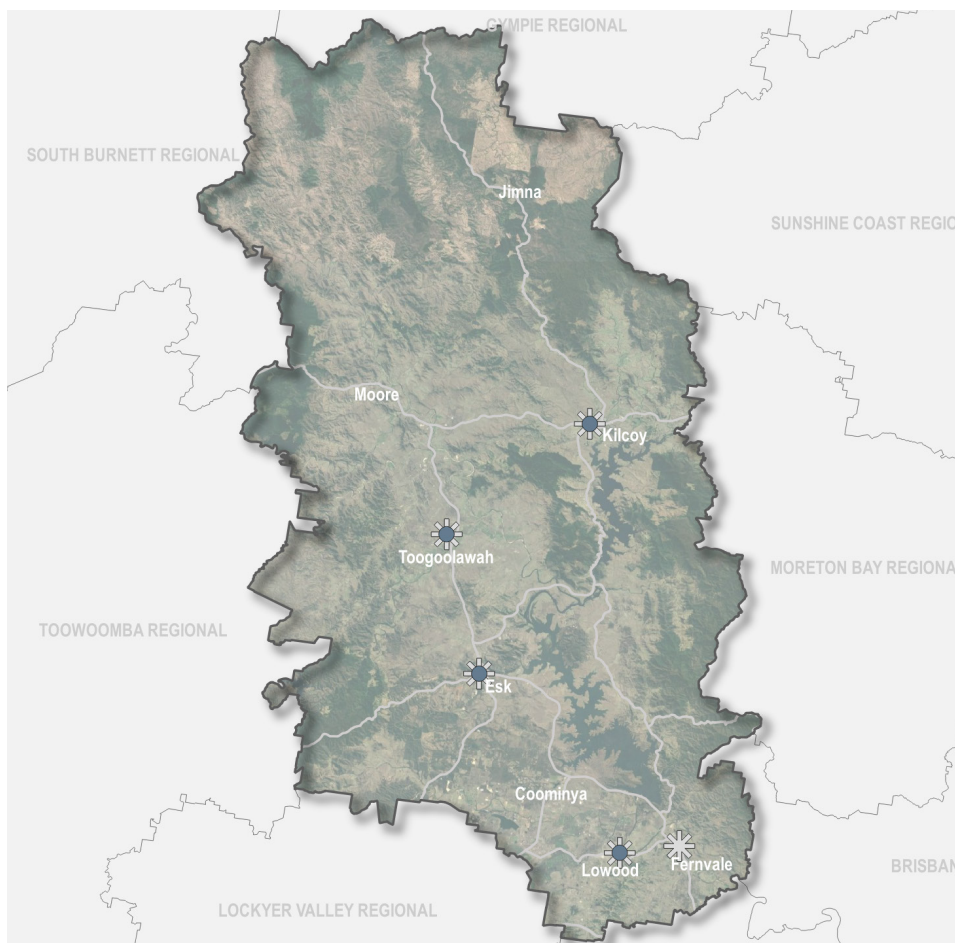
Show horses are exhibited in three divisions based on horse height and conformation; Pony, Galloway and Hack. The horse should work (led or ridden) with a nicely rounded back, naturally elevated in front and head flexed at the poll.

## Peak Bodies

- Equestrian Queensland
- Qld Ag Shows
- Qld Chamber of Agricultural Societies
- Show Horse Council of Qld

## Key Equine Facilities

- Large open grassed, preferably fenced arena
- Suitable access for horse and cattle trucks, floats, goosenecks



## LEGEND

- Existing hacking locations
- \* Showgrounds

## Assessment

Hacking or show horse is a popular discipline within the annual shows at the four showgrounds – Esk, Kilcoy, Lowood and Toogoolawah. The activity is generally not undertaken outside of the show circuit, except by some pony clubs as a discrete event. Kilcoy Pony Club does not run a hack event.

There are no specific facility requirements except large open grassed areas that can be split into at least four rings (via temporary bunting or similar) for judging of separate classes.

## Gaps

Nil - sufficient facilities are available to host this activity within the region.

## Opportunities

Nil

# Horse Racing

Flat track racing of thoroughbred horses around a circuit at varying distances for prize money.

## Peak Body

Racing Qld

## Disciplines

- Flat track horse racing

## Key Facilities Required

Racing Queensland mandate facility standards depending on the level of racing undertaken at the venue (Metro, Provincial and Country). The higher the standard of racing, the higher standard and quantity of facilities required. Specific requirements are documented and available from Racing Queensland.

### Provincial (Kilcoy)

- quality turf track, safe tie-up stalls, swab boxes and mounting yard, male and female jockey facilities, restricted area for float and horse transport parking, and suitable facilities for live broadcast.

### Country (Esk)

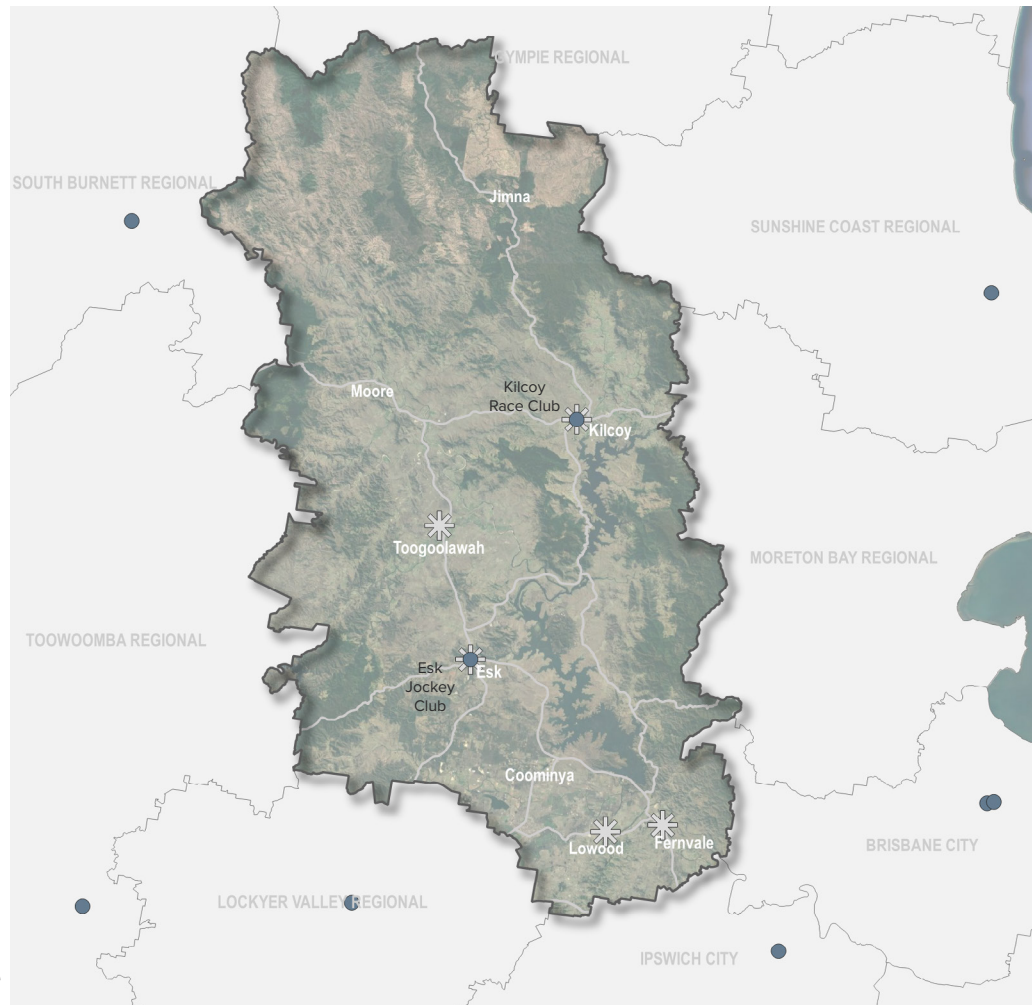
- safe track and ancillary facilities.

## Assessment

The two race tracks adequately service the region, catering for two of the three standards of thoroughbred racing.

There is no demand for Metro-standard racing within the region, with all meets of this standard held at Eagle Farm, Doomben, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast or Gold Coast racecourses.

Maintenance of the facilities to meet Racing Queensland standards is vital to ensure future security of meets in the annual calendar.



## LEGEND

- Existing Racing Clubs
- \* Showgrounds

## Gaps

There are no formal training tracks currently available in the region – noting that some private pre-training facilities may be present.

## Opportunities

The racing industry is a significant economic contributor to local economies through demand for various goods and services, and provides significant employment opportunities. The establishment of a training track is desirable at Kilcoy, to coincide with the Provincial standard of racing at the venue. Use of the training track will dictate demand for additional facilities such as permanent racing stables at or nearby the grounds.



# Polocrosse

A team sport on horseback on a playing pitch, whereby riders carry a racquet with netted end and aim to score goals by throwing the ball through the opponent's goalposts.

