

Horse SA Horse Riding & Road Safety Strategy



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Horse SA Road Safety Strategy

Horse SA is a not-for-profit community based organisation, working in the key industry areas of trails, facilities, education, horse keeping & environment, industry development and road safety.

Horse SA has identified, through the South Australian Recreation & Sport Horse Strategy*, a need to work with Transport SA and other agencies with a responsibility for road related areas, to develop a statewide horse road safety strategy. This strategy will serve to raise awareness of horses as a vulnerable road user through identifying and providing action directions for education, risk minimization and incident reduction.

The state of South Australia features large variances in road types, from arid outback tracks to high usage metropolitan roadways and freeways. Conflicts and related safety issues in relation to horses are most noticeable in the peri-urban and metropolitan areas, and larger regional centres. How to manage unsustainable growth in the usage of vehicles while providing a safe roadway for pedestrians, cyclists, carriage drivers and horse riders will continue to challenge the way we think about and plan for transit routes.

There is little documented evidence of horse incidents. One recent death and several horse deaths, resulting in significant vehicle damage and injury have been recorded. There are plenty of antidotal and near miss stories, which can verbally be collected at any gathering of horse people. When riders find it all becoming too unsafe, many riders either seek safe off-road trails or perhaps give up riding altogether. There is the group also, who as part of their daily paid employment, are required to either travel on, or cross roads frequently. This scenario is mostly found near racing precincts or peri-urban riding schools and agistment centres.

Horse SA is committed to improving road safety in relation to horses. To achieve this, the strategy involves working with State & Local Government, community horse groups and professional horse industry associations.

Horse SA will continue to raise awareness of road safety amongst the broad horse community in an ongoing basis.

Julie Fiedler
Executive Officer
February 2005

- *Phillip Grey & Associates. 2000 Commissioned by the Office of Recreation & Sport South Australia.*

INTRODUCTION

The Strategy will aim to:

- Raise awareness of horses on roadways as vulnerable users to both drivers of cars and riders
- Actively develop promotional and educational programs and participate in research to improve road safety for horse riding
- Develop risk management strategies, including the support of trails and other off-road riding experiences, infrastructure placement & design
- Provide a guide to road and roadside managers on the needs and requirements of horse riders

Exposure Management

Responsible Agencies	Rider/Driver	Horse & equipment/ Vehicles	Physical environment	Regulatory/social environment
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage or prevent young children and inexperienced riders from riding near road traffic 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage the riding of highly-strung or uneducated horses near road traffic. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of off road riding opportunities including trails and public riding arenas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage unnecessary riding on roads by maintaining realistic perceptions among riders of the potential risk from riding near traffic (which will always remain relatively hazardous) Liaise with planning authorities to investigate opportunities for lane-ways, paths, permission to use reserves and other mechanisms between areas where horses are kept and where they are ridden. Investigate the introduction of compulsory helmet wearing for riders on roadways (ARR) Discourage riding alone Provide information on trail notes regarding the level or type of traffic to be expected to enable riders to select less hazardous routes

Incident Prevention

Responsible Agencies	Rider/Driver	Horse & equipment/ Vehicles	Physical environment	Regulatory/social environment
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and promote effective training programs for riders likely to be exposed to road traffic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action:</i> Introduce hazard training certificates to recognise achievement in riding skill 2. Develop specialty equipment to help riders on roadways at night 3. Alert motorists to areas frequently used by horses (community information programs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action:</i> Use media to help raise awareness of horses on roadsides eg RAA magazine 4. Develop and promote the use of a range of "be seen - be safe" reflective items for riders 5. Investigate mechanisms and promote education surrounding motorists slowing down for horses 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and promote effective training programs for horses likely to be exposed to road traffic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action:</i> Hazard training workshops for horses using commonly found roadside features and road works equipment 2. Encourage the proper fitting and maintenance of bridles, saddles etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action:</i> Introduce hazard training certificates for horses 3. Develop and promote the use of a range of "be seen - be safe" reflective items for horse and equipment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the effectiveness of signing practices to warn motor vehicle drivers of the likely presence of horses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action :</i> Sign inventory surveys / recommendations 2. Liaise with the relevant road authority to develop guidelines for signage and other on-road features to improve safety for riders 3. Liaise with trail managers and property owners to keep the ground adjacent to trails categorized as national, regional or local free from tripping hazards such as low wire fencing. 4. Provide horse road crossings for national, regional and local trails in consultation with trail managers, or in frequently used area, eg between agistment centres and racetracks. 5. Provide method to consult horse community and model for working parties through Horse SA on difficult hot spots on roads 6. Develop a horse-related risk management checklist which can be used by road managers 7. Liaise with road authorities to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote awareness raising of horses by increasing the use of horse logo/info on the websites and brochures of Transport SA and other relevant organisations and agencies 2. Incorporate horse - awareness into Daw Park and other road safety training centres and driver awareness programs.

			<p>investigate the placement of natural or artificial barriers between horses and traffic</p> <p>8. Liaise with road authorities to alert motorists to areas frequently used by horses (eg signs)</p> <p>9. Liaise with road authorities to install traffic calming devices where appropriate</p>	
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Injury Control

Responsible Agencies	Rider/Driver	Horse & equipment/ Vehicles	Physical environment	Regulatory/social environment
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the use of safety helmets when riding on roads 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the use of appropriate safety equipment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with trail managers and property owners to keep the ground adjacent to national, regional and local category trails free from hard, injury-causing objects such as poorly located street furniture and plantings 2. Develop guidelines to assist road managers regarding requirements of horse riders eg height clearance for branches 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage first aid training among horse riders 2. Development of emergency action plans to improve the nature and speed of response to an incident by others who may be present 3. Encourage riders to carry identification and medical information when riding 4. Develop guidelines for recommended tack and equipment, plus information on how to check/fit helmets/other gear

Safety Management

Responsible Agencies	Action
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the use of Near Miss Accident forms 2. Horse issues to be included into the Office of Walking & Cycling 3. Develop a range of resource books, brochures, stickers and other strategies for rider and driver education 4. Promote role models, eg Mounted Operations Unit 5. Support the inclusion of road safety in the training and accreditation of trail ride leaders (commercial and non-commercial) and coaches 6. Develop a new unit of competency for the Sports, Outdoor Recreation Training Package on road safety awareness (AQF II) 7. Work with road authorities and peak horse related bodies to promote road safety training within their organisations (club and commercial) 8. Promote the involvement of Horse SA and other key stakeholders in research, education, promotion and other activities designed to improve the safety of horses, riders, handlers and drivers on roadways 9. Network with other road safety lobby, awareness and improvement groups. 10. Incorporate horse transport float towing safety