

DARLING DOWNS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

The PowerPoint presentation is available online at [DDRA-AGM_2026_F.pptx](#)

AGENDA ITEM 1

Welcome



Welcome to our guests:

- Local Member for Darling Range: Mr Hugh Jones, MLA
(unfortunately unable to attend due to Parliamentary Commitments)
- President of the Shire: Cr Rob Coales
- Councillors: Cr Joel Chan, Cr Nathan Bishop

AGENDA ITEM 1

Our prime objectives

- ✓ Provide an update on issues affecting you
- ✓ Discuss some key challenges
- ✓ Describe progress towards achieving objectives
- ✓ Explain current plans
- ✓ Get your ideas on what should be done
- ✓ Cover these issues in a reasonable timeframe

AGENDA ITEMS 2 & 3

2. Presentation of apologies
3. Discuss/ratify the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) and any business arising from those minutes (Bruce)

Darling Downs Residents Association Minutes from the AGM Conducted on 23 September 2025

DDRA Annual General Meeting

The Darling Downs Residents Association (DDRA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Oakford Community Centre at 57 Foxton Drive in Oakford on 23 September 2025.

Meeting Opened

The meeting opened at 7.08 pm.

Present

The following people attended the AGM:

Sharon Arena, Kathy Brennan, Neil Brown, Debra Brown, Kevin Brimblecombe, Tracy Brimblecombe, Peter Cappendell, Eric Chabros, Vicki Chabros, Emily Darnell, Dave Emery, Ken Edwards, John Dawkins, Jerome Donders, Kat DeRuyck, Tricia Duggin, Chris Eden-Street, Carol Fawcett, Malcom Fawcett, Sue Gilbert, Nicky Gusterson, Bruce Hilliard, Pam Hilliard, Karen Hayes, Trevor Hayes, Dusty Hellwig, Carley Hockridge, Perry Holland, Adam Kestel, Victoria Lynn, Jane London, Phil Petricevic, Terry Mateljan, David Ransom, Neil Ridgeway, Cam Starcevic, Andrew Smith, Corine Smith, Ian Stanley, Wendy Stanley, Pixie Stott, Mark Stott, Deborah Venturini, Neil Waterhouse, Mara Coombes, and Brian Vale.

In addition to these members, the following special guests were present: Mr Hugh Jones, MLA (Local Member for Darling Range), Cr Rob Coales (President of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale), as well as Joel Chan and Phil Pettis, who are candidates for the NW Ward.

Apologies

The following apologies were received: Marissa Marriot, Alice Dawkins, Penny Ellis, Paul Gusterson, Robin Vale, Matt Emery, Shirlie Donders, Susan Hale, Noreen Perovic and Karen Treble.

AGM Presentation

The AGM presentation (AGMp) is available at this link: [DDRA-AGM_2025_F.pptx](#). The following text contains references to specific slides in that presentation.

Previous AGM Minutes

Some key challenges were highlighted from the previous AGM Minutes on Slide 5 of the AGMp. The first three issues included drainage and flooding, opening the area to the east of the 70 Acres (Lot 9005 Wungong South Road), as well as the Thomas Road Upgrade and the provision of a safety wall. The attendees were advised that these issues would be updated in the next three sections of the AGM agenda.

ISSUES FROM THE MINUTES

- A. Drainage & Flooding**
- B. Lot 9005 (9013) subdivision**
- C. Thomas Road Upgrade & Safety Wall**
- D. Other workstreams – Will be covered in the Workstreams**

WILL BE COVERED SHORTLY

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VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 3

Resolution:

To accept the Minutes of the AGM dated 25 September 2025 and information provided on the outcomes of any matters arising from the Minutes.

Proposer

Seconder

Vote

4 – Some key challenges



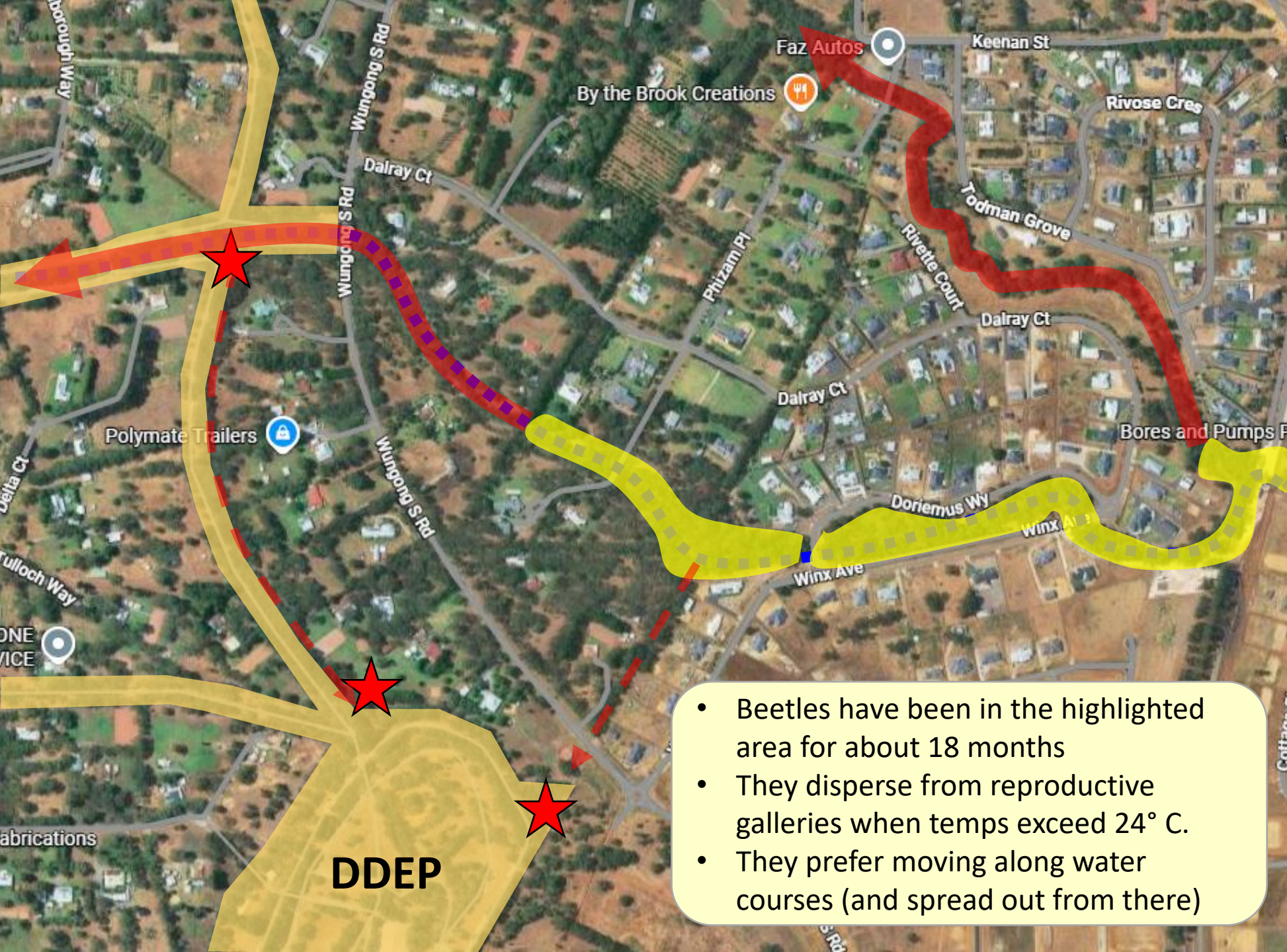
1. Shothole Borer Infestation
2. Drainage and flooding in Byford & Darling Downs
3. Build up in the area to the east of the 70 Acres (Lot 9013)
4. A safety wall on Thomas Road – Protecting equine users

SHOTHOLE BORER - UPDATE



With thanks to





- Birrega Drain
- Darling Downs Equestrian Park
- Known Shothole Borer Locations
- ★ Planned trap locations

- Beetles have been in the highlighted area for about 18 months
- They disperse from reproductive galleries when temps exceed 24° C.
- They prefer moving along water courses (and spread out from there)

This has some substantial implications for the area, once an infestation has been identified

INFESTATION IMPLICATIONS

If an area *(which will be defined by the spread)* is quarantined:

- ✓ **Untreated and unseasoned wood** (including cut branches, prunings, bark, etc.) *may not be moved outside the quarantine area unless it is chipped to 2.5 cm or less*
- ✓ **Living plants** (or cuttings of wood stems) *> 2 cm cannot be moved outside the quarantine area*
- ✓ **Machinery/tools** (e.g. chainsaws, woodchippers, etc.) *used to handle green waste wood must be completely cleaned* of all plant material before leaving the quarantine area.
- ✓ **If the preceding criteria cannot be met**, and the action is necessary, an **official permit must be received** from the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

- ✓ Contact Landcare SJ directly:
Ph: 9526 0012
- ✓ You can also ask Landcare SJ to:
 - Inspect trees if you think they may be infested
 - Procure lures/traps for the detection of beetles



HELP CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF THE SHOT HOLE BORERS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

DRAINAGE & FLOODING



DRAINAGE & FLOODING

After rail changes
Peak = 7.95 m³/sec

BEFORE THE CHANGE TO THE RAIL LINK



- ✓ The big issue: Max flow from rail line (*improved drainage & urbanization*)

Before rail changes
Peak = 1.7m³/sec



AFTER THE CHANGE TO THE RAIL LINK



DRAINAGE & FLOODING

- ✓ The Shire have been clearing drains/sumps in the Kentucky Fields area to help optimize flows



DRAINAGE & FLOODING

- ✓ The design of the drainage to the north of Kentucky Fields has not been finalised yet (it has taken longer than planned but the Shire is working to address the problems with the help of the developer)



DRAINAGE & FLOODING

- ✓ They are opening two drains to the east of the Thomas Access trail – next to trail & in adjoining properties ([Works commenced 1/9/26](#))



Thomas Access Drain looking North



Thomas Access Drain looking South



- ✓ The changes are already significant—
Here are some pictures from the same area now



DRAINAGE & FLOODING

- ✓ The design for changes to the Thomas Road drain area is still not completed (The Shire is working hard to get these issues resolved with the TEA)