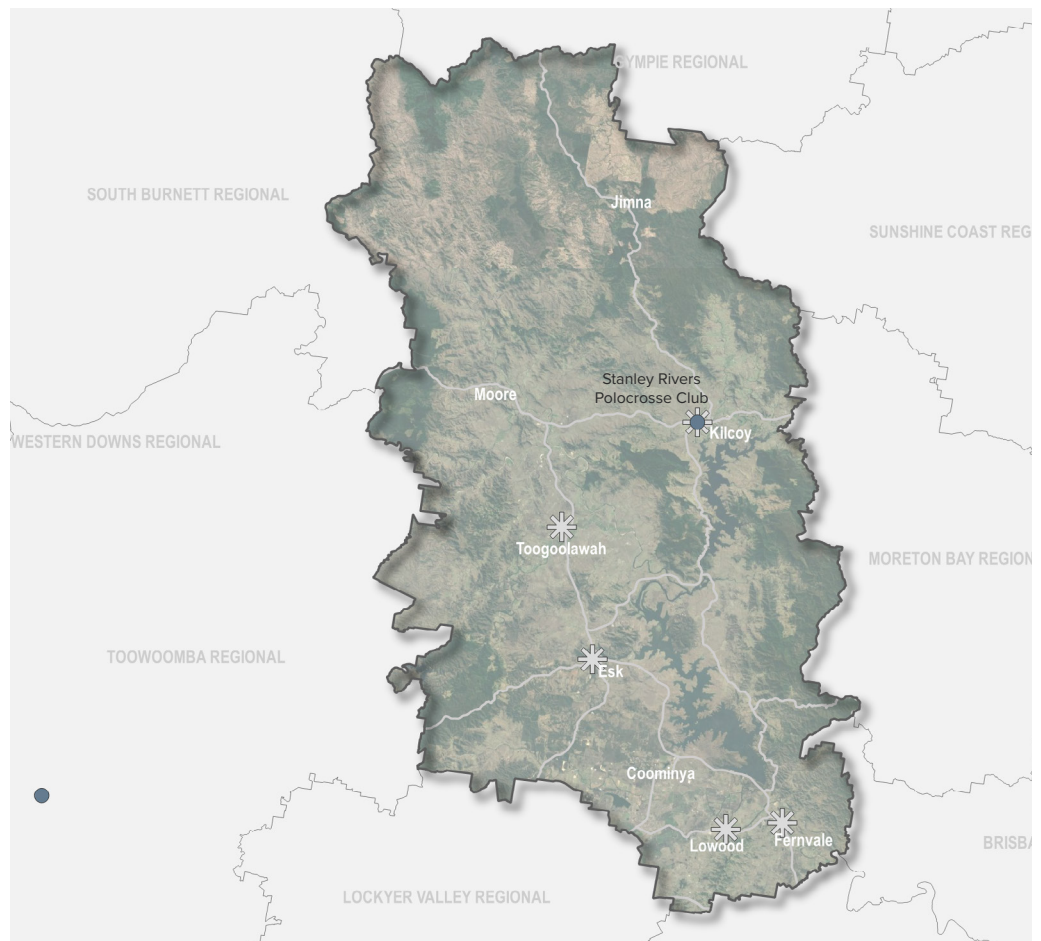
## Peak Body

Polocrosse Qld

## Key Equine Facilities

Polocrosse Fields Preferred Dimensions:

- Playing area: 146.5m x 55m
- Safety overruns: 3m on sideline and 12m on each end
- Distances between fields:
- Between fields 10m min.
- Fields end to end 24m min.
- Fields end to side 22m min.



## LEGEND

● Existing Polocrosse Clubs

\* Showgrounds

## Assessment

There are 10 polocrosse clubs in the South-East Queensland district, from the NSW border to Tansey (Gympie Region) in the north and west to Oakey.

The delivery model of the sport differs from traditional sports, whereby training is generally undertaken in blocks of time (rather than weekly or fortnightly) and competitions are held at respective venues where all clubs travel to the host venue over a weekend, thereby requiring a large number of fields to cater for the influx of participants for the event.

## Gaps

Nil – one venue is sufficient in the region.

## Opportunities

The development of an additional field at Kilcoy will cater for the high participation numbers at the events hosted at the venue, albeit only once per year.

# Pony Club

Training and competition for children and adult riders in various disciplines; particularly favoured for introductory levels of competition.

## Peak Body

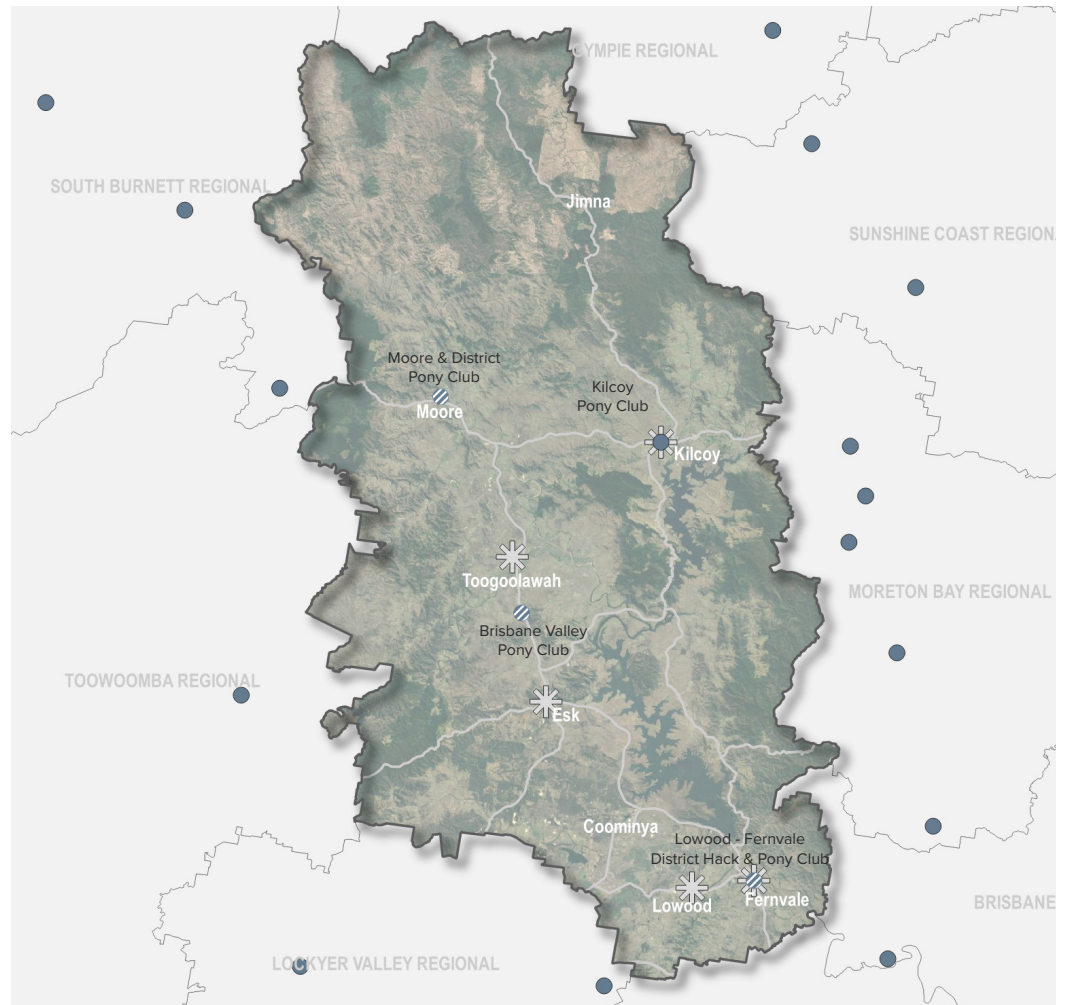
Pony Club Qld

## Disciplines

- Gymkhana & Sporting
- Dressage
- Jumping
- Eventing
- Combined training
- Tetrathlon & Quiz

## Key Facilities Required

- Large outdoor grass arena
- May have covered sand arena or outdoor sand dressage arena
- Round yard
- Horse yards/stables
- Parking for car and floats, goosenecks and/or horse trucks



## LEGEND

- Existing Pony Clubs
- ◌ Pony Clubs (not currently operating)
- \* Showgrounds

## Assessment

One pony club is currently in operation in the region (at Kilcoy), with three clubs ceasing to operate in recent years. There are a multitude of pony clubs surrounding the region in all directions, which are available should residents seek to participate in pony club.

Pony Club Australia are reporting a continual decline in participation across the country, which is leading to the closure of clubs.

## Gaps

Nil – sufficient facilities are available for pony club activities should demand exist.

## Opportunities

The existing showgrounds are all suitable to accommodate pony club, should local demand exist in the future. Access to be negotiated with the managing entity of the grounds.

# Rodeo

A variety of activities that combine in a single event for spectator enjoyment, including bull riding, bronc riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling, steer roping and others at the discretion of the organising committee.

## Peak Body

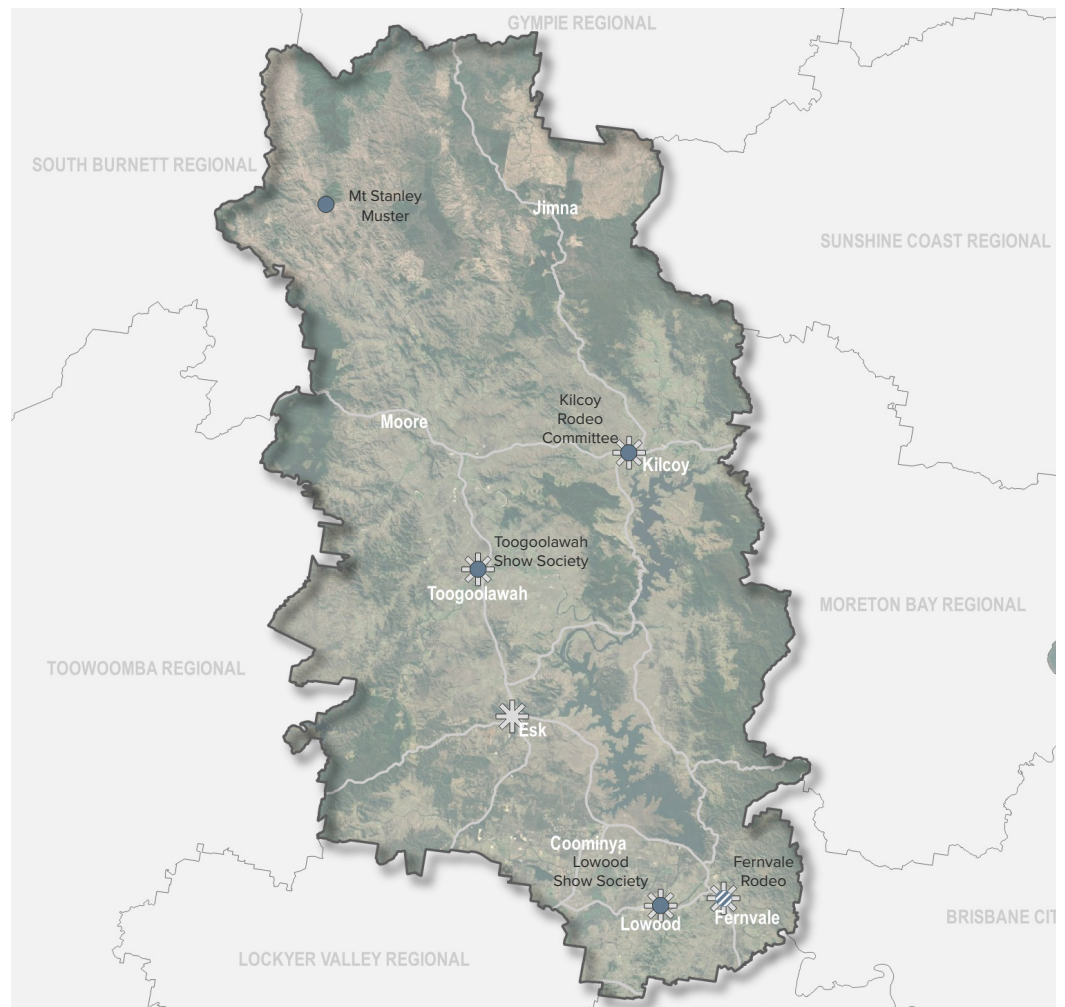
Australian Rodeo Federation (incorporating 9 peak bodies).

