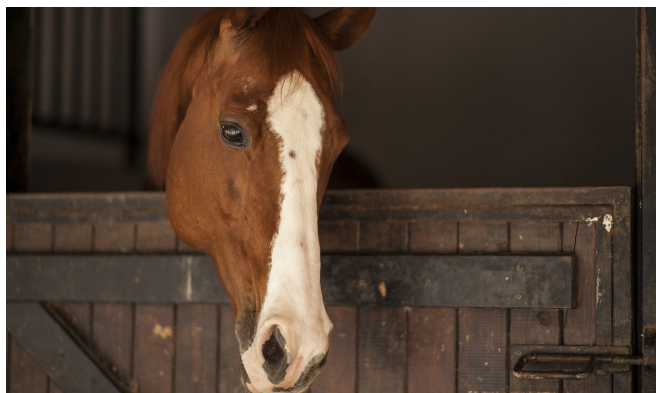


Horse Keeping

The Adelaide Hills has the highest density of horse ownership and husbandry in South Australia. The region hosts many clubs, studs, and agistment services, and showcases a number of equestrian events each year. They are companion animals and an important part of people's lives.



Fast Facts:

- Horse welfare and good land management practices go hand in hand.
- Horse keeping can impact the environment through over-grazing, or pollution of watercourses by poor manure management.
- Keeping horses on your property, or making changes to existing horse keeping locations may need Council approval.
- Extensive information and resources are available to landholders for sustainable horse keeping through Horse SA.

Horse keeping is continually growing in popularity in the Adelaide Hills and various horse-related interests present in the district.

Best practice horse keeping comes with many responsibilities, including ensuring that you minimise the impacts from your property on the natural environment.

In South Australia's Planning and Design Code, horse keeping is defined as "the keeping or husbandry of horses, where more than one horse is kept for every three hectares of land utilised for horse keeping".

Prior to purchasing a new property where you intend to keep horses, contact the Adelaide Hills Council to discuss the feasibility of horse keeping on the property and to discuss best practice.



Image: M.Bright

'You can't have good horse care without good land care'

The Adelaide Hills Council district lies on part of the catchment for Greater Adelaide's water supply and Adelaide Hills Council is committed to protecting this asset.

The Council aims to ensure that any development has a neutral, or even beneficial, effect on the quality and quantity of water harvested from the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Sound management of watercourses, soils, pastures, and manures will ensure that the Adelaide Hills can continue to capture, store, and release clean water for our region and our neighbouring users.

Strategies for sustainable horse keeping

- Implement lower stocking rates, weed control programs, rotational grazing, and supplementary feeding to encourage at least 70% perennial pasture cover.
- Consider native grasses such as kangaroo grass in your feed pastures.
- Consider planting lines of local native trees on your property to protect it from fierce weather.
- Conduct regular weed control activities, particularly for weeds such as Cape Weed and Salvation Jane, which are toxic to horses.
- Implement a waste and nutrient management program that includes storage and removal or use of manure.
- Consider the introduction of dung beetles to manage manure and blowflies.
- Reduce the use of veterinary and agricultural chemicals for the benefit of the environment and to reduce horse husbandry costs.
- Consider housing your horses on other properties (i.e. agisting) if your set up is not adequate, or for short periods to allow for pasture recovery.
- Connect with Horse SA to learn more about horse husbandry and land management.



Horse Keeping and Council

If you plan to keep horses on a new property, or are considering making changes to your existing horse enterprise in the Adelaide Hills Council district, the following applies.

- If you plan to keep more than one horse per three hectares of land, you will require Development Approval.
- You must ensure that animals are kept at a density appropriate to the carrying capacity of the land, and in a manner that minimises adverse effects on the environment, local amenity, and surrounding development.
- Horse stables, shelters, and associated yards must be located on stable slopes (of less than 10%) to minimise soil erosion and water runoff.
- All areas accessible to horses must be separated from septic tank effluent disposal areas to protect the integrity of that system.
- Water from stable wash-down areas must run to appropriate absorption locations to minimise pollution of land and water.
- Stormwater management planning should encourage water away from watercourses, wetlands and water-logged areas.
- Storage of manure, used litter, and other wastes must not be positioned where they have the potential to pollute watercourses.



Legislation

Land managers who own horses have a responsibility to abide by and adhere to several pieces of legislation in relation to horse welfare and land management. These are:

- Landscapes South Australia Act 2019 (prevention of land degradation)
- Animal Welfare Act 1985 and the Animal Welfare Regulations 2012
- Environmental Protection Act 1993 (SA) (Pollution and waste management)
- Livestock Act 1997. (A Property Identification Code is required if you have more than one horse per property.)

Contact

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