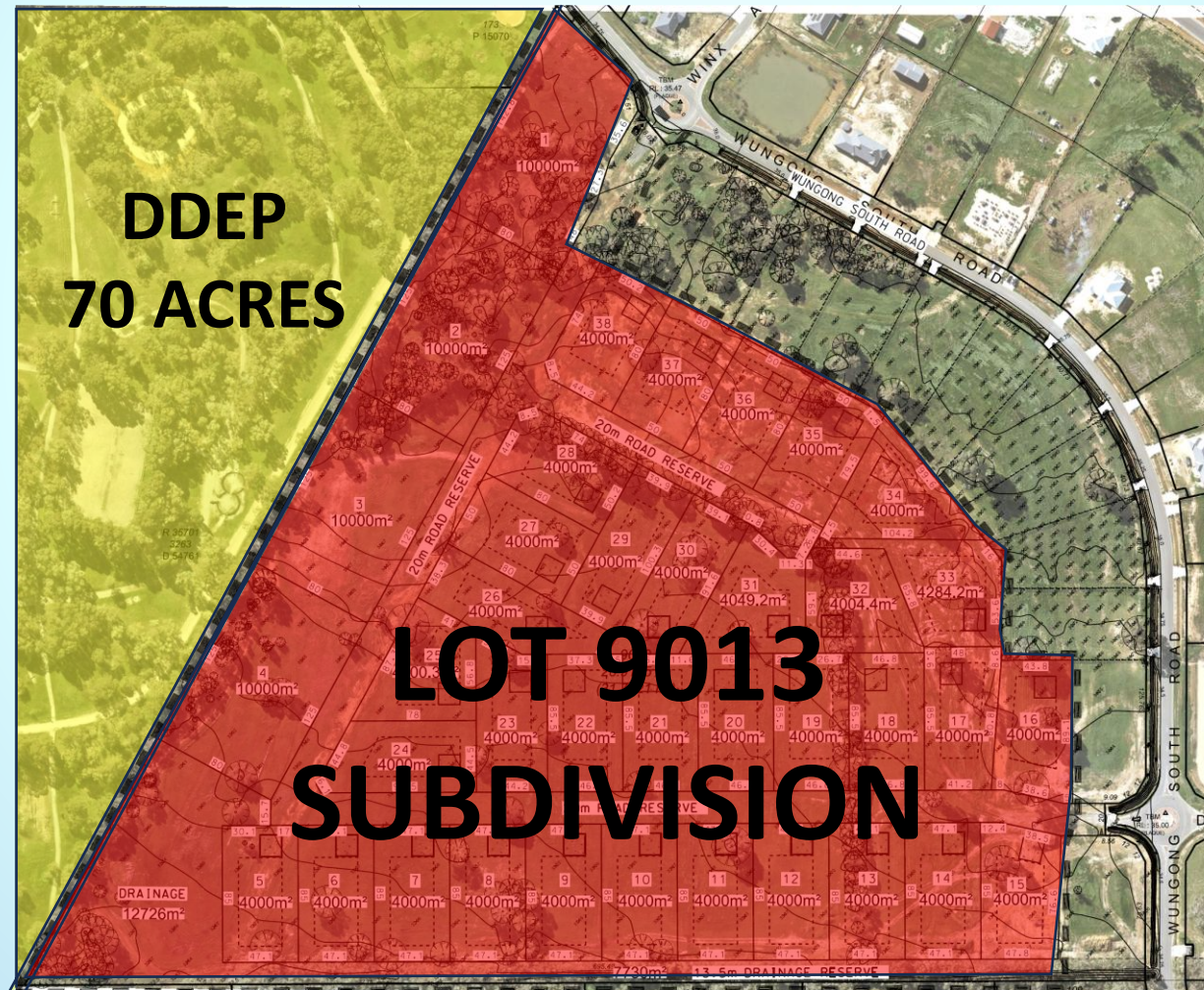


**What are
your
thoughts?**



LOT 9013 WUNGONG SOUTH RD

PLANNED SUBDIVISION IMPLICATIONS



- 12 x Smaller Bocks (Already subdivided)
- 33 x 1 Acre Blocks (~4K m²)
- 4 x 1 Hectare Blocks (10K m²)
- Includes accessways to the 70 Acres (north & south)
- Drainage Sump



We have inserted
the required gates



We have planted over 800 plants to provide a visual barrier between the properties and the slow track (a lot of growth is needed to provide adequate barriers)



**What are
your
thoughts?**



Vote on options as required

SAFETY WALL ON COMIC LOOP SOUTH TRAIL



AVOIDING THESE TYPES OF RISKS

PREVIOUS CONFIGURATION



- ✓ Steady traffic flow (mostly light)
- ✓ Little braking (generally predictable noises)
- ✓ Parallel to the horse trail (less fear invoking)

PREVIOUS CONFIGURATION



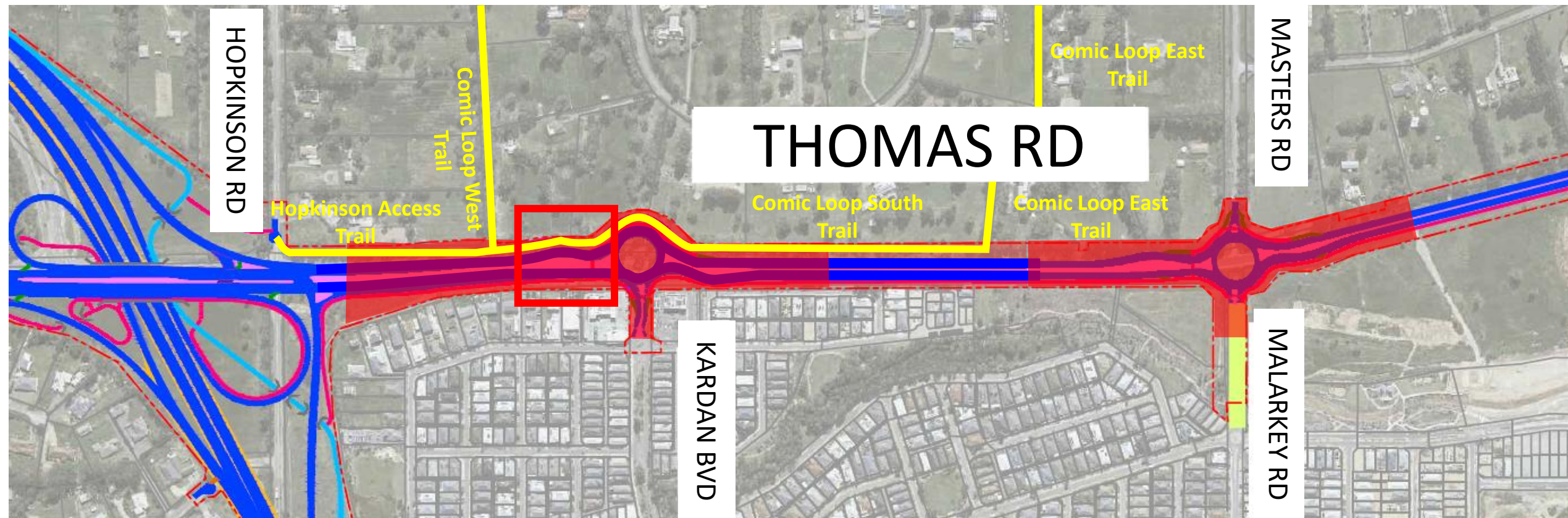
✓ Vegetation screen

NEW CONFIGURATION



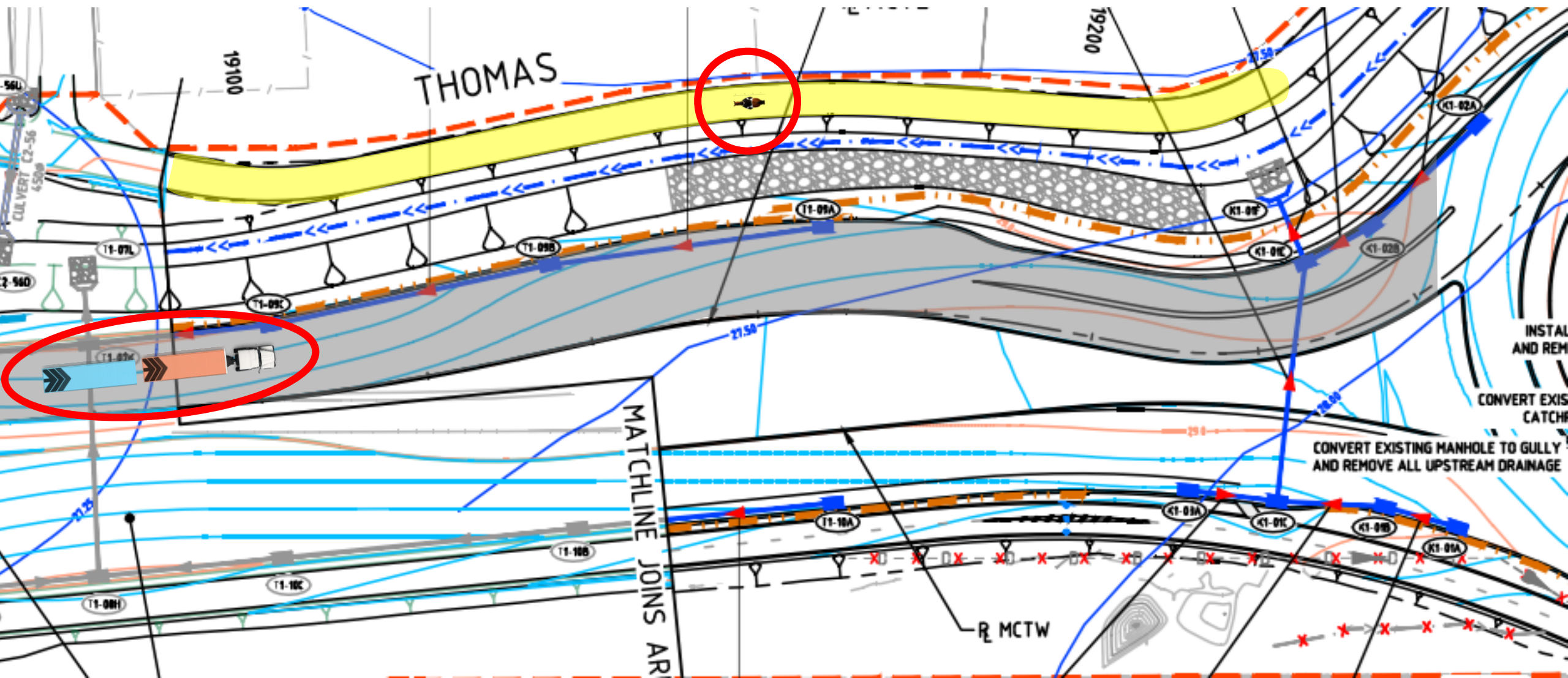
- ✓ Vegetation screen mostly removed – there will not be a barrier between the vehicles and horses on the trail

NEW CONFIGURATION



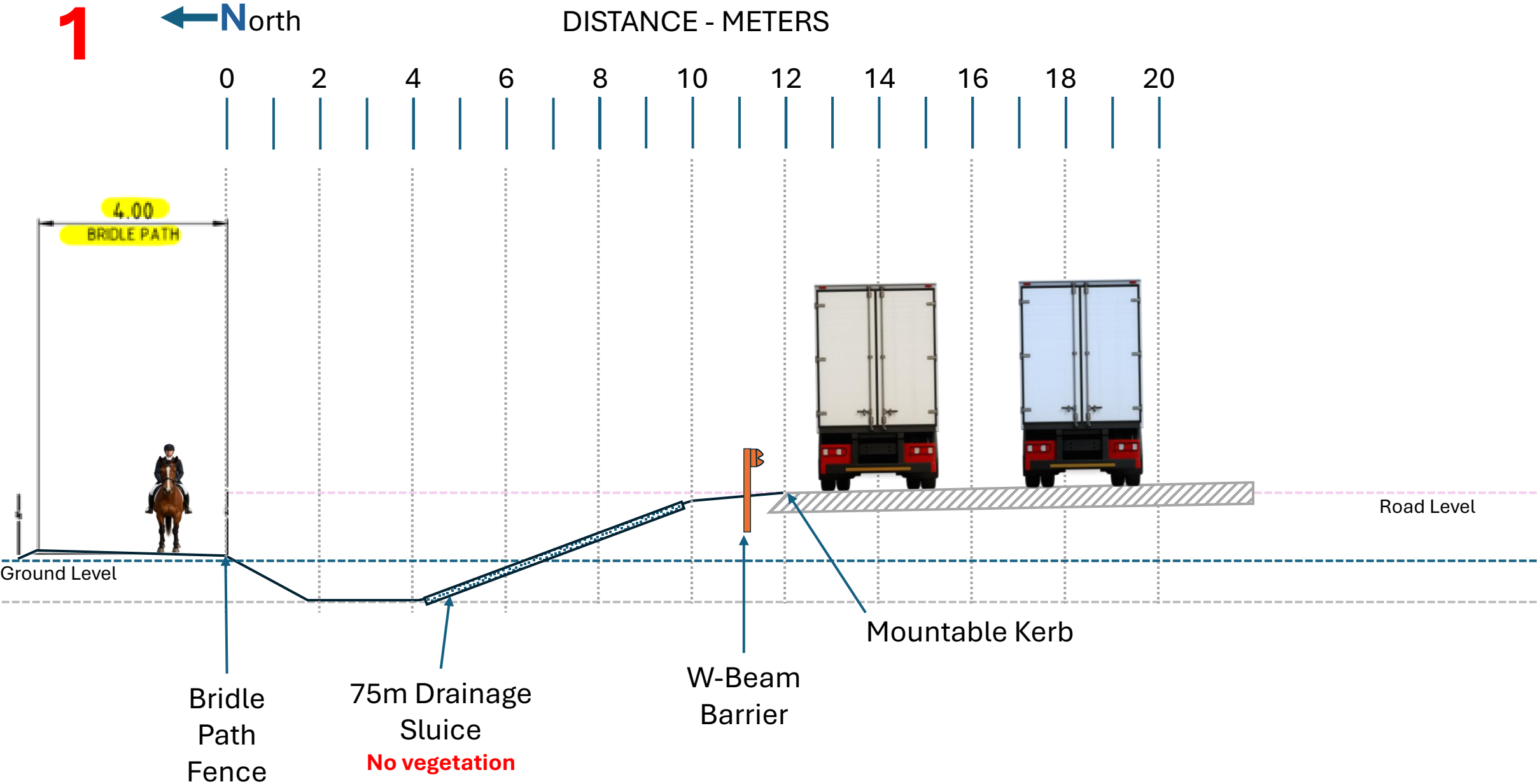
Now trucks will need to brake (Unpredictable for horses - Air brakes $>100\text{dB(A)}$)