## Disciplines

- Bronc Riding
- Bull Riding
- Roping
- Rope and Tie
- Steer Wrestling
- Barrel Racing

## Key Facilities Required

- Sand-based arena with cattle panels around perimeter
- Chutes (can be hired)
- Camp
- Cattle yards with loading ramp
- Elevated announcer's platform/box
- Camping area
- Lights preferred
- Parking for car and floats, goosenecks and/or horse trucks



### LEGEND

- Existing Rodeo activities
- ▧ Rodeos (no longer held at the venue)
- \* Showgrounds

## Assessment

There are multiple rodeos held across the region, offering opportunities for locals and visitors to either participate or spectate. Generally each facility hosts one rodeo per annum as part of a broader rodeo circuit.

Facility conditions at Fernvale forced an external organiser to relocate the event elsewhere. Most showgrounds within and external to the region are suitable to host rodeos, with available facilities dictating the specific events on the program.

## Gaps

Elite rodeo competitions are held at Queensland State Equestrian Centre and indoor entertainment centres. There is no requirement for an elite rodeo facility in the Somerset Region.

## Opportunities

An upgrade to the surface at Fernvale Showgrounds may result in the return of a rodeo to the venue in the future, should an approach be made to event organisers.

# Show Jumping

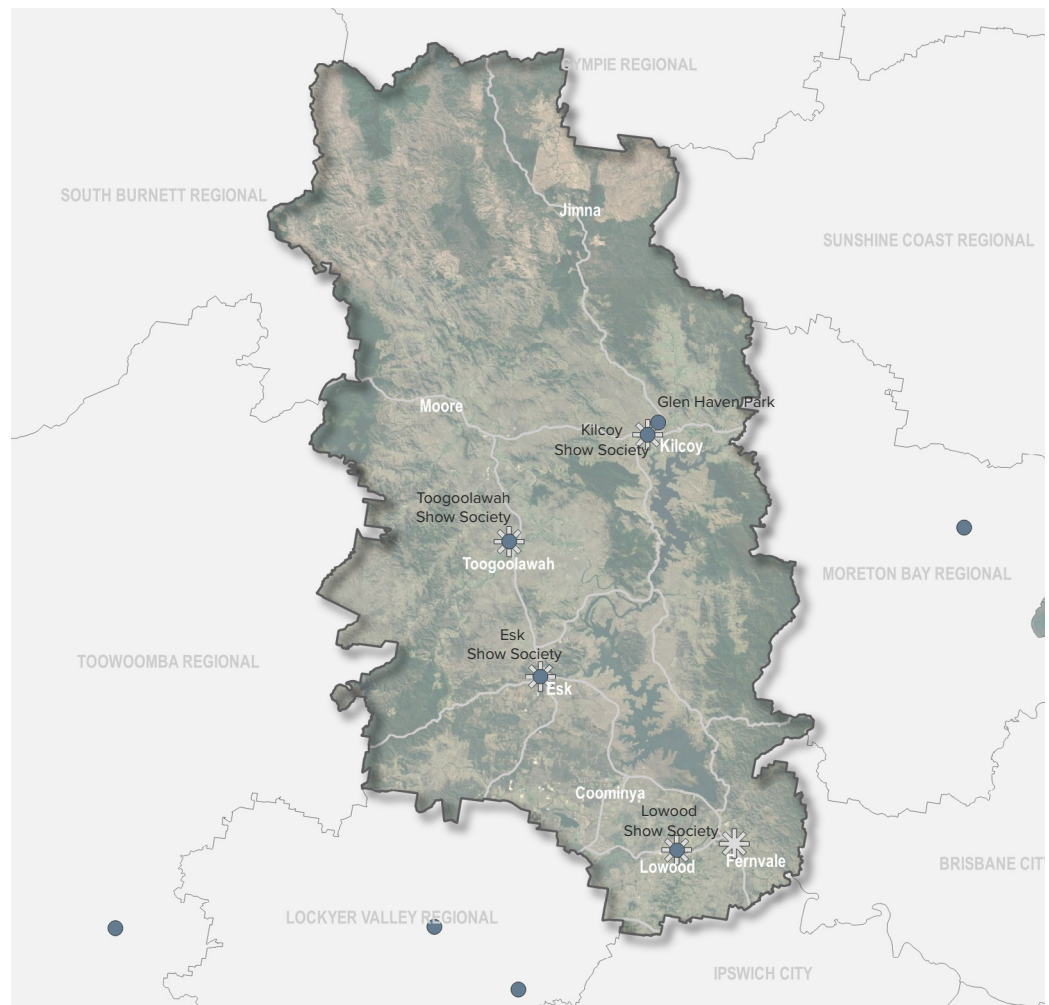
Horse and rider are required to complete a course of 10 to 13 jumps at a particular height, the objective of which is to test the combination's skill, accuracy and timing.

## Peak Body

- Pony Club Qld
- Equestrian Qld

## Key Facilities Required

- Large open grassed area with soft ground and boundary fencing
- May utilise sand (or similar) covered or outdoor arenas, pending the depth of sand.
- Specific requirements increase at national and international level
- Parking for car and floats, goosenecks and/or horse trucks.



## LEGEND

- Existing Show Jumping locations
- \* Showgrounds

## Assessment

There is one known private dedicated showjumping facility in the region at Kilcoy. No other facilities are used for showjumping except as part of the annual shows in Kilcoy, Esk, Lowood and Toogoolawah. These four showgrounds have suitable facilities to accommodate showjumping on a more regular basis should the ground conditions be suitable. Due to multiuse of facilities, competition arenas become compacted which is detrimental to attracting showjumping activities. Dedicated jump clubs are based in nearby localities, including Caboolture, Laidley, Gatton and Toowoomba, with residents likely to travel to these venues for participation.

## Gaps

There is no dedicated jump club within the region, nor grounds that are suitably maintained for regular jumping use.

## Opportunities

Should demand become apparent, increased maintenance of multipurpose grass arenas, including frequent aeration and irrigation, would be suitable to accommodate regular show jumping activities.

# Trail Riding

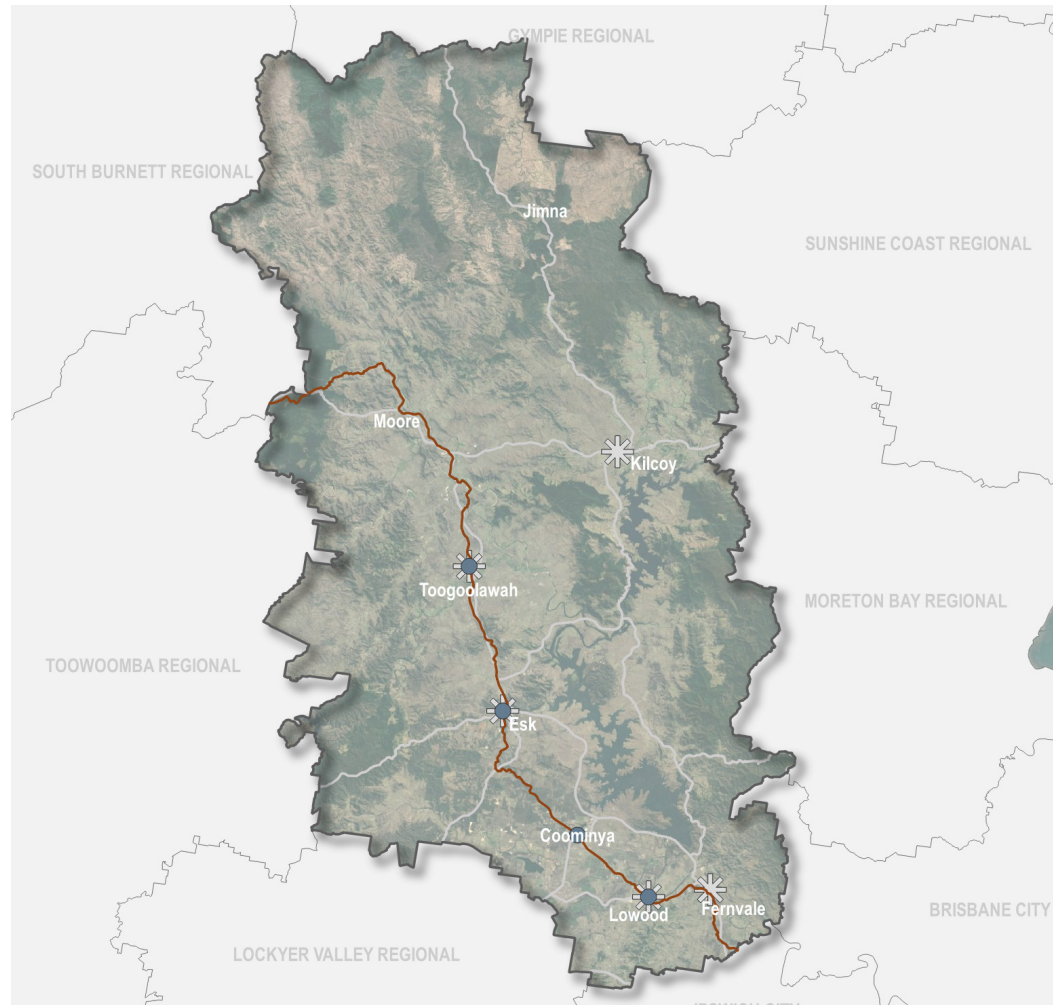
Casual riding of a horse on an unpaved surface for pleasure. May be unorganised or in an organised group, usually from 1 hour, potentially up to several days long.

## Peak Body

Australian Trail Riding Association

## Key Facilities Required

- Short or long distance unsealed trails.
- Staging area for car and float parking with access to water.



## LEGEND

● Base for Casual Trail Riding Groups

— Brisbane Valley Rail Trail  
\* Showgrounds

## Assessment

The region features many public and private trails suitable for horse riding, with the pinnacle being the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and adjunct trails around Wivenhoe Dam. BVRT provides a unique multi-day experience rarely available elsewhere, with different sections of the trail hosting casual riders through to organised multi-day events.

Large groups seeking to use the BVRT often utilise one of the nearby showgrounds (particularly Esk, Lowood and Toogoolawah) for camping and/or as a staging area. This use of the showgrounds directly injects funds to the managers whilst facilitating broader impact to the economies of the local communities.

