



25 May 2022

To the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee,

I am writing this letter on behalf of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) in support of the New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network submission in support of the petition of Arthur Yeo which states:

"That the House of Representatives ensure, through legislation, that central and local government designers and planners of public works and policy are required to consider, inform, consult and include equestrian user's needs in the design and construction of all roading, pathways, reserves and parks."

NZTR acknowledges the many and diverse roles horses have played historically, and to this day continue to play in society, and recognises the many benefits brought about by the relationship between humans and horses. These benefits include, but are not limited to, increasingly documented positive effects both on physical and mental health for those who regularly interact with horses.

Many horses, and indeed Thoroughbreds, throughout New Zealand, are kept solely for the purpose of pleasure or trail riding. Aside from this, the additional life experience and exposure to new environments afforded by being able to access public land is a key part of training for horses destined for a multitude of competitive pursuits. Specifically, trail riding is an important aspect of educating an equine to behave safely and be adaptable to new and changing environments. Many small businesses, such as horse trekking companies, are also heavily reliant on having safe access to public land for their continued operation.

NZTR feels it is extremely important that due consideration be given to the need for legislation ensuring that the horses right to access public land intended for recreational use is upheld. Similarly, attention should be given to infrastructure to ensure that those horses accessing recreational areas are able to interact with other users, such as those in motor vehicles, in a way that compromises neither party's safety.

We ask that you support the submission that is being made by the New Zealand Equine Advocacy Network to ensure that the needs of the Equestrian community are factored into the planning of recreational spaces across the country.

Yours sincerely,

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