NEW CONFIGURATION

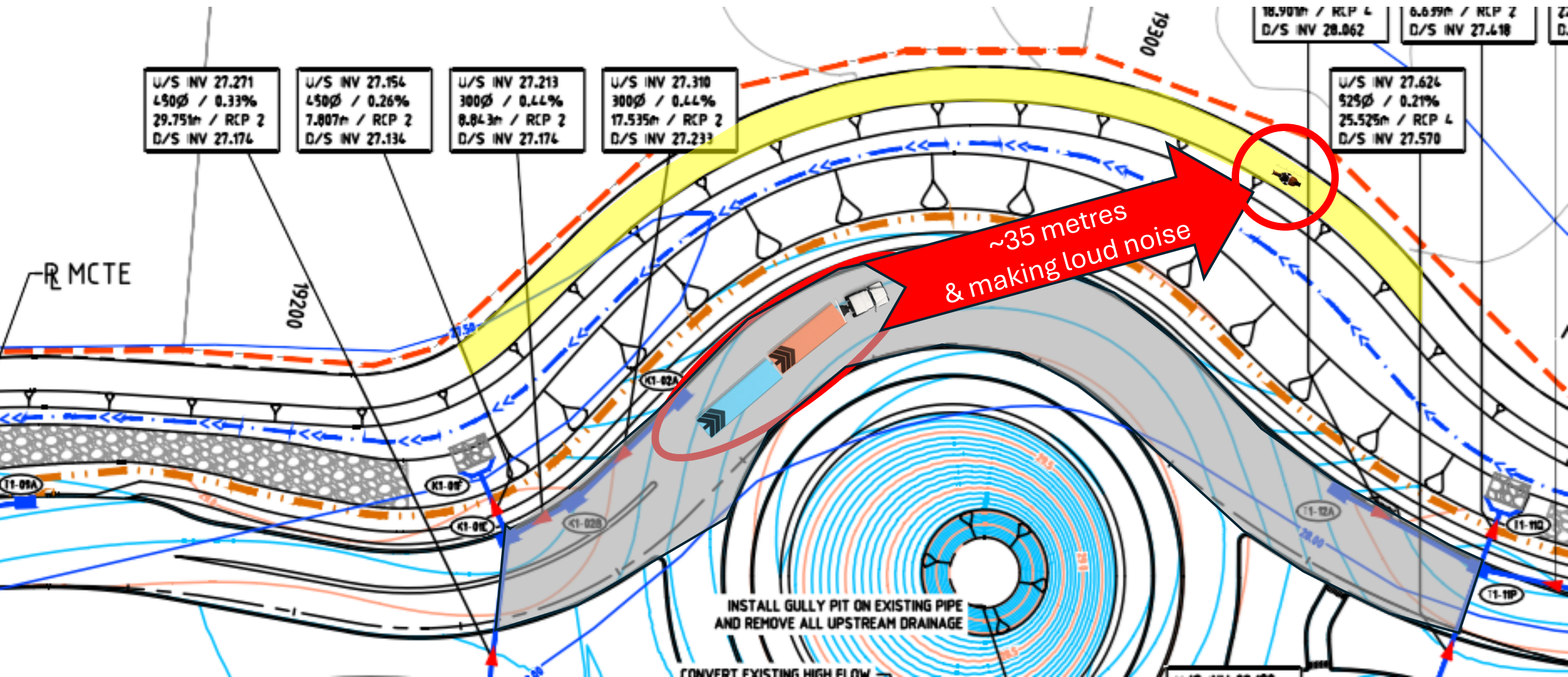


JUST TO THE WEST OF THE KARDAN BOULEVARD ROUNDABOUT

Position



NEW CONFIGURATION



RECENT STEPS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY



Enquiries: 138 138
Our Ref: D26#345301
18 March 2026

Mr B Hilliard
Darling Downs Residents Association
president@ddrawa.onmicrosoft.com

Dear Mr Hilliard

THOMAS ROAD EQUINE SAFETY WALL CONCERNS

Thank you for your continued correspondence regarding the request for a wall along the Comic Loop South equestrian trail adjacent to Thomas Road.

The Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade (THETRU) project team has considered the matters raised by the Darling Downs Residents Association, including rider safety, vegetation removal and noise impacts. Following assessments against the relevant policy and technical requirements, I can confirm that the project will not be including a wall at this location.

This position is based on the following:

- State Planning Policy 5.4 – Road and Rail Noise, governs the provision of noise mitigation. Under this policy, an equestrian trail within public open space is not defined as a noise sensitive land use and does not trigger a requirement for a noise wall.
- The project has also completed an independent road safety assessment. This assessment did not identify a demonstrated safety risk at the Comic Loop South location that would warrant additional infrastructure.
- Importantly, the road design includes multiple layers of physical separation between Thomas Road and the Comic Loop South trail. This includes level difference, road safety barriers, drainage infrastructure and bridle fencing. The trail will not be located directly adjacent to live traffic.
- Once complete, the separation between the road and the trail will be greater than under the existing arrangement, with a minimum distance of approximately 12 metres, compared to approximately nine metres of the existing trail, and more than 20 metres in some sections.

- On 18 March 26, **Main Roads rejected the need for a safety wall**
- They claimed this decision was due to multiple **‘independent road safety assessments’**
- The DDRA requested to see these reports
- Instead, Main Roads finally allowed a meeting to discuss the issues – ***We explained the true situation***
- In the meeting, they agreed to: (1) **Conduct a study**, and (2) **share the ‘safety assessment’ information with the DDRA/Community**

RECENT STEPS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY

AS NOTHING WAS FORTHCOMING FROM MAIN ROADS

Michael Dagostino

Dagostino & Co

PO Box 84
Harvey WA 6220
P: 0418906277
E: michaelpauldagostino@yahoo.com.au

Mr Geoff Xanthis
Project Director
Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID)
Kargotich Road, Oakford, WA, 6121

By Email: geoff.xanthis@mainroads.wa.gov.au

OBLIGATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING A VISUAL/NOISE BARRIER ON THOMAS ROAD

Dear Mr Xanthis,

I am writing on behalf of the extensive user community who utilise the trails within the Darling Downs Equestrian Park (hereinafter 'DDEP'). The community requested that I review and clarify the legal obligations related to the provision of a visual/noise barrier separating Thomas Road and the Comic Loop South trail (hereinafter 'the Trail'). I've agreed to act and provide advice on a pro bono basis to assess the legal requirements for this type of visual/noise barrier.

This letter outlines the identified legal imperatives for implementing this type of visual/noise barrier to assist the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (hereinafter 'OMTID') in its current review of the requirements. The obligations identified in this letter are definitively applicable to the OMTID, Tonkin Extension Alliance (hereinafter 'TEA'), Main Roads Western Australia, and the Western Australian Government. These entities are collectively referred to as the 'Obligors'.

The primary regulatory guidelines on this matter are detailed in State Planning Policy 5.4 (hereinafter 'SPP 5.4'). This policy focuses on noise associated with projects, such as the Thomas Road Upgrade, during construction and after completion.

Specifically, the following obligations are applicable:

- SPP 5.4, Section 5(a) (p.4) identifies that the objectives applicable to Obligors are to 'protect the community from unreasonable noise'. As outlined in Enclosure 1 to this

1

Identified Risks & Resolutions

THOMAS ROAD AND COMIC LOOP SOUTH TRAIL – SAFETY REPORT

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- **A legal letter** and a detailed **safety report** forwarded on **25 June 26**
- Legal letter demonstrated that SPP 5.4 mandates that the **OMTID take action to protect the community**
- The Safety Report makes the **risks/dangers very clear**
- OMTID acknowledged the material on 1 July 2026

RECENT STEPS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY

Michael Dagostino

Dagostino & Co

PO Box 84
Harvey WA 6220
P: 0418906277

E: michaelpauldagostino@yahoo.com.au

11 August 2026



Mr Geoff Xanthis
Project Director
Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID)
Kargotich Road, Oakford, WA, 6121

By Email: geoff.xanthis@mainroads.wa.gov.au

OBLIGATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING A VISUAL/NOISE BARRIER ON THOMAS ROAD – PROVISION OF AGREED INFORMATION

References:

- A. Dagostino & Co letter sent by email at 11:42 AM on 25 June 2026
- B. Geoff Xanthis (OMTID), email sent at 1:47 PM on 1 July 2026
- C. Kristy Havelberg (TEA), email sent at 12:49 PM on 10 June 2026
- D. Deputy Premier Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Sport and Recreation letter 76-62388 dated 24 Oct 25
- E. Main Roads letter D26#345301 dated 18 March 2026
- F. Telephone conversation between Bruce Hilliard (DDRA) and Kristy Havelberg (TEA) commencing at 3:17 PM on Friday, 7 August 2026

Dear Mr Xanthis,

This letter follows up on Reference A and other correspondence regarding the visual/noise barrier, to ensure that the agreed-upon deliverables are provided by your organisation. To ensure that further delays do not jeopardise the implementation of a suitable solution, the information is requested by 5:00PM on 18 August 2026.

Reference A sets out key legal obligations under State Planning Policy 5.4, and other Western Australian Government policies. These legal requirements mandate that your organisation address critical risks arising from the Thomas Road Upgrade project by implementing a suitable noise/visual barrier to protect the community using the Comic Loop South trail. These risks are outlined clearly in Enclosure 1 to Reference A.

- Another legal letter was sent on 11 August 26:
 - Asking for an update on the TEA investigation on the matters raised in the first letter and safety report
 - Pointing out that the TEA still **have not provided the safety reports** that they used to justify their decision and promised by 30 May 26.
 - A response was requested by 18 August 26

RECENT STEPS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY



100 **mainroads**
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY YEAR 1924 TO 2024

Enquiries: 138 138
Our Ref: D26#1014955
Your Ref:

9 September 2026

Michael Dagostino
Dagostino & Co
michaelpauldagostino@yahoo.com.au

Dear Mr Dagostino

TONKIN HIGHWAY EXTENSION AND THOMAS ROAD UPGRADE PROJECT THOMAS ROAD NOISE BARRIER

I refer to your letters of 25 July 2026 and 11 August 2026 and the other correspondence referred to therein.

For ease, capitalised terms in this letter have the same meaning as defined terms in your letters.

Main Roads is always grateful for the opportunity to engage with stakeholders in relation to any project. To that end, as you are aware, there has already been engagement with the Darling Downs Residents Association in relation to the issue of a noise barrier separating Thomas Road and the Trail.

We assume that some members of the Darling Downs Residents Association are also your clients and we can see that you have been briefed with, among other things, our letter to the Association dated 18 March 2026.

By that letter, I advised that the Tonkin Highway Extension and Thomas Road Upgrade (THETRU) project team has considered the matters raised by the Darling Downs Residents Association, including rider safety, vegetation removal and noise impacts.

Following assessments against the relevant policy and technical requirements, I confirmed that the project will not be including a wall at this location.

I further advised that this represents Main Roads' final position on this matter.

Notwithstanding, we have considered your letters in good faith.

Having done so, Main Roads' position remains unchanged: the project will not be including the wall sought by your clients. The considerations set out in previous correspondence continue to apply, however we take this opportunity to address certain matters raised in your correspondence.