## Gaps

Nil known.

## Opportunities

Use of Esk Showgrounds for camping by BVRT users has significantly reduced in recent years due to restrictions placed on hirers, such as early morning exit to accommodate golf activities. Improvements to operational arrangements could enhance usage of the showgrounds for this purpose, and broader economic impact on the Esk community.

# Western Performance

A variety of activities with different requirements, many involving working with cattle and/or the ability of the horse to undertake western movements.

## Peak Body

- Western Dressage Assoc of Qld
- Qld Reigning Horse Assoc
- National Cutting Horse Assoc.
- Australian National Working Equitation Qld Inc.
- Team Penning Australia

## Equine Disciplines

- Western Dressage
- Working Equitation
- Reigning
- Cutting
- Team Sorting
- Team Penning
- Stockman's Challenge

## Key Equine Facilities

Varies according to discipline. Generally:

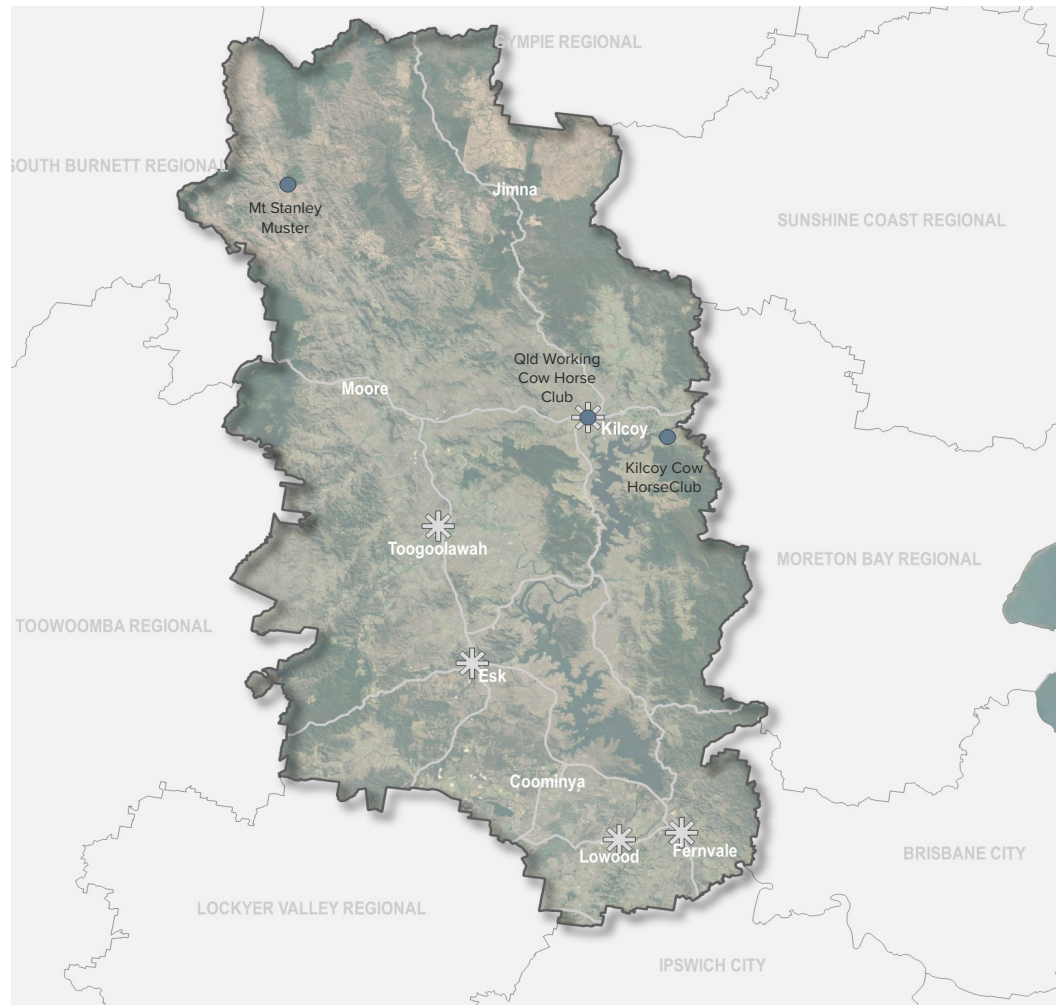
- Covered or uncovered sand arena with adjacent cattle yards and loading ramp
- Lights preferred.
- Elevated announcer's platform/box.
- Areas for car, float, gooseneck and truck parking.

## Assessment

There are three primary venues that offer various western disciplines, with highest frequency activities at Kilcoy Showgrounds and the nearby private venue at Mount Archer. All venues are used for a combination of training clinics and competitions. Clinics are undertaken frequently to cover the various disciplines, often being conducted over a full day. For the comfort of riders, the availability of a covered arena is preferred but not essential.

## Gaps

There are no venues in the Somerset Region with a covered arena, with the nearest such facilities at Caboolture Showgrounds, Queensland State Equestrian Centre and Gatton Showgrounds.



## LEGEND

- Existing Cow Horse Clubs
- ✱ Showgrounds

Some western disciplines are not known to be conducted in the region, such as Working Equitation, but these are available in nearby areas such as Nanango, Killkivan, Samford, Rosewood and Toowoomba.

The popular disciplines of reining, cutting, team penning and team sorting are available in the north of the region, but not in the southern areas.

## Opportunities

Facilities at Fernvale are ideal to support a range of western performance disciplines, should the surface be improved.

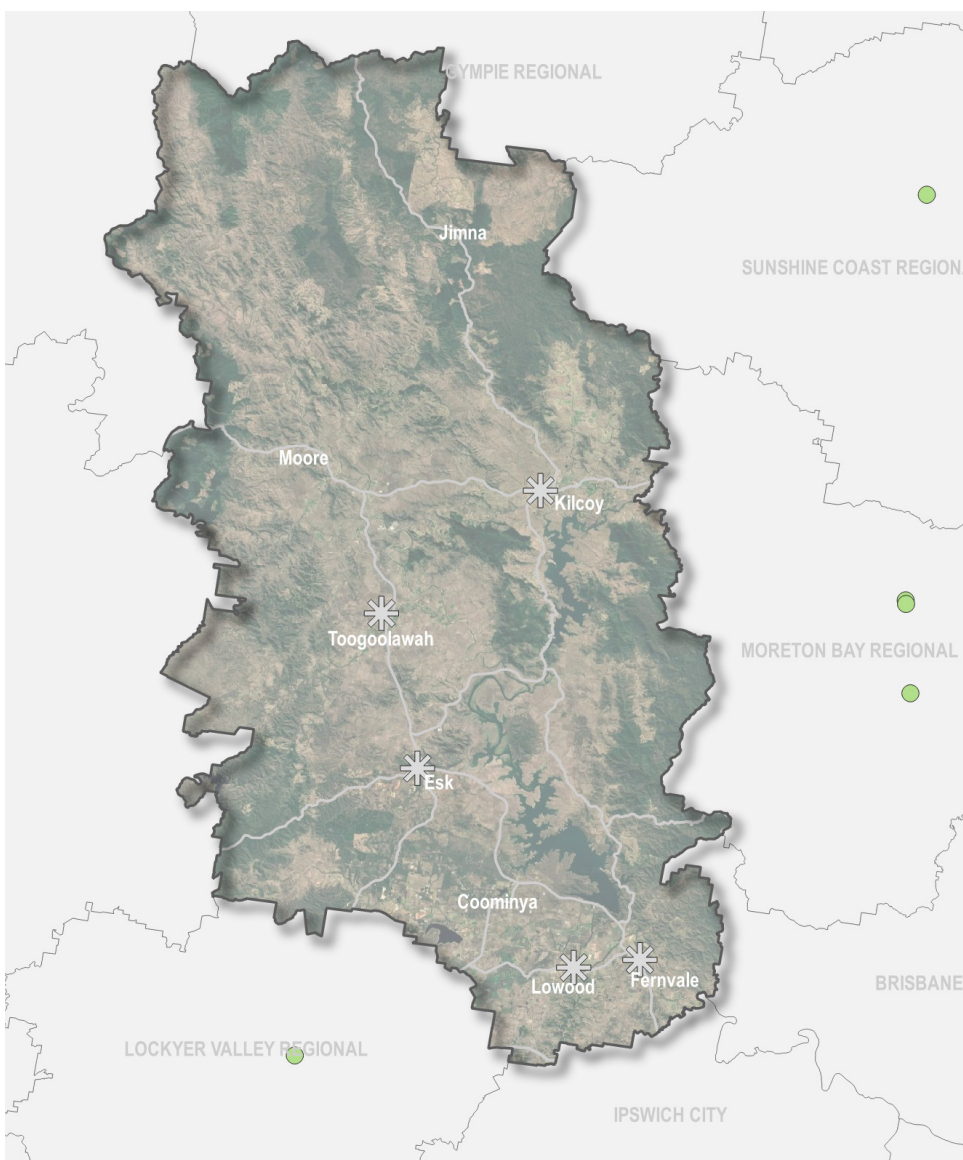
# Covered Arena

There is currently no Council-owned and publicly available covered equestrian arena in the Somerset Region, which has been continually identified as a gap in various stakeholder discussions. At least one public covered arena is available in the surrounding local government areas (refer to map), with additional private facilities not shown due to varying availabilities.

Covered arenas vary in size and accommodate different disciplines depending on surface type, depth and supporting facilities. They provide for all weather access to activities and provide protection from the sun, which is particularly important for participants in full-day events, training and clinics. The multifunctionality of the venues combined with the popularity of various equine disciplines throughout the region indicates, at a high level, that the provision of a covered arena would be well utilised.

The three Master Plans for Esk, Fernvale and Kilcoy Showgrounds considered the need for a covered equestrian arena, with both Fernvale and Kilcoy identifying a facility on the endorsed plans. All showgrounds, including privately owned venues, have site limitations that would impact on the deliverability and/or success of such a venue. It should be considered that the preferred site for the development of a covered arena is an alternative non-showgrounds location.

A specific feasibility assessment is required to make final determinations on the genuine demand and likely success of a covered arena, and the preferred site that takes into account land availability/suitability to accommodate the arena and ancillary facilities and accessibility to the majority of potential users from within the region.



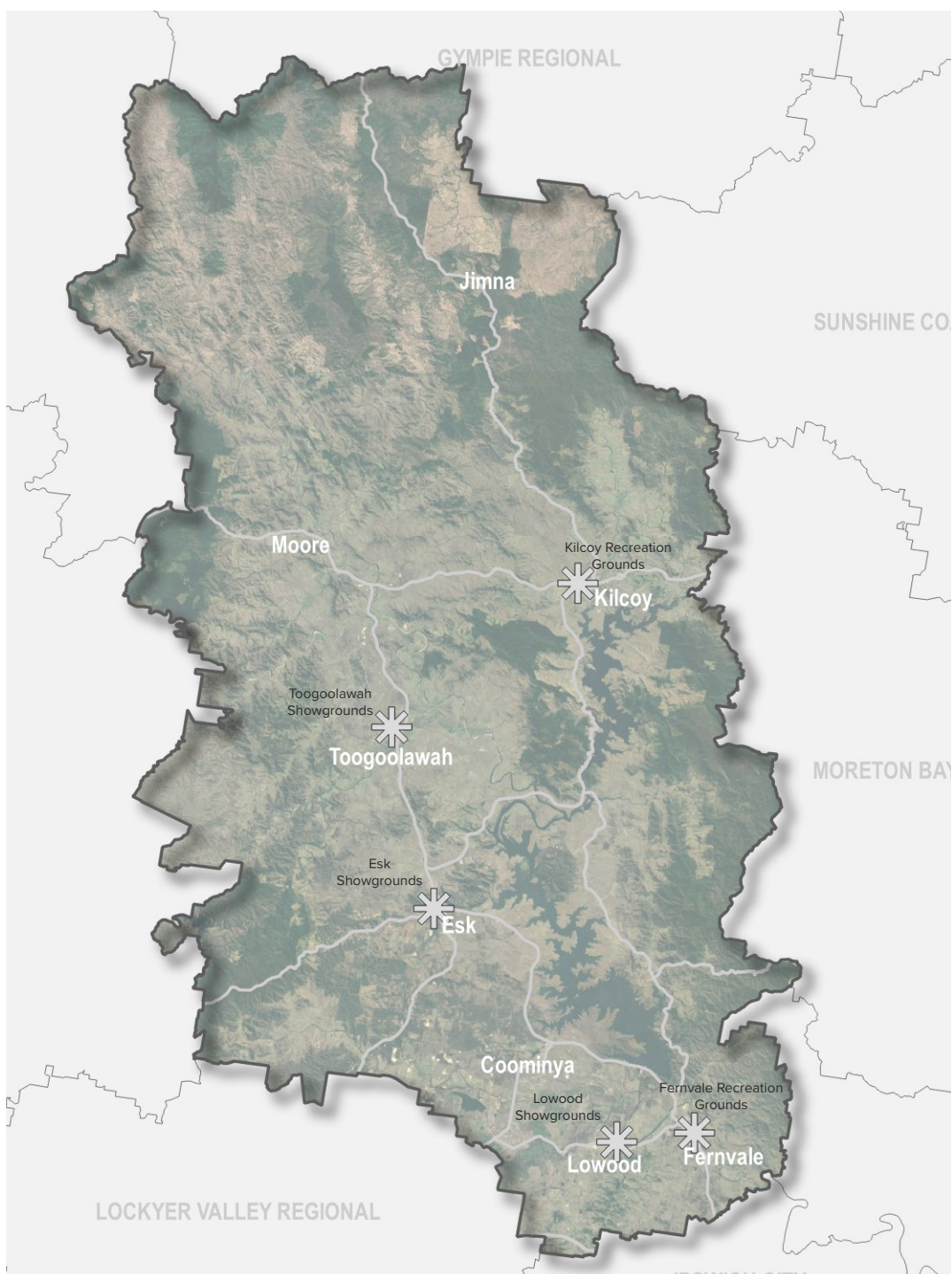
# Existing Showgrounds Network



Image Credits  
Photo: Kilcoy Race Club



The five showgrounds within the region are mapped below. Details of each site including site constraints, existing usage, site master plans and identified projects are provided within this section.



# Esk Showgrounds

## Site Details

Address:	72 Esk Hampton Road, Esk
Real Property	
Description:	Lot 17 on SP161919
Zone:	Recreation and Open Space
Ownership:	Crown - Council as Trustee
Reserve Purpose:	Reserve for Showgrounds, Sport and Recreation

## Site Constraints

### Usage Constraints:

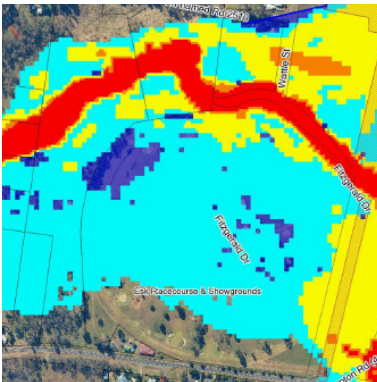
- Very high site usage by the golf club limits capacity to accommodate additional regular user groups.

### Planning Constraints

Mapping layers from the Somerset Region Planning Scheme Version 4.2 are identified below.

### Facility Constraints

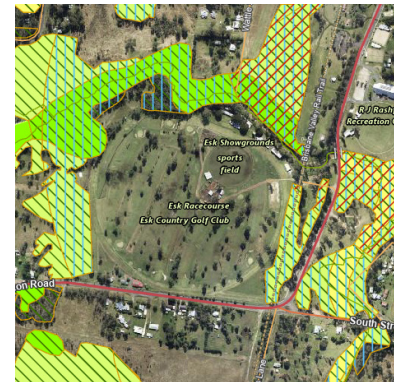
- Golf tees and greens are directly adjacent the showgrounds area and activities can not be undertaken concurrently.
- Inefficient placement of buildings restricts functionality of open spaces north of the race track.
- Some facilities are ageing and no longer meet required standards or expectations.
- Sight lines are required to be maintained for race meets.
- Limited pathways and accessibility for people with a disability or mobility issues.



Flood Hazard



Services



Biodiversity - MSES

### Other applicable layers include:

- Bushfire Hazard
- Catchment Management
- HIA (High Impact Area) Management Area
- Infrastructure
- Scenic Amenity



Koala Habitat



*Main Arena and Buildings*



*Cattle Yards*



*Bar & Seating Area*



*Race Track*



*Yards and Camp*



*Bryden Hall*

## 2020 Master Plan

### *Recent Project Changes*

The status of the following projects has been altered since the Master Plan was developed, due to action or investment by user groups/Council or a change in site usage.

Project	Organisation	Status
Water supply to cattle yards.	Council	Complete
Replacement of race track running rail (partial).	Jockey Club	Complete
Repair of cracked wall within Jockey Club.	Council	Complete
Additional water tanks and connection to Golf Club recycled water tank.	Jockey Club	Complete
Bryden Hall – repainting and roofing repairs.	Show Society	Complete
Extension of storage shed.	Golf Club	Underway



- ### Proposed Works
- a Racecourse fence and track to be repaired
  - b Install water to cattle yards
  - c Formalisation of existing and additional cattle ring, viewing mound extension
  - d Picnic seating to be replaced
  - e TAB refurbishments
  - f Bar coolroom and security upgrades
  - g Air conditioning to be installed to swabbing stall
  - h Repairs to judging box
  - i Jockey Club renovation and extension incl. DDA compliant parking
  - j New shelter joining Bryden Hall
  - k New additional day yards/stables
  - l New amenities blocks and water outlet
  - m Fencing upgrade to arena
  - n New portable grandstands
  - o Entry upgrades including signage, pedestrian entry, ticket booth, landscaping and DDA compliant parking
  - p Toilet block upgrade
  - q New golf storage shed
  - r Golf clubhouse upgrades
  - s New water tank to be connected to recycled mains
  - t Golf course irrigation installation
  - u New water and power outlets

### Existing Infrastructure

- |   |   |   |                          |                            |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Stables                                 | 8 2 x aged demontables<br>1 x new. Turf club. Show society (north). Storage, admin. | 10 Bar (refurbished) incl. PWD amenities                | 14 Chaille pavilion      | 22 Toilet block            |
| 2 Cattle yards                            | 9 3 bay covered betting shed TAB building   | 11 2 portable grandstands and 8 fixed picnic tables     | 15 Bryden Hall           | 23 Undercover cattle draft |
| 3 Racetrack                               |   | 12 Saddling enclosure, main stewards tower              | 16 Poultry pavilion      | 24 Golf club storage shed  |
| 4 Stud cattle ring                        |   | 13 Jockey club building (incl. caretaker accommodation) | 17 Water pump            | 25 Showcase enclosure      |
| 5 Swabbing stall                          |   |   | 18 Arena                 | 26 Horse show rings        |
| 6 Picnic seating                          |   |   | 19 5 bay undercover area | 27 Golf course             |
| 7 Open canteen with bbq and drinks fridge |   |   | 20 Portable grandstand   | 28 Golf clubhouse          |
|   |   |   | 21 Office                | 29 Water tanks             |

### Overlay Key

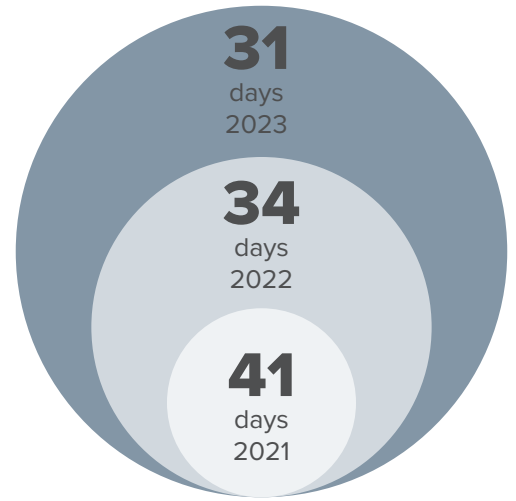
- Somerset Regional Council Koala Overlay Zone
- DNRME Endangered Regional Ecosystem Zones

### Legend

- Entry Point
- Property Boundary
- Campdraft camping zone
- Showhorse parking
- Proposed new structures

### Existing Services

- Property Boundary
- Existing Sewer Lines
- Existing Water Lines
- Existing Power Lines



**Usage Changes**

The following table represents the number of days the facility is used by each group for the past three years. The total number of days per year is represented across, noting that golf and grounds maintenance has been excluded.

User Group	Events/Regular Usage	Days Used Annually			Trend
		2021	2022	2023	
Esk Jockey Club	3 race meets	9	6	9	Stable
Esk Show Society	Annual Show and Camp and Jam Event	13	14	14	Stable
Esk Campdraft Association	Annual event	3	4	3	Stable
Esk Country Golf Club	Average 20 days per month – social & competition	244	219	242	Stable
Other	Private* Grounds Maintenance	16 0	10 5	5 10	Decreasing Increasing

\*Mainly Rail Trail Riders

Park Run is a new user that has emerged in 2024. They intend to deliver weekly park runs starting within the site at times that don't conflict with golf activities.