- The OMTID finally sent a [response](#) on 9 Sep 26:
- **Rejecting** the need for a safety wall
- **Not addressing any of the safety issues** raised in the [DDRA report](#).
- **Not justifying their decision** by drawing on any of the 'independent road safety assessment' they have alluded to in the past
- Stating that they are not going to share the assessments as promised, [as they are too busy!](#)

**What are
your
thoughts?**

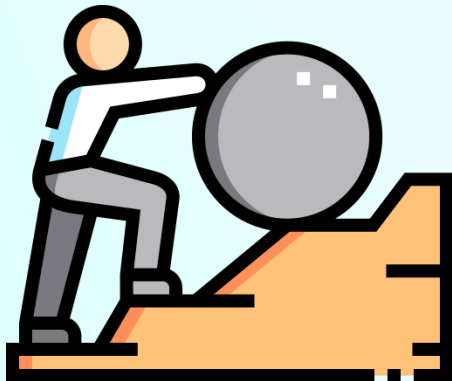


Vote on options as required

5 - Strategic Development Plan



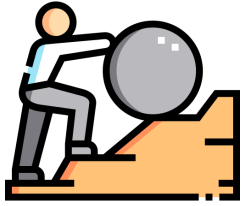
1. Snapshot of effort



2. Workstreams



ANNUAL EFFORT



Summary of Activity for the Period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Approximate number of hours of volunteer work over the period: **2,554** hours

Covering the workstreams that we will discuss shortly

Approximate value of the hours of volunteer work provided (@ \$48 per hour): \$ 122,592

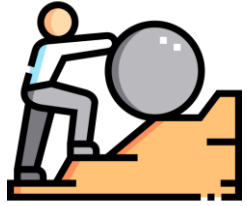
Approximate value of the hours of volunteer work provided (@ \$79 per hour): **\$ 201,766**

Target Hours for this FY: **2,200** hours

Percentage of Target Effort completed: 116.1%

Ahead on the agreed volunteer effort by 354 hours

SNAPSHOT UP TO TODAY



Summary for the period 1 July 26 to 15 September 26 (Last night)

Approximate number of hours of volunteer work over the Financial Year (FY) to date: **487 hours**

Approximate value of the hours of volunteer work provided (@ \$48 per hour): \$ 23,357

Approximate value of the hours of volunteer work provided (@ \$79 per hour): **\$ 38,441**

Target Hours for this FY: 2,200 hours

Percentage of **Target Effort completed: 22.1%** vs **Percentage of the FY completed: 20.9%**

Lots more work is being conducted

5 - Strategic Development Plan



2. Workstreams



THE WORKSTREAMS

- Discussion of the DDRA Strategic Development Plan (SDP) (Bruce, David & Eric)
- The objectives are:

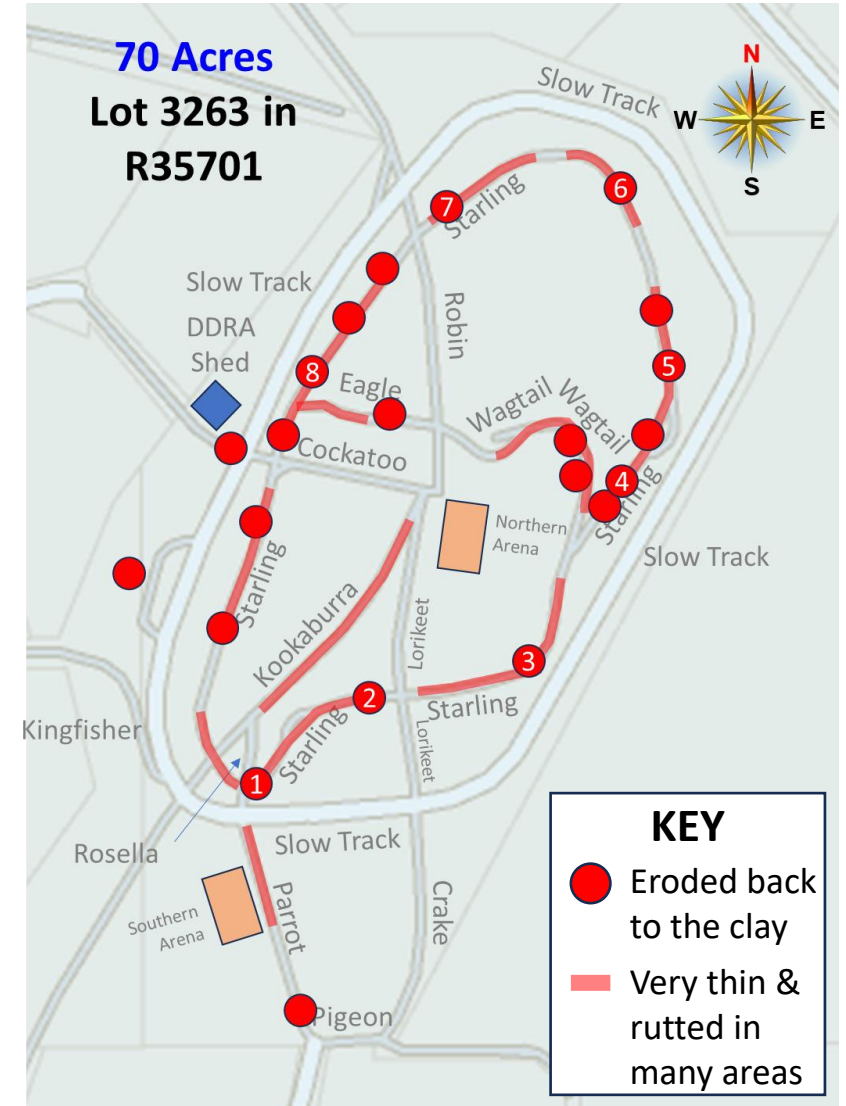
- A. *Provide an update on progress*
- B. *Talk about current plans*
- C. *Let you have your say on future works/developments*



WS1 – TRAILS

TRAIL REFURBISHMENT – PHASE 2

- ✓ Contractor engaged 27 Nov – 3 Dec 25
- ✓ Funding provided by the SoSJ – Many thanks



WS1 – TRAILS

TRAIL REFURBISHMENT – PHASE 2

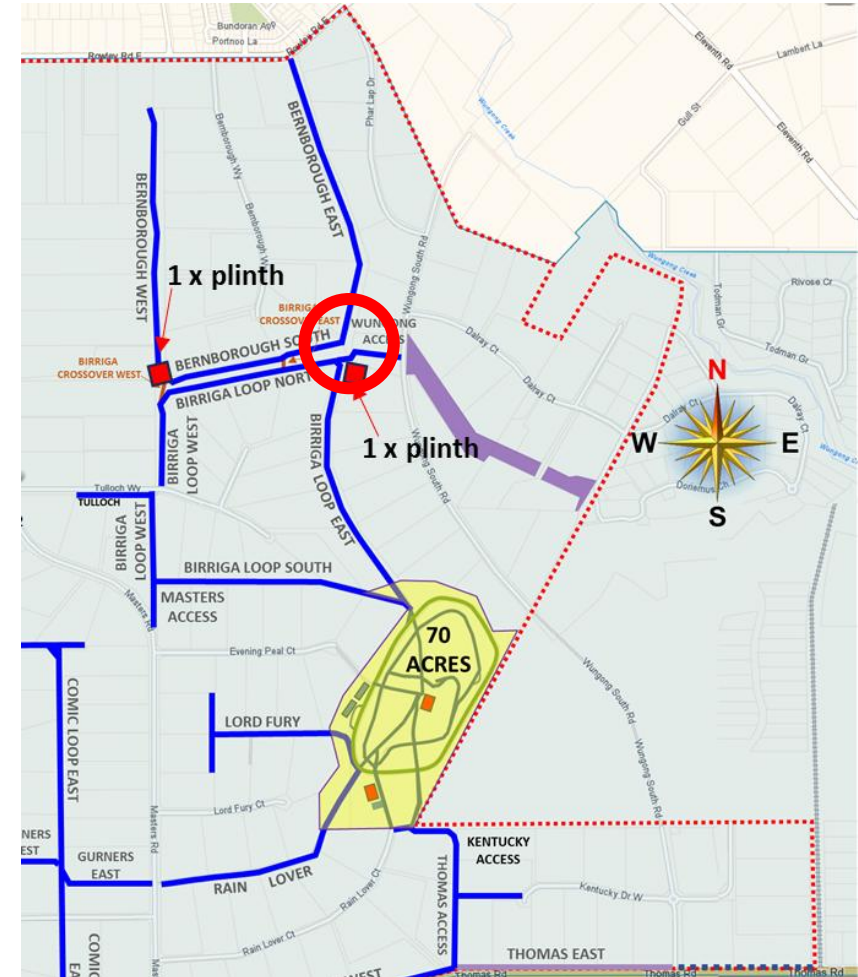


WS1 – TRAILS

Birrega East Crossover



BEFORE – HIGHLY ERODED
DANGEROUS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES TO ACCESS



WS1 – TRAILS

Birrega East Crossover



BEFORE – HIGHLY ERODED
DANGEROUS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES TO ACCESS



NOW – TRAIL REPAIRED AND HORSE-
FRIENDLY STEPS PROVIDED

WS1 – TRAILS

Birrega East Crossover



Guard posts will be added on the sides to stop people from causing further erosion

THE HORSE FRIENDLY STEP-UP/DOWN

WS1 – TRAILS

Birrega East Crossover



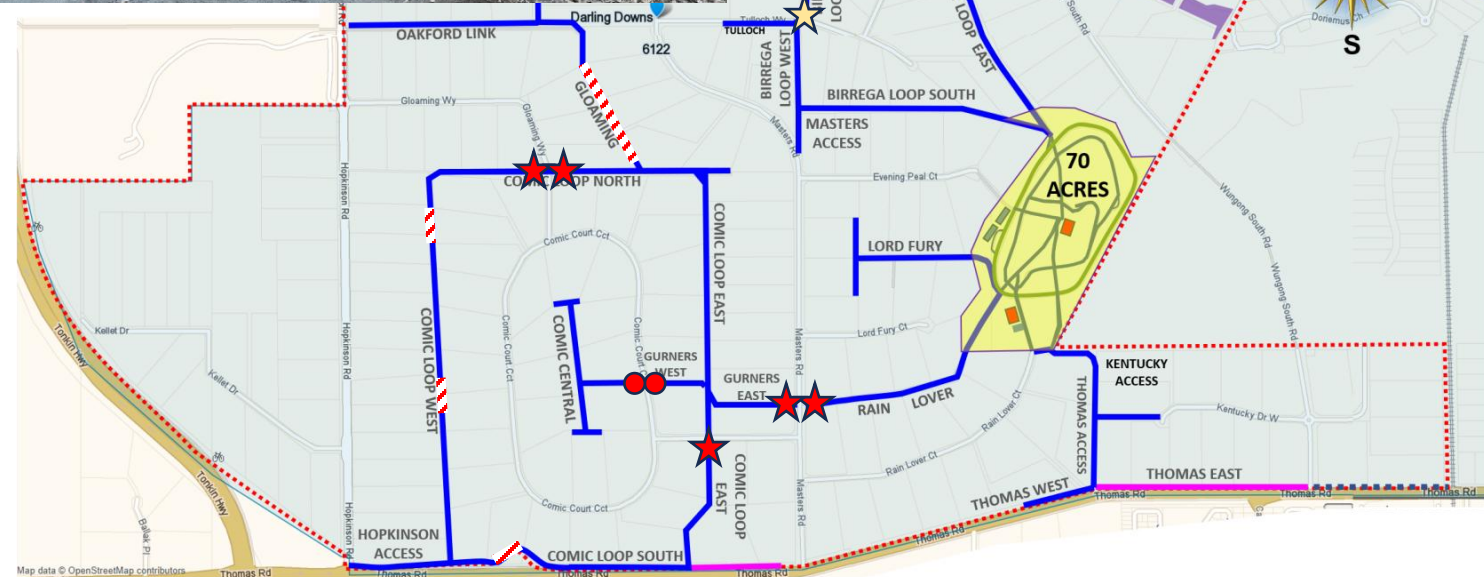
MANY THANKS TO THE CONTRACTOR TEAM AND DEDICATED DDRA VOLUNTEERS
CREATING A FACILITY THAT MAKES THE TRAIL SAFER AND USEFUL FOR HORSE TRAINING

WS1 - TRAILS

Chicanes & Trail Surfaces

- ★ Surfaces completed
- ★ Surfaces partially completed
- Surfaces yet to be completed
- /// Eroded trails

**Works are ongoing over
the next 6 months**
(are there any other problem areas?)

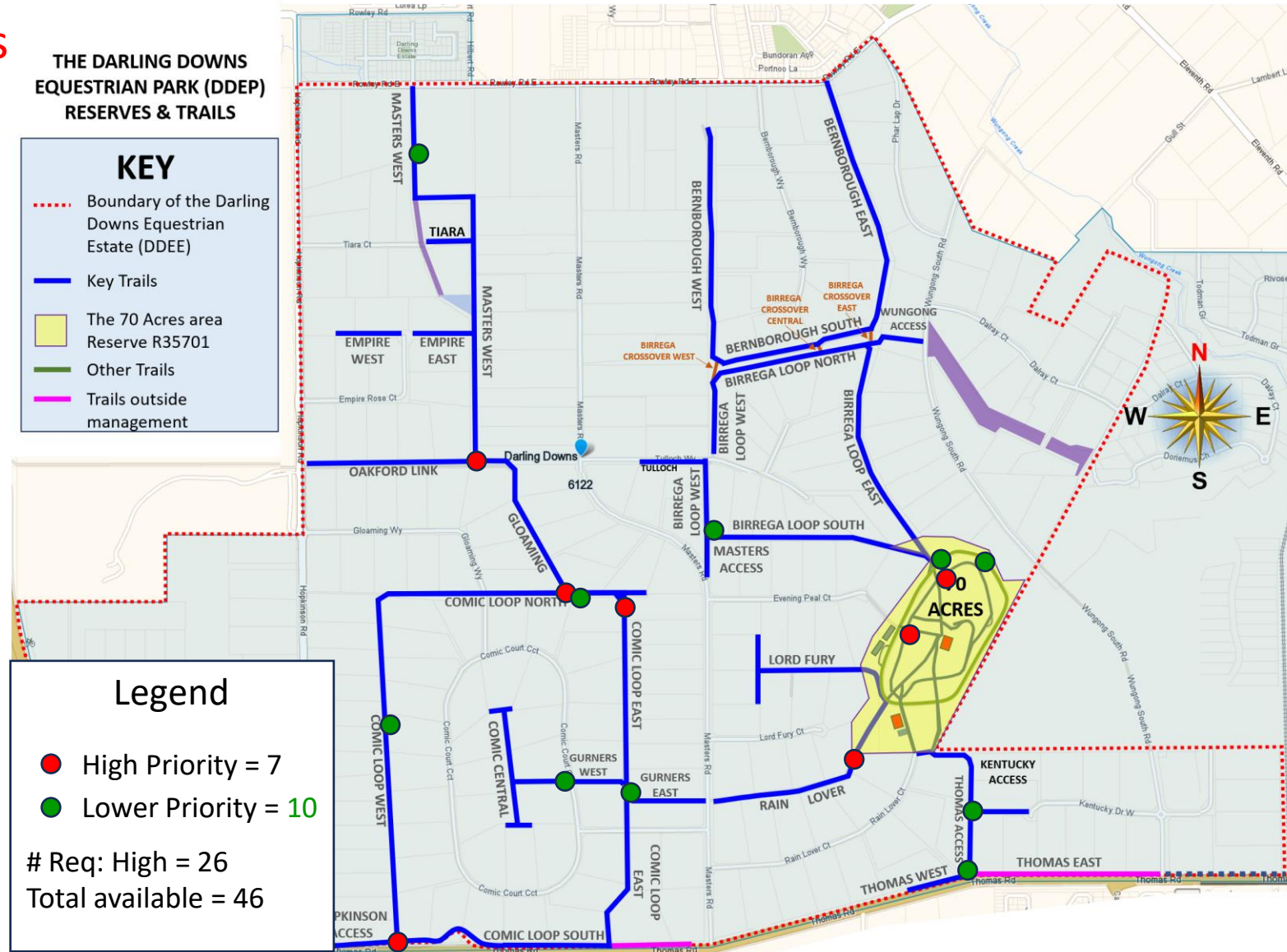


WS1 – SAFETY POSTS AT CROSSEOVERS

Some people requested safety posts
be included to help people avoid
falling into trail crossover drains

The sites were surveyed and the requirements were prioritised

The high priority (red dot sites) have been installed



WS1 – SAFETY POSTS AT CROSSOVERS



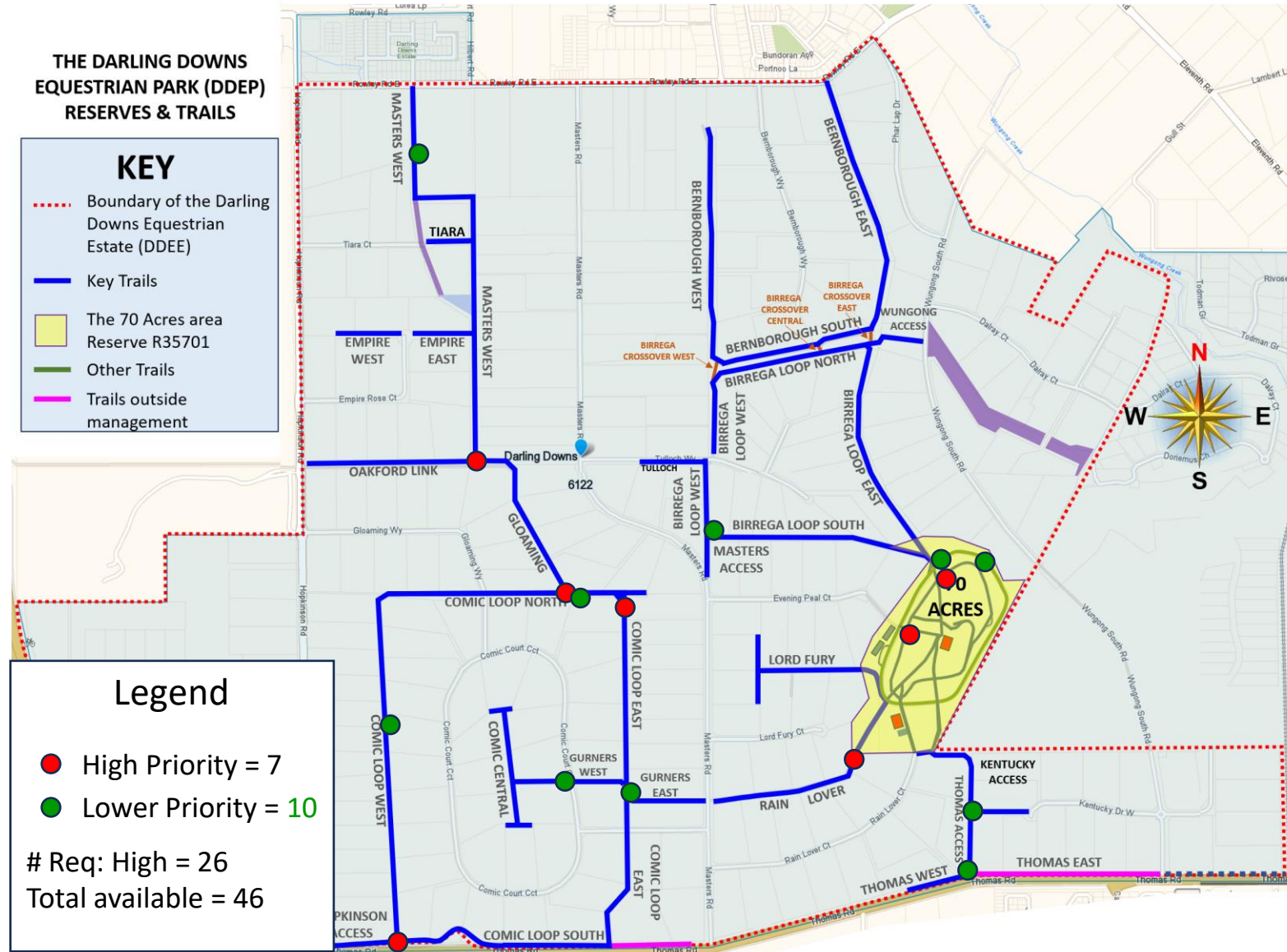
**Some
examples of
the posts
inserted**

WS1 – SAFETY POSTS AT CROSSOVERS

We are working through the remaining sites (in order of priority)

Reflective tape will be added to make the posts even clearer

Works will be ongoing over the next 6 months
(are there any other problem areas we need to address?)



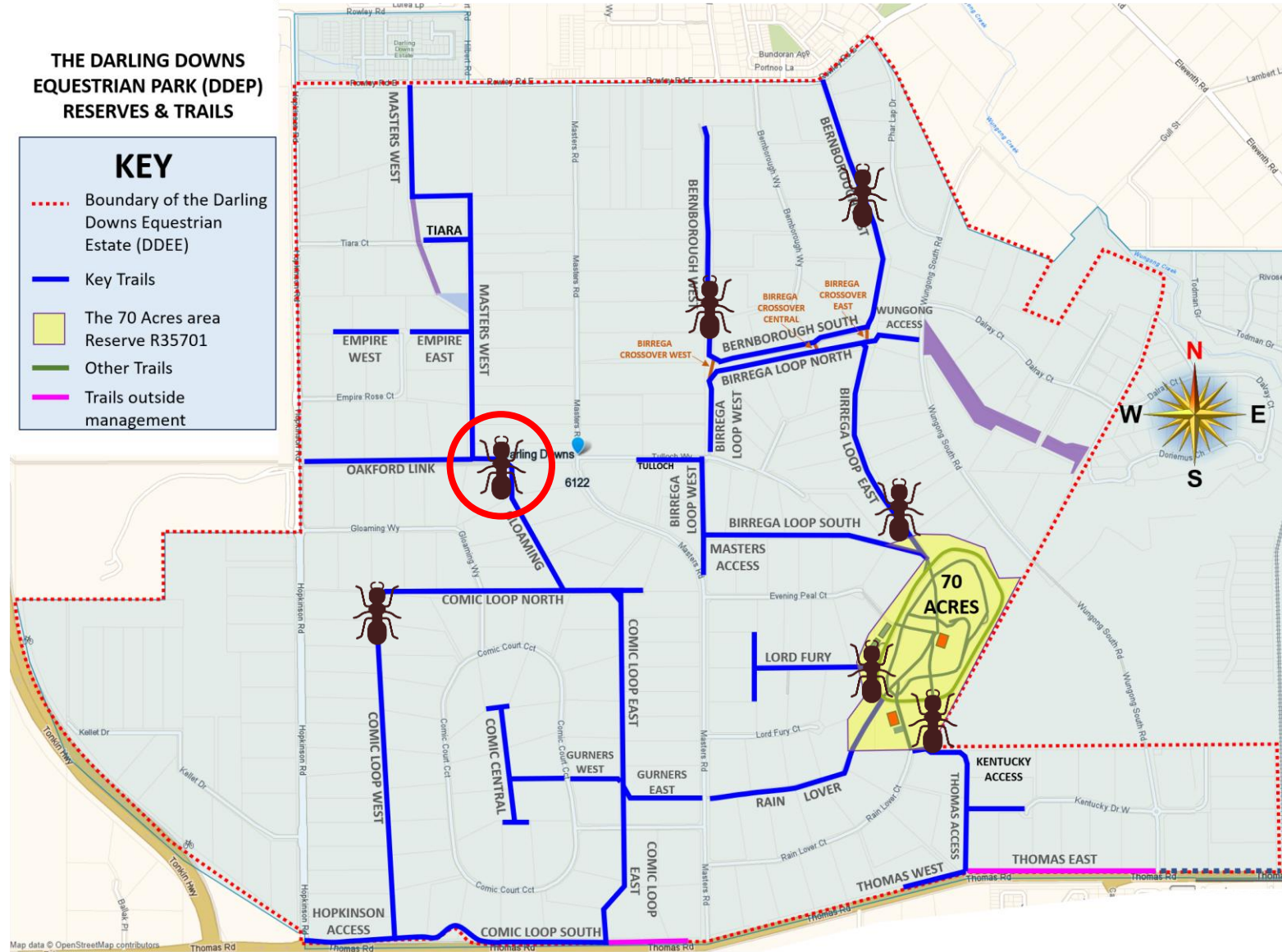
WS1 – TRAILS (Ants)