Investigation into purchase of additional land for the golf club was undertaken as part of the master plan however was deemed not feasible. The inability to conduct concurrent activities whilst golf is occurring is restricting hire and use of the showgrounds facilities, particularly with the added attractor of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail directly adjacent the site.

The master plan identifies a number of building upgrades across the site and consolidation of the built infrastructure may present opportunities for greater separation of facilities to increase site use.

**Revised Priorities**

The original master plan identifies 25 projects at an estimated cost of almost \$370,000, subject to specific designs. This included:

- 9 projects to improve activity-related areas
- 9 building-related projects
- 7 ancillary site projects.

Project rank is reflective of realistic sequencing, taking into account dependencies between projects and group priorities. Key projects identified below will evolve the site to enhance usage levels, experience and/or safety. Exclusion of particular projects does not indicate that they are not required; rather, they can be undertaken by user groups and/or Council as required.

Project	Rationale	Rank
E1 Extension of jockey clubhouse and dining pavilion.	Ageing and no longer fit for purpose.	Very High
E2 Stockproof fencing and boundary fencing to stud cattle area.	Animals within this area are not properly secure and risk of escaping.	High
E3 Additional amenities and pathways for people with a disability.	Improved accessibility to the site. No formal pathways and PWD bathroom facilities are located in the far west corner of the site.	High
E4 Upgrade of arena fencing.	Maintenance and upkeep.	High
E5 Additional electrical supply points for camping around arena.	Previous supply points removed for safety and groups want them reinstated.	High
E6 Arena redevelopment and resurfacing.	Heavily compacted and hasn't been redeveloped in over 30 years.	High - Medium
E7 Upgrade of campdraft announcers box including new roof and flooring.	Ageing and not fit for purpose. Floor is rotting.	Medium

# Fernvale Recreation Grounds

## Site Details

Address:	32 Banks Creek Road, Fernval
Real Property Description:	Lot 7 RP214853 Lot 900 RP844992 (Stumer Park)
Zone:	Community Facilities
Ownership:	Council

## Site Constraints

### Usage Constraints:

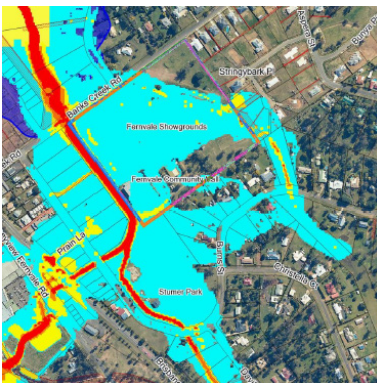
- The facility is located directly adjacent to a residential area, which places time restrictions on the use of loud speakers and other noisy activities late in the evening or early in the morning, both of which are desired during campdraft events.
- Some facilities are allocated to groups that no longer function at the grounds, with no access available to remaining groups. Provision of access would limit the need for temporary hire or new permanent facilities.

### Facility Constraints

- Sloping grounds restricts ability for parts of the site to be used for activities and/or safe car/float/truck parking.
- Large stormwater drain to the north of the site restricts north-south movements.
- Formal car parking areas are heavily used by patrons of the onsite PCYC.
- Poor condition of the arena limits use due to concerns for animal safety.

### Planning Constraints

Mapping layers from the Somerset Region Planning Scheme Version 4.2 are identified below.



Flood Hazard



Services

### Other applicable layers include:

- HIA (High Impact Area) Management Area





*Camp and Main Arena*



*Cattle Yards & Access Bridge*



*Pony Club Arena*



*Campdraft Facilities*



*Public Amenities*



*Horse Yards*

## 2021 Master Plan

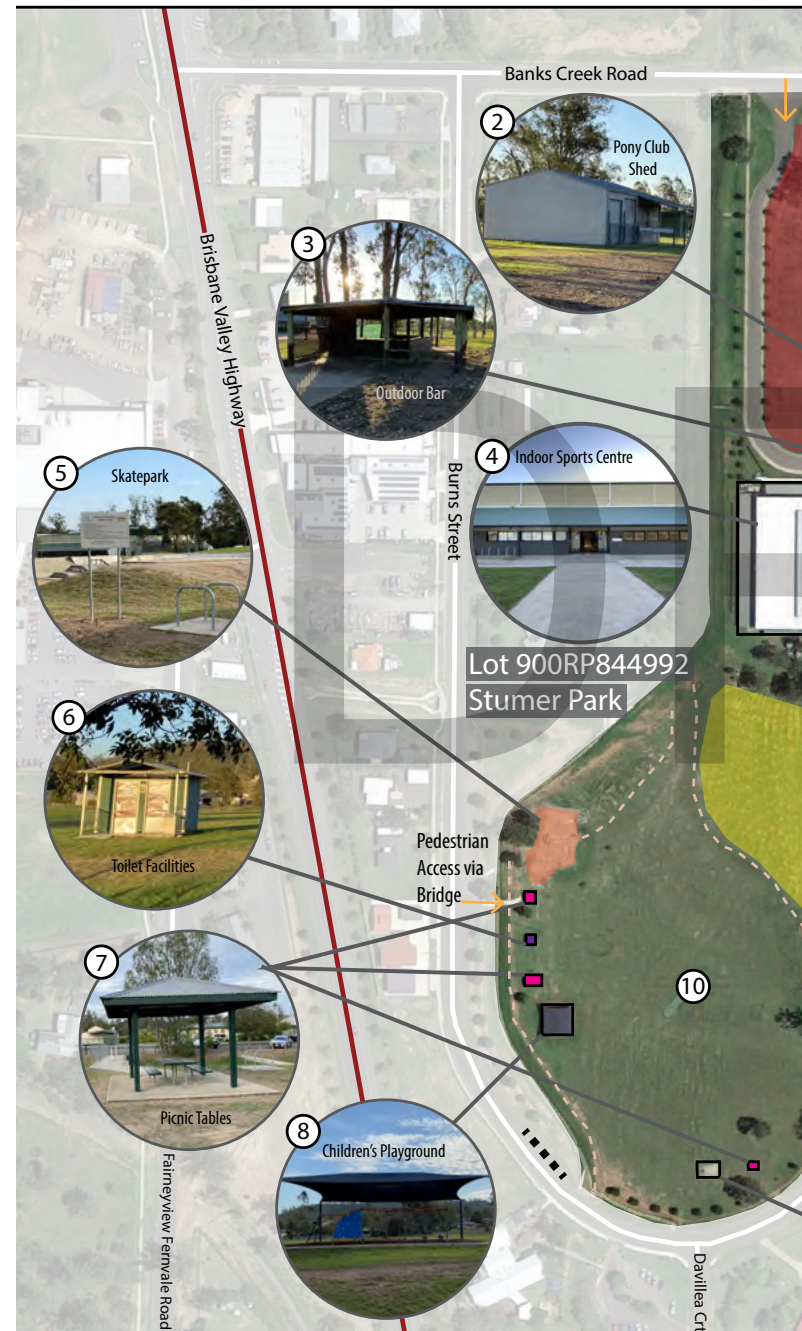
### Recent Project Changes

The status of the following projects has been altered since the Master Plan was developed, due to action or investment by user groups/Council or a change in site usage.

Project	Organisation	Status
Dedicated entry for service vehicles for cattle, horses, etc.	Council	Complete (with next)
Crossing required to create culvert and level so that campdraft floats can access.	Council	Complete (with above)
Upgrade outdoor bar	Council	Demolished, not replaced
Council to investigate the removal of the cross fall within the main arena.	Council	Investigation and cost estimate complete.

# Fernvale Recreation Group

## Lot 7 on RP214853 and Lot 900 on



Note: Not to scale - dimensions and measurements are approximates only

# Recreation Grounds Precinct Site Plan

RP 844992



## Legend

- Highway
- Local Road
- Site Access
- Existing Building
- Drain
- Camping area (power & water)
- Campdraft Camping Amenities
- Pony Club Shed
- Indoor Sports Centre
- Car Park
- Community Hall
- Girl Guides Shed
- Secretary/ Announcers Box
- Campdraft Arena
- Campdraft Warm Up Area
- Pony Club Yard
- Campdraft camping area
- Earth Mound
- Skatepark
- Picnic Table
- Chicane
- Toilet Facilities

## Site Plan

### Project:

Fernvale Recreation Grounds Master Plan

### Location

Fernvale, Queensland

### Local Authority

Somerset Regional Council



20 January 2021 MP

Source: Google Map Imagery 2021



### Usage Changes

The following table represents the number of days the facility is used by each group for the past three years. The total number of days per year is represented across.

In 2024 there has only been 4 days of use, all by campdraft.

User Group	Events/Regular Usage	Days Used Annually			Trend
		2021	2022	2023	
Fernvale Campdraft Association	Annual event	1	4	4	Stable*
Lowood Fernvale Pony Club <sup>~</sup>	Musters	2	0	0	Decreasing; ceased use of the site
Brisbane Valley Cow Horse Association	Ranch Sorting	7	7	2	Decreasing; ceased use of the site
OZ Endurance	Trail Riding	3	11	0	Variable, no use of the site recently
Other	Camping (group or caravan)	5	5	4	Decreasing Increasing <sup>^</sup>
	Barrel Racing	4	0	9	
	Grounds Maintenance	0	0	0	

\* The Campdraft Association previously ran two events per year but, due to the condition of the arena and risk of financial loss associated with cancellation resulting from rain, only one event is held per year. Improved surface conditions will trigger reconsideration.

<sup>^</sup> No barrel racing has been undertaken so far in 2024 due to surface conditions. An improved surface will likely see a return to the venue, with potential higher use.

<sup>~</sup>Lowood Fernvale Pony Club has not been operational for over 2 years however has indicated intent to Council to re-establish activities and has confirmed ongoing access to the storage shed is required.

There is a high number of regular hire of the Fernvale Hall by a church group and community groups including artists, girl guides and martial arts.

### Revised Priorities

The original master plan identifies 32 projects for both the Fernvale Recreation Grounds and adjacent Stumer Park at an estimated cost of \$1.4 million plus extra for specific projects that could not be costed, subject to design.