We are investigating options for the removal of dangerous ant nests



Sargeant ants & black meat ants

**Appropriate solutions
will be implemented**

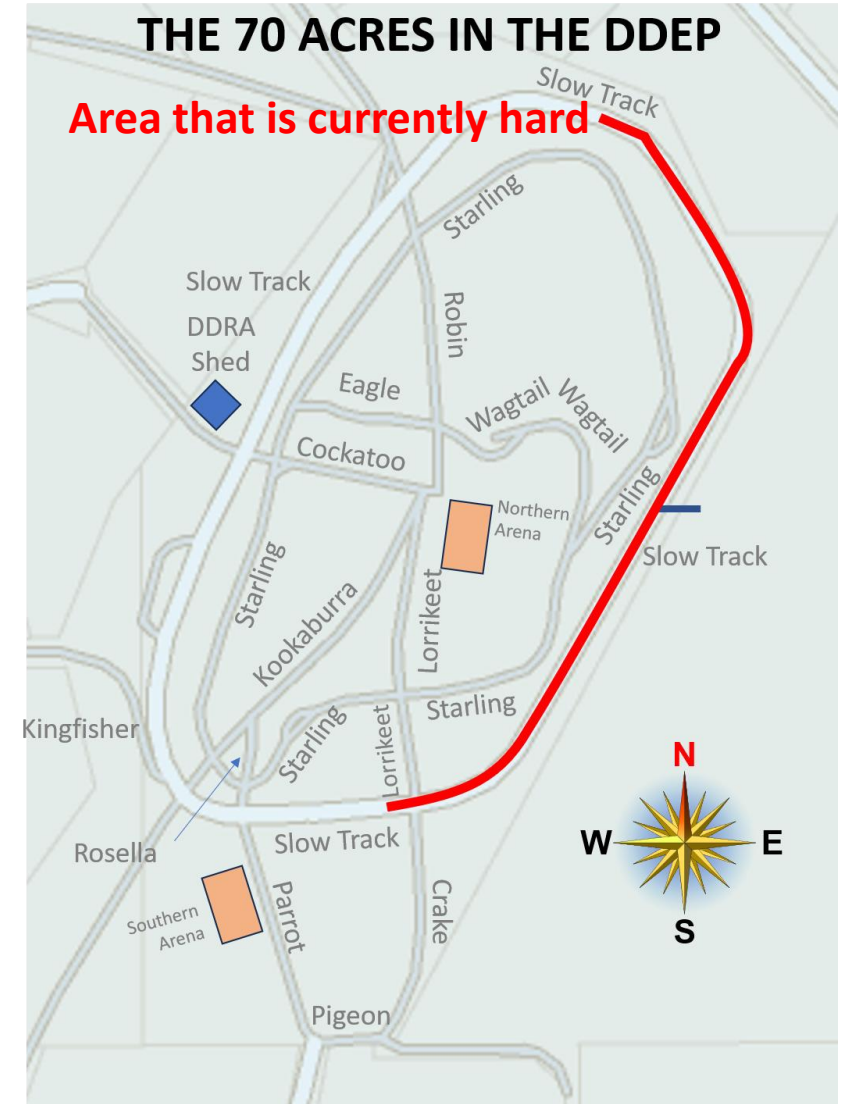


WS1 – TRAILS (Slow track)

Additional refurbishment will be conducted on the eastern side of the slow track

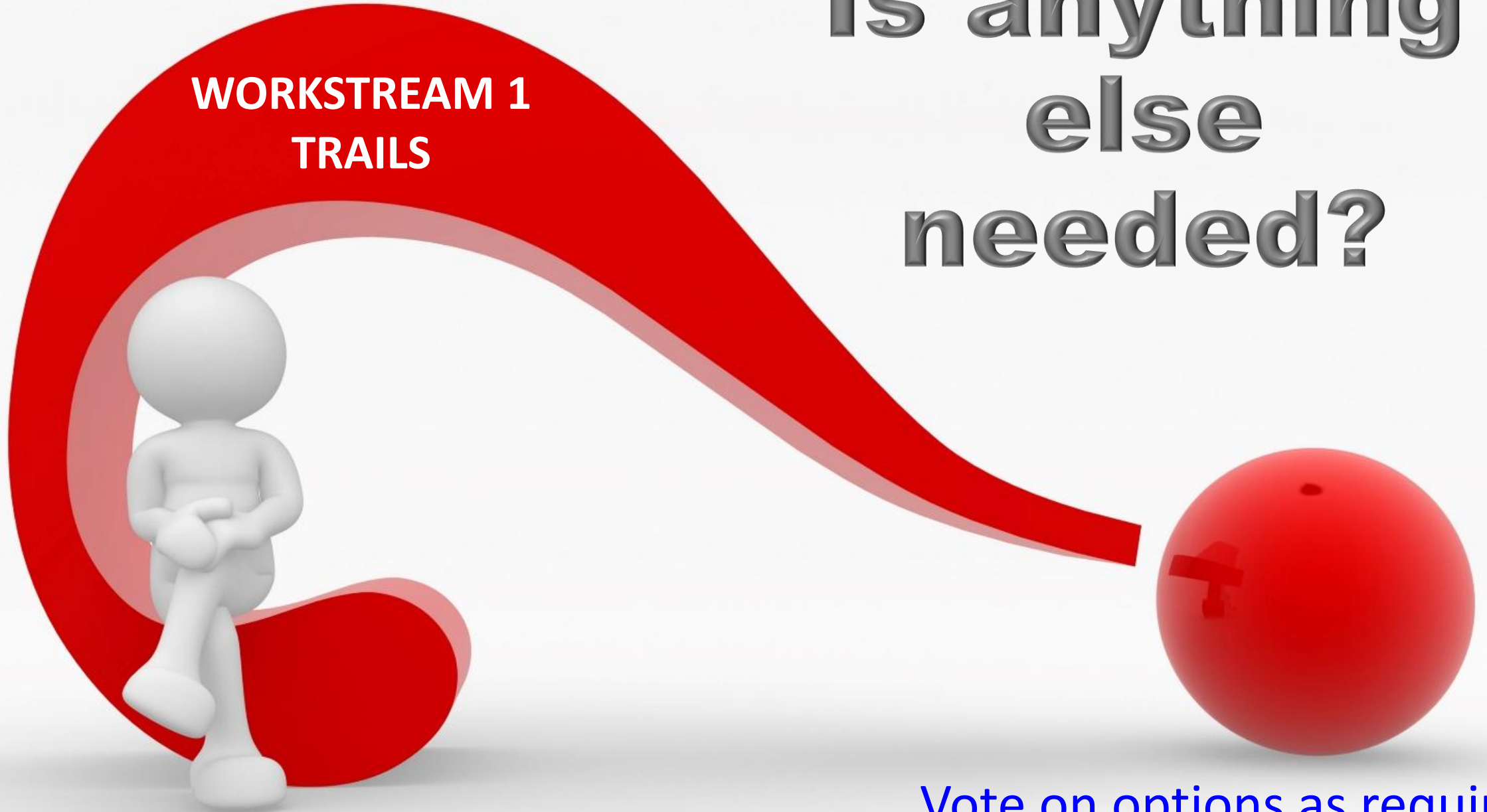
- Bringing in the material from the edges
- Adding more sand
- Relevelling the track

This will be done later in Spring



**Is anything
else
needed?**

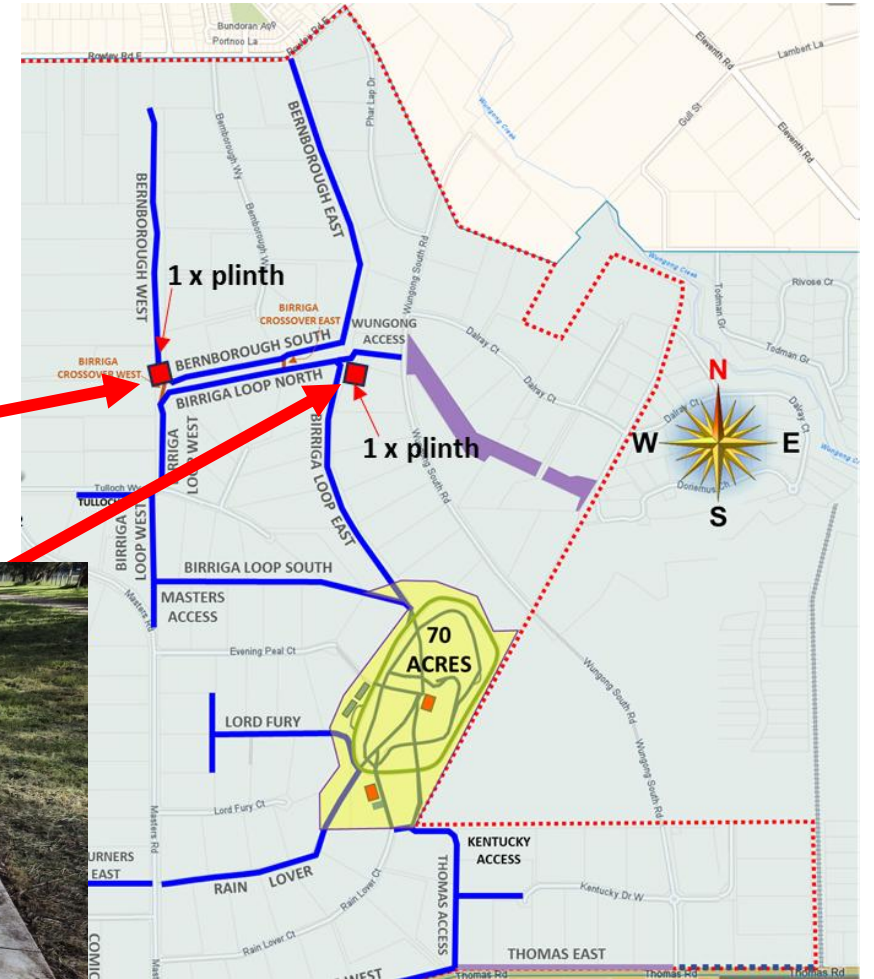
**WORKSTREAM 1
TRAILS**



Vote on options as required

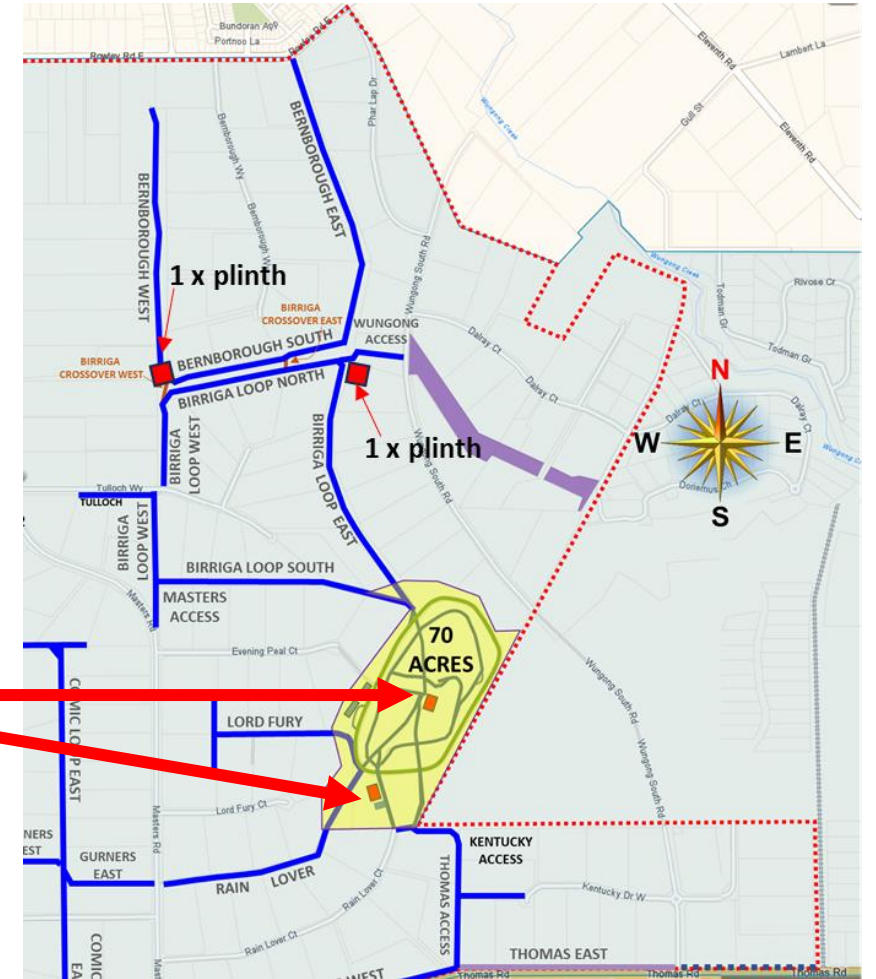
WS 2 – REST AREAS – NEXT PHASE

- ✓ Two picnic tables have been placed on plinths in the north of the DDEP – **These make ideal locations to let people relax**



WS 2 – REST AREAS – NEXT PHASE

- ✓ The SoSJ will be providing funding for two additional seats
- ✓ These will be fitted near the arenas in the 70 Acres



**Is anything
else
needed?**

**WORKSTREAM 2
REST AREAS**



Vote on options as required

WORKSTREAM 4 – MOWING



- A lot of mowing has been done over the year to keep the grass low **(for safety & usability)**
- We are in the process of mowing the entire 76 hectares over the spring *(every area will be done at least once)*
- This will keep the grass low over summer

WORKSTREAM 4 – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- A lot of trees and branches have come down since the last meeting



WORKSTREAM 4 – REMOVAL

- We are working with the Shire – using the DDRA tractor, and volunteers to help mulch the material



This has made the operation faster, safer and cheaper

WORKSTREAM 4 – BONFIRE



Material that can't be mulched (a small percentage) can now be burnt

WORKSTREAM 4 – BONFIRE



IT WAS BURNT BY THE BYFORD BUSHFIRE BRIGADE
They did an amazing job – Many thanks to the Shire & the Brigade

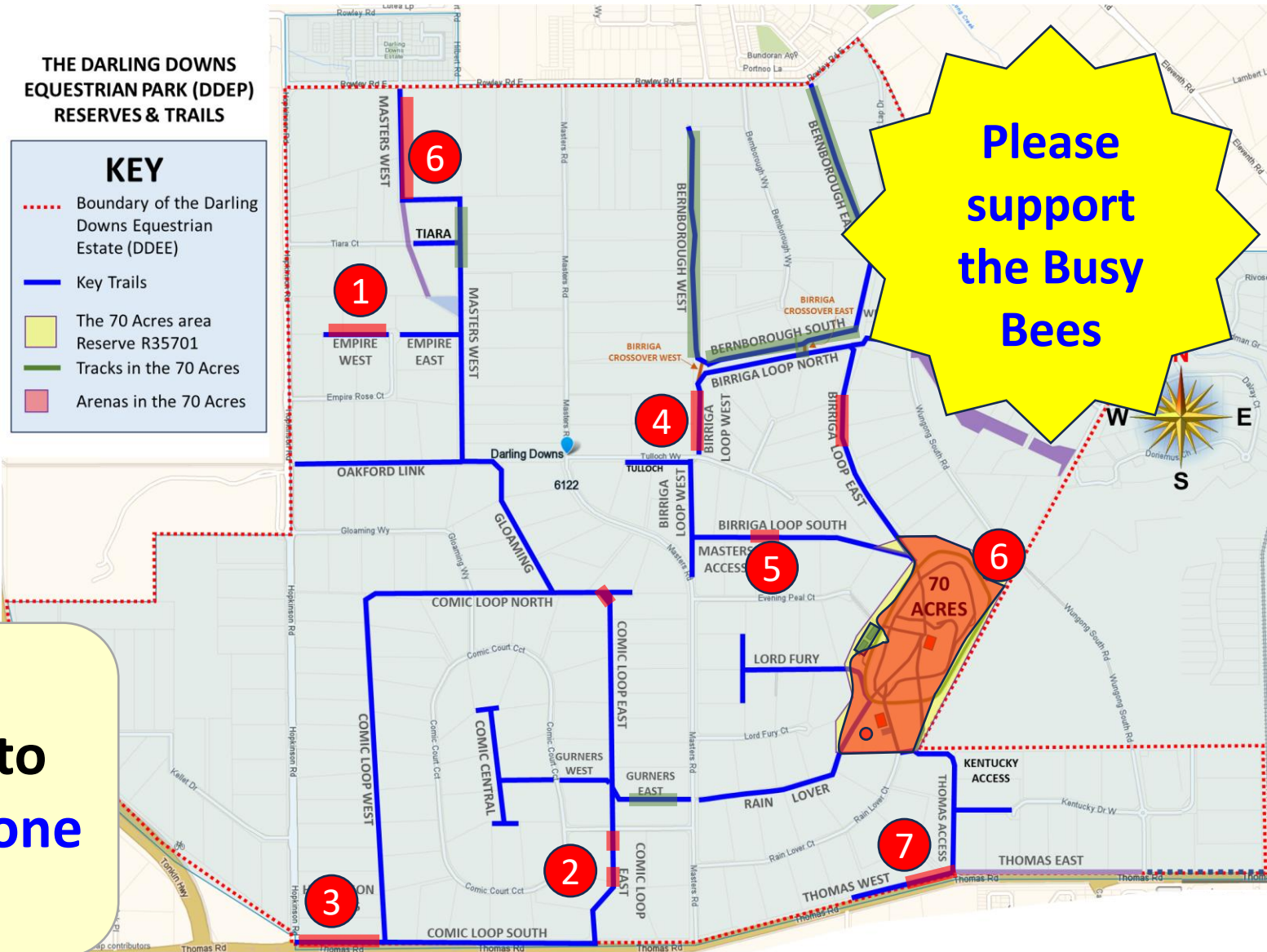
WORKSTREAM 4 – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

4) Vegetation management *(Ongoing)*

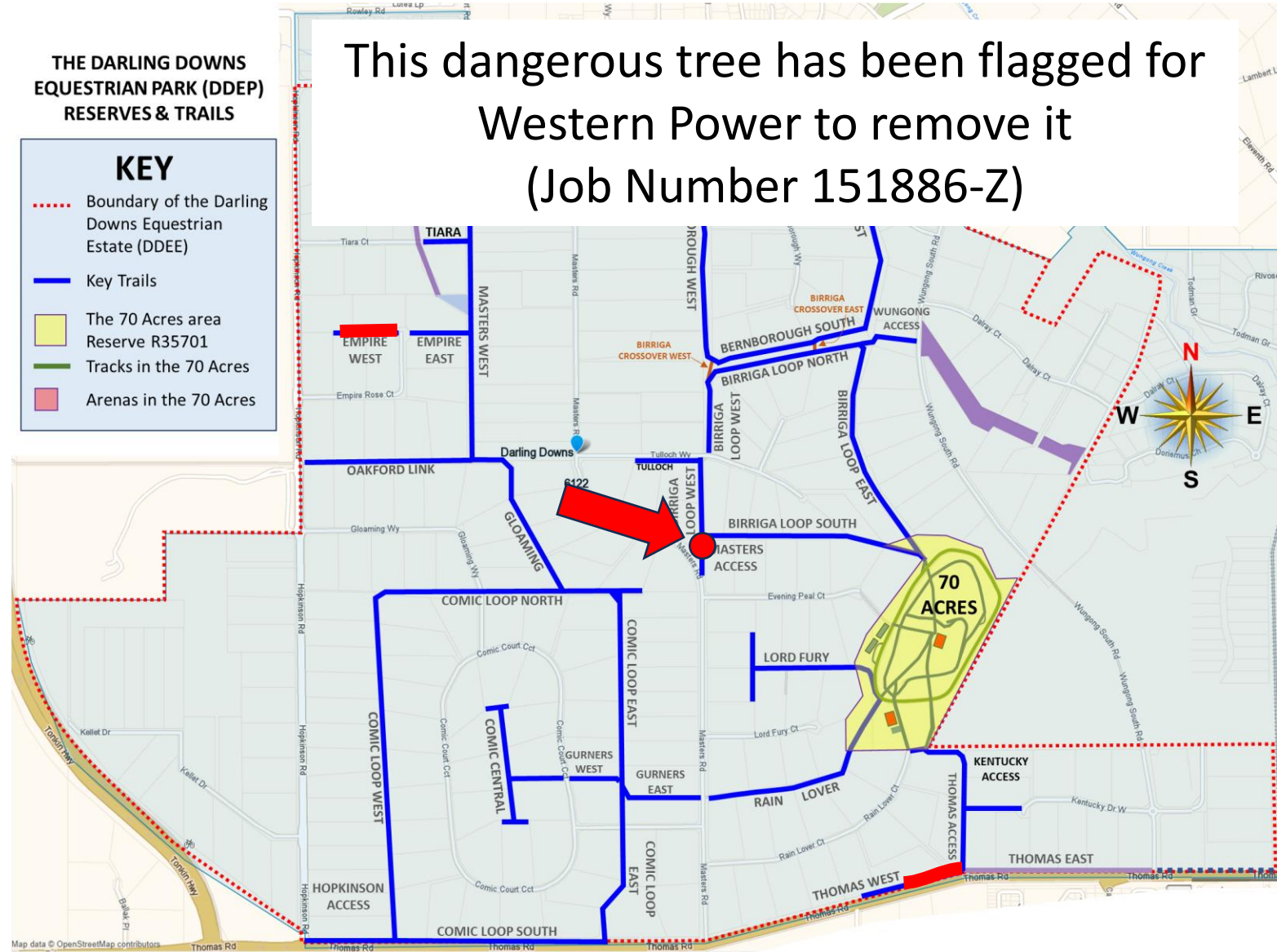
- Needs work
- Spraying

Some areas still need work.
Lots of mowing is needed

Numerous Busy Bees & Working Bees are planned to address these issues – **Next one 19/20 Sep 26** (This weekend)



WORKSTREAM 4 – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



**Is anything
else
needed?**

**WORKSTREAM 4
VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT**



Vote on options as required

WORKSTREAM 5 – NEW VEGETATION

Last year in July we planted 1164 more plants (bringing up the total planting to more than **3,500 plants in 3 years**)

This year the DDRA Committee **decided not to plant** any more, while we **see how the current ones stabilise**

We will be doing a **survey later in the year** and deciding whether to plant more next year



WORKSTREAM 5 – NEW VEGETATION

MULCH DISTRIBUTION



- ✓ Many tonnes of mulch have been collected
- ✓ This is being distributed to control weeds and help the new plants grow better (removing weed competition)

WORKSTREAM 5 – NEW VEGETATION

MULCH DISTRIBUTION

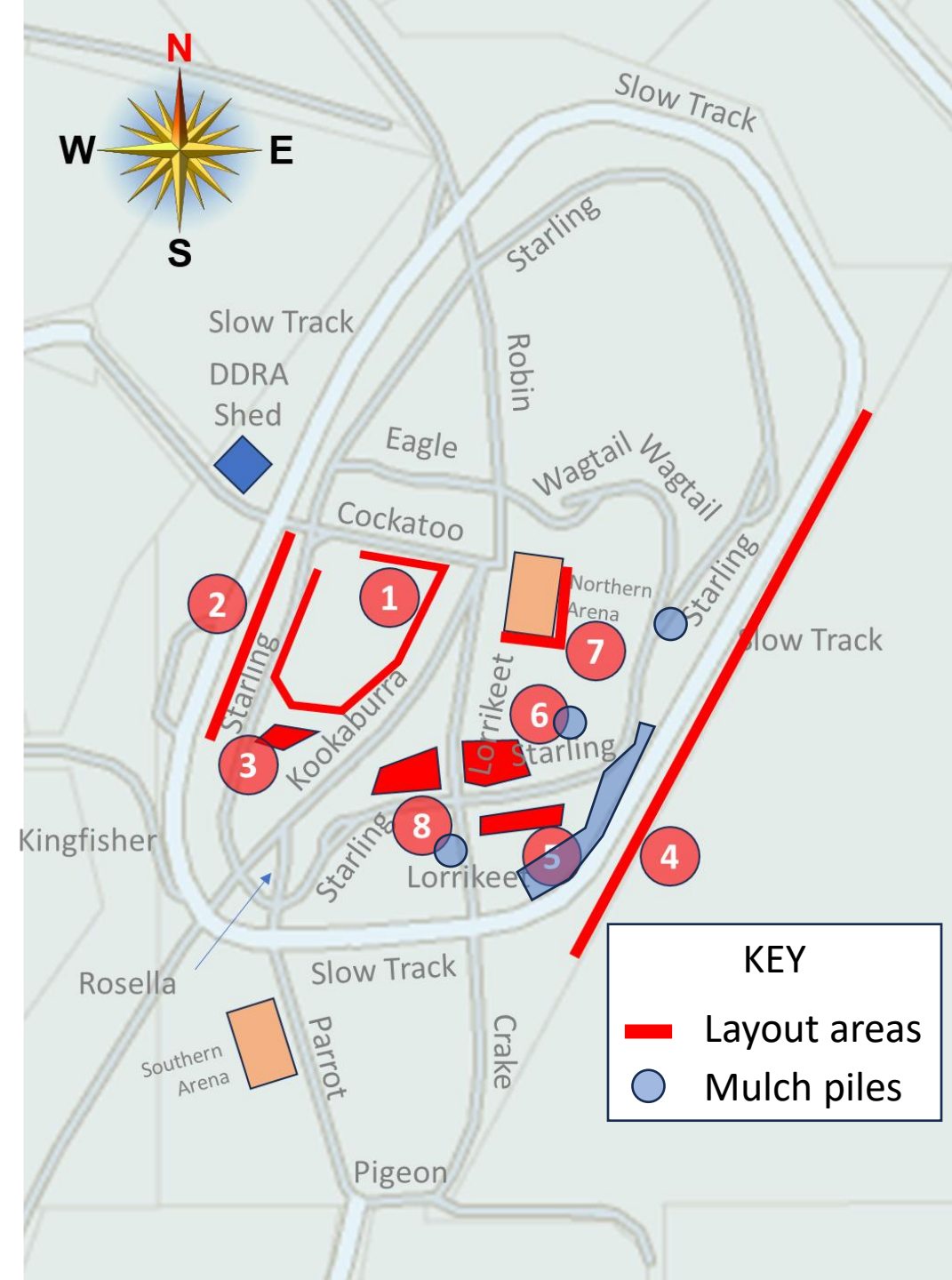


- ✓ This mulch is being distributed by the DDRA tractor, and Busy Bee volunteers
- ✓ And we have engaged a contractor to spread between trees (*to reduce the workload for volunteers*)