Key projects for the site, based on most recent stakeholder engagement, include:

Project	Rationale	Rank
F1 Upgrade surface of campdraft/main arena.	Current clay-based surface is poor quality and very hard. Small volumes of rain (less than 10mm) forces the cancellation of events.	High
F2 Develop new bar/canteen for events.	Former bar demolished. Located in suitable position to service users and spectators of activities in the main arena.	High
F3 Replace Secretary/Announcer box to ensure security and include lighting, windows and air conditioning and onsite medical room.	Existing structure is deteriorated. New structure to be multifunctional and comfortable for persons that use the facility for full days at a time.	High
F4 Create sense of arrival at entrance point with night time presence.	Enhances site identification for patrons and offers opportunity to showcase history of the area.	High
F5 Develop camping and caravanning facilities at the site.	Limited camping areas for competitors and spectators during campdraft events. Identified in Council's draft Caravanning and Camping Strategy.	Medium
F6 Gravel/pave the entrance to connect Stumer Park with the Showground parcel.	All weather access to traverse current grassed area. Provides clear access point to prevent damage to other grassed areas.	Medium
F7 Install lights to main arena. <i>Feasibility to be determined based on frequency of future use.</i>	Temporary light towers are currently hired in for events.	Low

# Kilcoy Recreation Grounds

## Site Details

Address:	26 Showgrounds Road, Woolmar
Real Property Description:	Lot 59 SP299664 Lot 916 SP313141 Lot 8 CG3953
Zone:	Community Facilities
Ownership:	Council

## Site Constraints

### Usage Constraints:

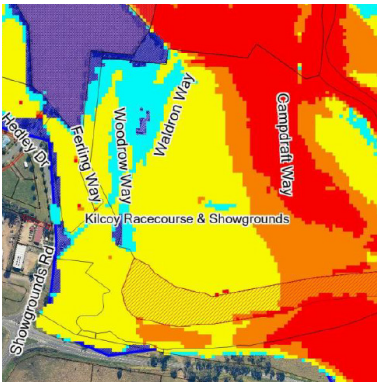
- Very high site usage on weekends; limited capacity to accommodate additional regular user groups.
- Minimal area available for horse floats and trucks to park on race days, with physical separation required to general patrons.
- Evening activities are restricted due to lack of lighting to required standards across the entire activity area.

### Facility Constraints

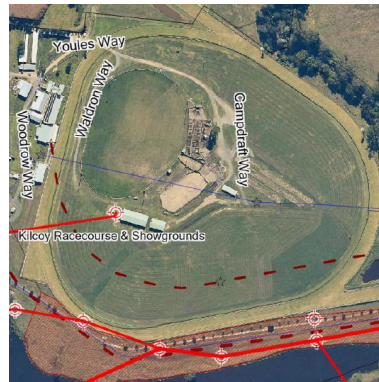
- Inefficient placement of buildings restricts functionality of open spaces.
- Some facilities are ageing and no longer meet required standards or expectations.
- High level of usage limits the ability to construct additional facilities within activity areas.
- Sight lines are required to be maintained for television coverage of race meets.

### Planning Constraints

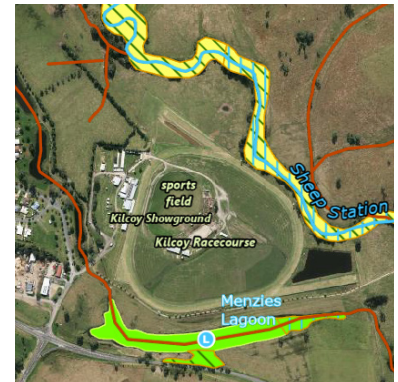
Mapping layers from the Somerset Region Planning Scheme Version 4.2 are identified below.



Flood Hazard



Services



Biodiversity - MSES

### Other applicable layers include:

- Biodiversity
- Koala Conservation
- Bushfire Hazard
- Catchment Management
- HIA (High Impact Area) Management Area
- Infrastructure
- Stock Route



*Main Arena and Buildings*



*Cattle Yards*



*Polocrosse Field*



*1200m Chute - Race Track*



*Rodeo Arena*



*Trackside Pavillion*

## 2022 Master Plan

### Recent Project Changes

The status of the following projects has been altered since the Master Plan was developed, due to action or investment by user groups/Council or a change in site usage.

Project	Organisation	Status
Construct a new 1200m start chute for the race track.	Council & Race Club	Complete
Upgrade automatic irrigation system for the race track, including new pumps.	Race Club	Complete
Purchase four grandstands on skids.	Rodeo Association	Complete
Install lighting to the main arena.	Council	Complete
Purchase relocatable loading ramp and remove deco pile in float parking area.	Show Society	Grant Application - awaiting notification.
Filling of drain and relocation of Polocrosse Field 1.	Council	In draft 2024/25 budget
Realignment and construction of internal road network.	Council	In draft 2024/25 budget



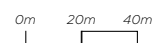




**LEGEND**

	New / upgraded buildings
	Existing buildings to be retained
<b>1</b>	<b>Race Track</b>
+	New chute for 1200m start
+	Automatic irrigation system
<b>2</b>	<b>Ancillary Camping Area</b>
+	Non-powered and powered sites with water
+	Elevated and equitable toilets and showers
+	Dump point (subject to planning approval)
<b>3</b>	<b>New access track to camping facilities</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>New additional Polocrosse field</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>New internal road network - sealed asphalt</b>
+	Two-way internal road
+	Access to internal race track area suitable for 27m vehicle
<b>6</b>	<b>New 10m wide training track</b>
+	2m between for drainage
<b>7</b>	<b>Main building extension</b>
+	Refurbished/reconfigured jockey rooms & club office
+	Covered viewing to lawn area
+	Event equipment storage
+	Additional toilets
<b>8</b>	<b>Shade structure over concrete tiered seating</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Show Pavilion and office</b>
+	Demolish existing and build new multi-purpose pavilion and dedicated show office with mezzanine level for storage
<b>10</b>	<b>Main Arena</b>
+	New lighting with backlighting to external areas
+	Continued refurbishment of fence
+	Future irrigation to support surface improvements
<b>11</b>	<b>Rodeo Arena</b>
+	New Lighting
+	Install chutes to the north
+	Refurbishment/upgrade of fence
<b>12</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Mary Nunn Pavilion</b>
+	Covered area extended to the east and west between buildings by one bay (bar facilities to be relocated to the west)
<b>13</b>	<b>Upgrade and refurbish cattle yards, camp, day yards wash bays and stable block</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Reconfigured Polocrosse fields</b>
+	Infill and ground levelling
+	Future irrigation
<b>15</b>	<b>Power and water to support camping</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Existing commentators box to be relocated</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Stables and training facilities (40 no.)</b>
+	Walker and sand roll
<b>18</b>	<b>Potential future multi-purpose equestrian covered arena</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Potential to secure land parcels for future community use and/or overflow event car parking</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Entry Statement and new ticket box</b>
+	New site signage and public art with lighting
+	Improved pedestrian entry and wayfinding
<b>21</b>	<b>Queensland Urban Utilities sewer pump station</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Multi-purpose open area</b>
+	Event lawn and possible side show alley
+	Overflow parking
<b>23</b>	<b>General car parking</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Wedding / function gazebo within the lakes parkland area with existing road access and parking</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Existing waste dump point</b>

1:3000 A3



### Usage Changes

The following table represents the number of days the facility is used by each group for the past three years. The total number of days per year is represented across, noting that grounds maintenance has been excluded.



User Group	Events/Regular Usage	Days Used Annually			Trend
		2021	2022	2023	
Stanley River Polocrosse Club	Practice days and 1 event per year	4	4	10	Increasing
Kilcoy Pony Club	Musters and 2-day events	2	8	4	Increasing
Kilcoy Race Club	Race meets	46	65	68	Increasing
Kilcoy Show Society	Annual Show	8	0*	7	Stable
Kilcoy Campdraft Committee	Annual events	3	9	6	Increasing
Kilcoy Rodeo Committee	Annual event	4	3	6	Increasing
Qld Working Cow Horse Club Inc	3 day hires (Friday to Sunday)	14	15	21	Increasing
Other	Camping (group or caravan)	32	19	6	Decreasing
	Private	18	24	15	
	Grounds Maintenance	20	16	15	

\*Annual Show Cancelled

### Revised Priorities

The original master plan identifies 29 projects at an estimated cost of almost \$15 million, subject to specific designs. This included:

- 16 projects to improve activity-related areas
- 7 building-related projects
- 6 ancillary site projects.

Project ranks are reflective of realistic sequencing, taking into account dependencies between projects and group priorities. Key projects identified below will evolve the site to enhance usage levels, experience and/or safety. Exclusion of particular projects does not indicate that they are not required; rather, they can be undertaken by user groups and/or Council as required.

Project	Rationale	Rank
K1 Realign internal road network, relocate the polocrosse fields and fill drain.	Improves vehicle circulation and pedestrian safety. Enables future expansion of main pavillion, development of the tie-up stalls and development of the horse training track.	Very High
K2 Construct new consolidated show pavilion and office with mezzanine storage.	Consolidates show facilities (pavilions and office) with connectivity to show activities, and provides a venue for large functions and events at the site during the show and for the community.	High
K3 Develop new tie-up stall precinct and mounting yard/parade ring.	Required to meet Racing Queensland criteria to retain race meets at current standard – insufficient number and deteriorating quality of tie-up stalls for race meets and limited public viewing of horses.	High
K4 Extend main pavillion to include storage, amenities, jockey facilities and admin.	Required to meet Racing Queensland criteria to retain race meets at current standard. Improves site aesthetics and provides additional space for administration of site activities.	High
K5 Install lighting to rodeo arena.	Provides capacity for night events within the arena for multiple users including rodeo, pony club, cow horse club, campdraft. More cost-effective than hiring portable lights over the long term.	High
K6 Resurface rodeo arena.	Sand too fine for current activities. Improves safety for participants.	High
K7 Develop a horse training track.	Desired inclusion at the site from Council, Race Club and Racing Qld. Potential to attract horse trainers to the region.	Medium
K8 Extend the roofline of the Ken & Mary Nunn Pavilion (towards shed).	Provides additional all-weather functional space for polocrosse, pony club, campdraft, working cow horse and rodeo events. Avoids further restricting sight lines to the race track during meets.	Medium
K9 Construct new maintenance shed, deco pits and storage shed for racing barriers, and demolish existing.	Opens up existing congested and inefficient space for parking and new racing infrastructure. Increases size of storage due to additional maintenance for proposed training track. Storage for barriers and machinery is required to ensure security and weather protection.	Medium
K10 Install an automated irrigation system for the main arena and polocrosse fields.	Maintains the fields and arena to a high standard and improves player safety.	Medium
K11 Extend poultry pavilion (on end).	Provides additional storage for the show society and all-weather access for judges and exhibitors.	Medium
K12 Construct horse stabling complex (subject to feasibility).	Provision of permanent stables and ancillary infrastructure has the potential to attract trainers to the region and drive economic benefit. Maximises use and return on investment from the training track.	Low

# Loowood Showgrounds

## Site Details

Address: Station Street, Loowood  
 Real Property Description: Lot 1 RP67865  
 Lot 2 RP184905  
 Lot 2 RP68074  
 Zone: Recreation and Open Space  
 Ownership: Private freehold

## Site Constraints

### Usage Constraints:

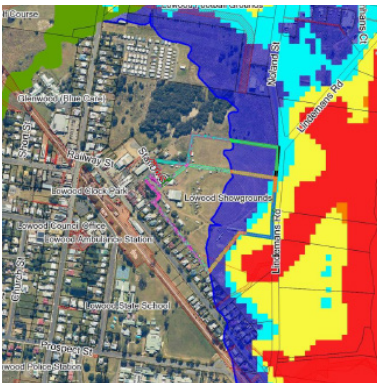
- Existing development permit allows 35 campground sites, which is insufficient during peak periods and to accommodate larger groups.

### Facility Constraints

- Nil

### Planning Constraints

Mapping layers from the Somerset Region Planning Scheme Version 4.2 are identified below.



Flood Hazard



Services

### Other applicable layers include:

- HIA (High Impact Area) Management Area
- Infrastructure
- Scenic Amenity



## Regular Usage

### Show

- Breed shows.
- Equestrian events including hacks, jumping, led and ridden classes.
- Show Ball.

### Rodeo

- Held 2nd week in November.
- NRA – 5,000 attendees.
- Contracted out - \$20,000 - \$30,000.
- Includes barrel racing.

### Rail Trail

- Bike riders and horse riders camp at grounds.
- Use yards and stables.
- Predominantly in cooler months April to September.

### State Showdriving Championships

- New event held in September 2024.
- Hosted by Australian Carriage Driving Society Qld Branch.

### Other

- BNS, Motor Bike Clubs, Dog and Poultry Shows, Gymnastics Club, Christmas Carnival.
- Caravanning and Camping is a major revenue source.

## Planned Facility Improvements

- Upgrades to guttering on some buildings required as impacts roads during heavy rain – need to divert water away.
- Upgrades to buildings done over time using grant funds. Poultry pavilion was finalised recently.



*Main Arena and Buildings*



*Horse Yards*



*Prime Cattle Area*



*Secretary Office & Gymnastics (upper)*



*Poultry Pavillion*



*Bar & Main Pavillion*

# Toogoolawah Showgrounds

## Site Details

Address: Ivory Creek Road, Toogoolawah  
 Real Property Description: Lot 1 RP7753  
 Zone: Recreation and Open Space  
 Ownership: Private freehold

## Site Constraints

### Usage Constraints:

- No known usage constraints

### Facility Constraints

- No known facility constraints

### Planning Constraints

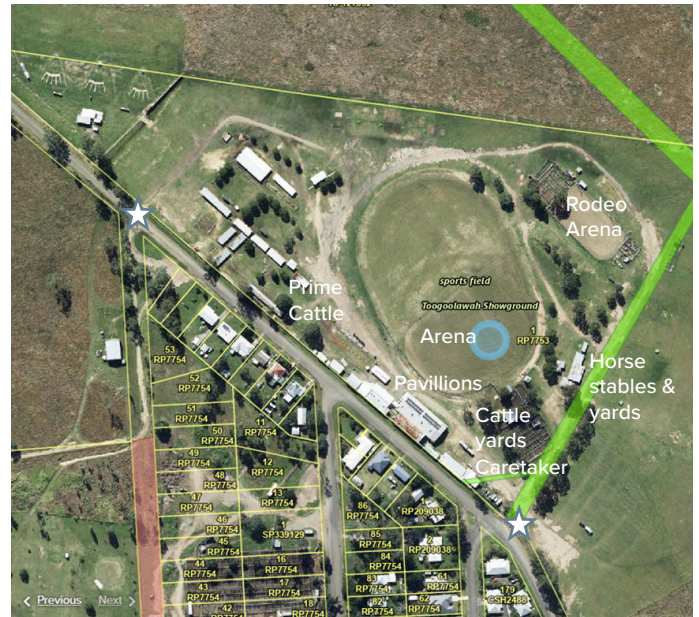
Mapping layers from the Somerset Region Planning Scheme Version 4.2 are identified below.



Services

### Other applicable layers include:

- HIA (High Impact Area) Management Area
- Infrastructure



## Regular Usage

### Show

- Breed shows.
- Equestrian events including hacks, jumping, led and ridden classes.

### Rodeo

- Includes horse events such as barrel racing
- Number of competitors varies each year

### Campdraft

- Held over 4 days
- 1500 competitors
- Use whole showgrounds area for camping

### Rail Trail

- Bike riders and horse riders camp at grounds
- Groups of 2 to 50 horse riders
- Use yards and stables
- Predominantly in cooler months April to September

### Other

- Bird Sale, Working Dog Trials and Sale, Junior Cattle Camp, Bulls Sales, Large Private Functions including weddings, funerals and 21st birthdays.
- Caravanning and Camping is a major revenue source.
- Barrel Racing Club seeking to hire monthly.

## Planned Facility Improvements

- Additional toilets, showers, laundry and camp kitchen nearby the rodeo arena
- Bitumen in front of caretakers area
- Renew set of 16 stables



Main Arena



Horse Stables



Rodeo Arena



Campdraft Announcers Box



Pavillion



Cattle Yards

# Network Priorities



Image Credit:  
Esk Jockey Club - Esk Races Facebook page.



A clear and consistent process to aid rational decision making related to new and or improved facilities at Showgrounds has been developed.

Requests can be assessed using the framework to ensure relevant factors are considered before committing to project investment.

### Decision Making Framework

1. Will multiple groups and/or activities benefit from the project?
2. Does the project increase activation of the site, including new uses?
3. Are safety concerns/issues addressed by the project?
4. Will the project improve access to the site for people with a disability or mobility issues?
5. Will the project support increased visitation/economic and social benefit to the region?
6. Is spatial efficiency and/or long term cost saving achieved by the project?
7. Does the project address peak body requirements?
8. Is the project required to be undertaken to enable another priority project to be undertaken?
9. Existing facilities are at capacity?

Project ranking can be assessed on the following basis:

PROJECT RANKING	DECISION MAKING FRAMEWORK ASSESSMENT	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMING
Very High - High	Meets 4 or more criteria	0 to 5yrs
Medium	Meets 3 of the criteria	6 to 10 yrs
Low	Meets 1 or 2 of the criteria	10+ yrs

Projects can be elevated in priority where major risk or safety factors are involved or where the project is required to be undertaken to enable another high priority project to be developed.

Key projects for each site that were identified during consultation have been assessed using the framework and projects have been prioritised in the tables overleaf. Projects with an asterick have been identified as suitable for external funding opportunities.

Project	Decision Making Framework	Rank
E1 Extension of jockey clubhouse and dining pavillion.	Supports multiple groups/activities; addresses peak body requirements; improves site accessibility; increases activation of the site.	Very High
F1 Upgrade surface of campdraft/main arena.	Supports multiple groups; addresses safety concern; increases activation; potential to increase visitation if event return to the site.	Very High
K1 Realign internal road network, relocate the polocrosse fields and fill drain.	Supports multiple groups, required to enable other high priority projects to occur, improves safety of patrons, improves spatial efficiency.	Very High
K2* Construct new consolidated show pavilion and office with mezzanine storage in new location.	Dependency project required to improve spatial efficiency; supports multiple groups; increases activation of the site.	High
K9* Construct new maintenance shed, deco pits and storage shed for racing barriers, and demolish existing.	Improved spatial efficiency; dependency project to allow expansion of main pavillion building.	High
R1 Undertake a feasibility study for development of a covered arena within the region.	Supports multiple groups; increases visitation to the region; provides economic benefit.	High
E6 Arena redevelopment and resurfacing.	Supports multiple groups activities; increases activation; addresses safety, potential increased visitation to the region.	High-Medium
K3* Develop new tie-up stall precinct and mounting yard/parade ring.	Peak body requirement; addresses safety; supports multiple groups.	Medium
K5* Install lighting to rodeo arena.	Supports multiple groups; increased activation of the site; cost savings (reduce hire costs).	Medium
K7* Develop a horse training track.	Increased activation and visitation and economic benefit to the region.	Medium
F7* Install lights to main arena. <i>Feasibility to be determined based on frequency of future use and impact on nearby residences.</i>	Increases activation; supports multiple groups; provides cost savings (reduced hire costs).	Medium
K4* Extend main pavillion to include additional amenities, jockey facilities, race club administration area and storage.	Supports multiple groups; increased site activation; improved spatial efficiency; meets peak body requirements; potential increased visitation to the site.	Medium
F2 Develop new bar/canteen for events.	Potential to be used by multiple groups for site events, increased site activation; existing facilities operating at capacity.	Medium
F5 Develop camping and caravanning facilities.	Increased activation of the site, supports multiple groups, increased economic benefit to the region.	Medium

Project	Decision Making Framework	Rank
E2 Stockproof fencing and boundary fencing to stud cattle area.	Addresses safety; supports multiple groups.	Low
E4 Upgrade of arena fencing.	Supports multiple groups; addresses safety concern.	Low
E5 Additional electrical supply points for camping around arena.	Supports multiple groups, increases activation.	Low
E7* Upgrade of campdraft announcers box including new roof and flooring.	Addresses safety concern.	Low
K6 Resurface rodeo arena.	Supports multiple groups, improves safety of participants.	Low
K8 Extend the roofline of the Ken & Mary Nunn Pavilion (towards shed).	Supports multiple groups.	Low
K10* Install an automated irrigation system for the main arena and polocrosse fields.	Supports multiple groups; improved ground safety.	Low
K11 Extend poultry pavilion (on end).	Existing facility at capacity.	Low
F3* Replace Secretary/Announcer box to ensure security and include lighting, windows and air conditioning and onsite medical room.	Addresses safety concern.	Low
F4 Create sense of arrival at entrance point with night time presence.	Supports multiple groups.	Low
F6 Gravel/pave the entrance to connect Stumer Park with the Showground parcel.	Supports multiple groups.	Low
K12* Construct horse stabling complex (subject to feasibility).	Increased economic benefit to the region.	Low
E3 Additional amenities and pathways for people with a disability.	Supports multiple groups, improves accessibility to the site.	Low

# Somerset Region Showgrounds Network Review

Final Report  
November 2024