WORKSTREAM 5 – NEW VEGETATION

MULCH DISTRIBUTION

- ✓ There is a well-thought-out plan for using the mulch
- ✓ The key areas are 1, 7, 8 & 4 to shift mulch (DDRA tractor)
- ✓ Order of contractor work through 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 7, 6, 5 & 4



**Is anything
else
needed?**

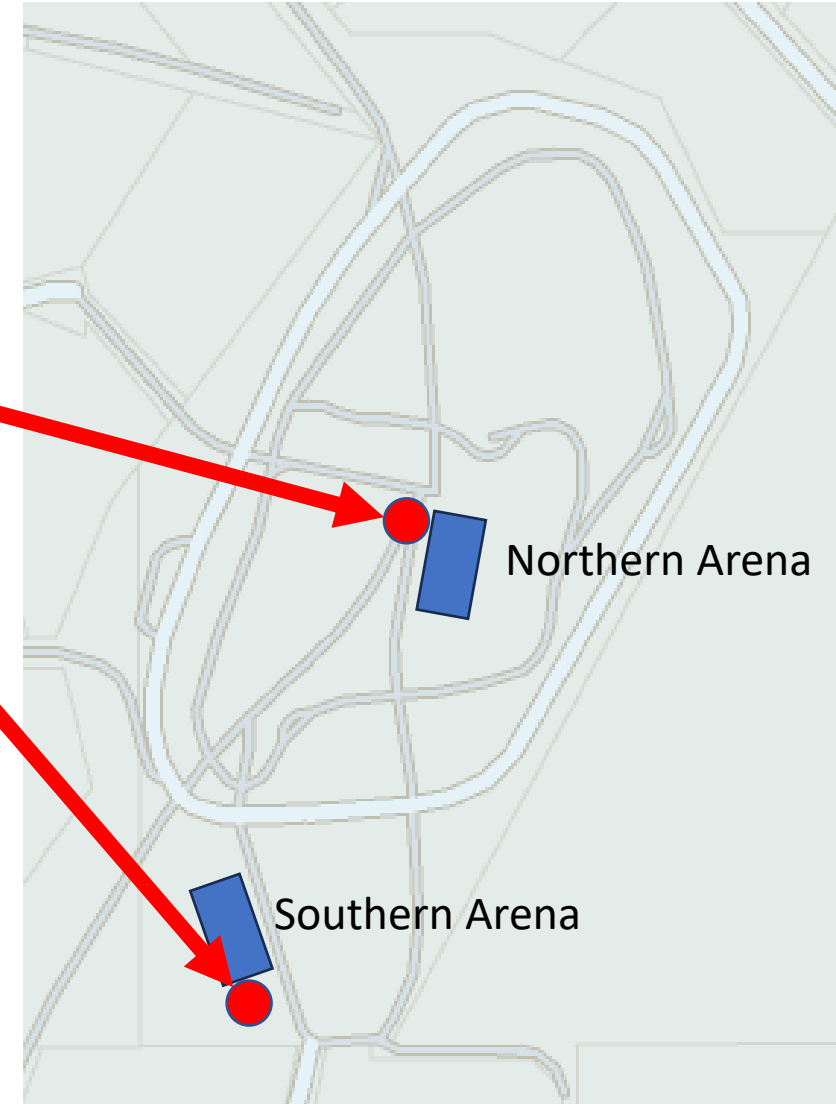
**WORKSTREAM 5
NEW VEGETATION**



Vote on options as required

WORKSTREAM 6 – FENCES, GATES, ETC

PROVIDE DEDICATED HITCHING POINTS AT THE TWO ARENAS



- ✓ The hitching posts should be installed on Friday/over the weekend

WS6 - ANOTHER MANURE BIN

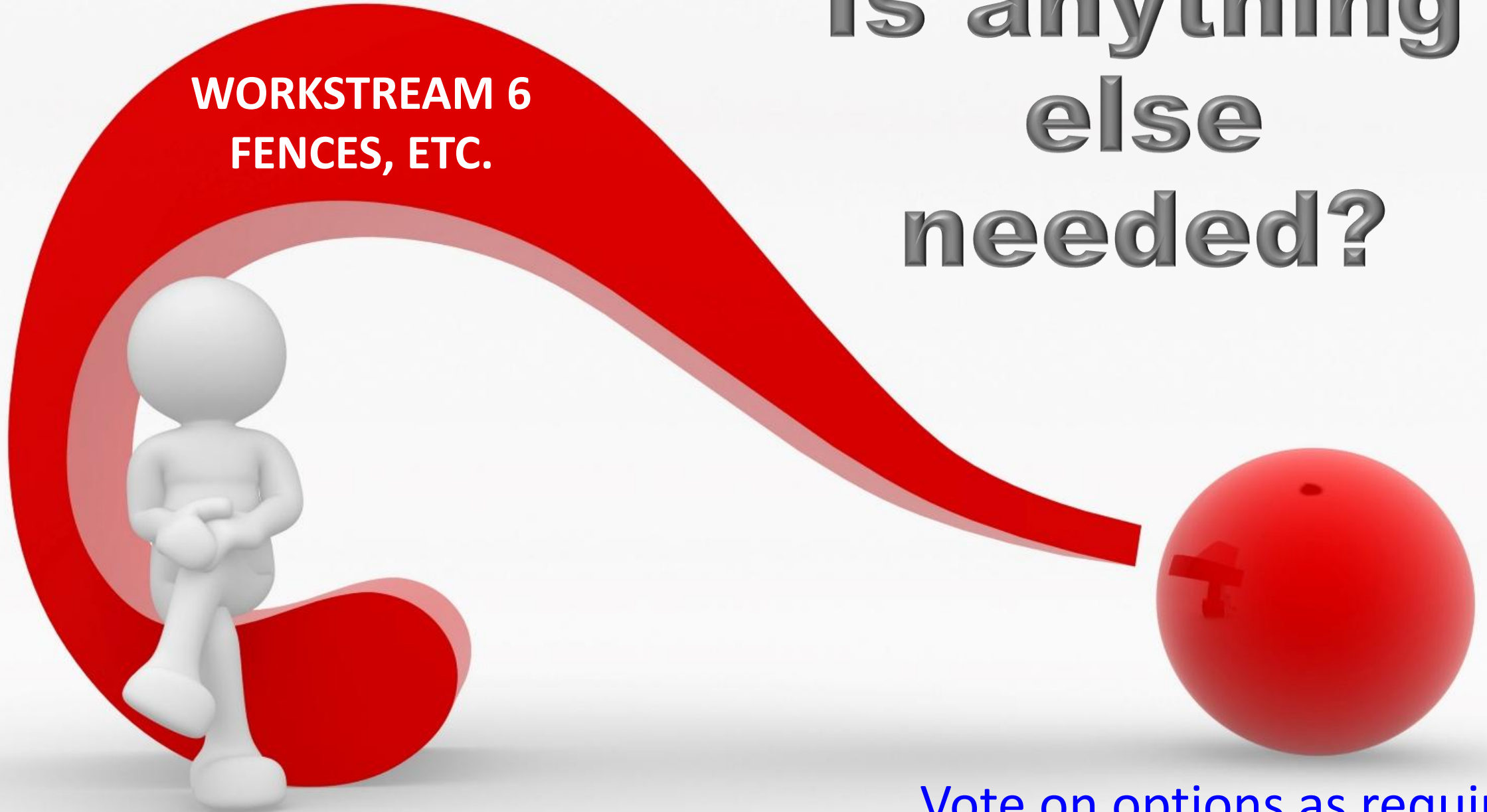
MANURE BIN NEAR THE SOUTHERN ARENA



- ✓ The manure bin in the Evening Peal Court carpark has been a huge success
- ✓ The Shire has kindly agreed to fund DDRA engaging a contractor to build another one near the southern arena (avoid current problems)
- ✓ The intent is to do this work during summer

Is anything else needed?

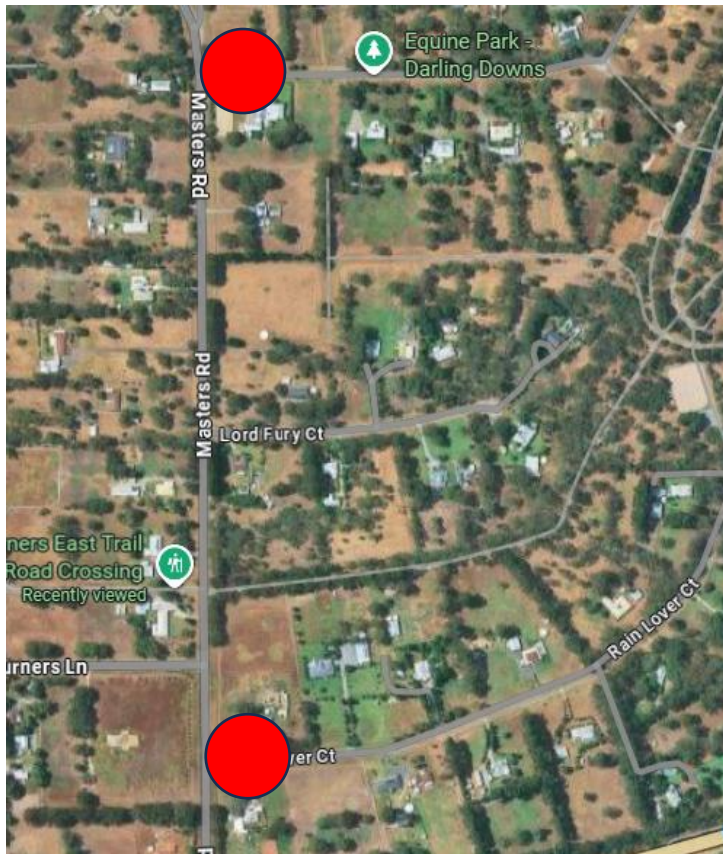
**WORKSTREAM 6
FENCES, ETC.**



Vote on options as required

WORKSTREAM 7 – SAFETY CONTROLS

- ✓ *Thank you to the Shire for providing speed and horse warning signs for Evening Peel Court and Rain Lover Court*



- ✓ *Since these went in, there are many fewer complaints about speeding (improving safety)*



WORKSTREAM 7 – SAFETY CONTROLS

SPEED LIMITS – MASTERS ROAD

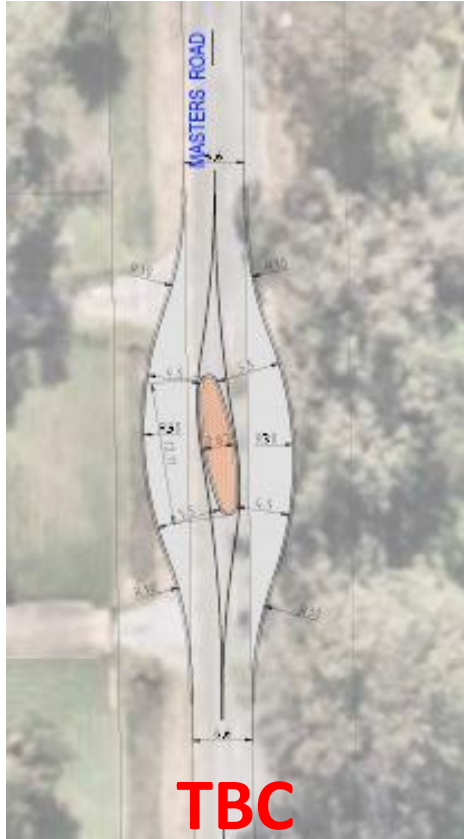


- ✓ *Masters Road had a **70 kph** limit*
- ✓ *Thanks to help from **Hugh Jones** the speed limit was reduced to **60 kph***
- ✓ ***This is a big improvement, but lots of people are still speeding***

Hopefully this will be addressed in the Masters Road Upgrade

WORKSTREAM 7 – SAFETY CONTROLS

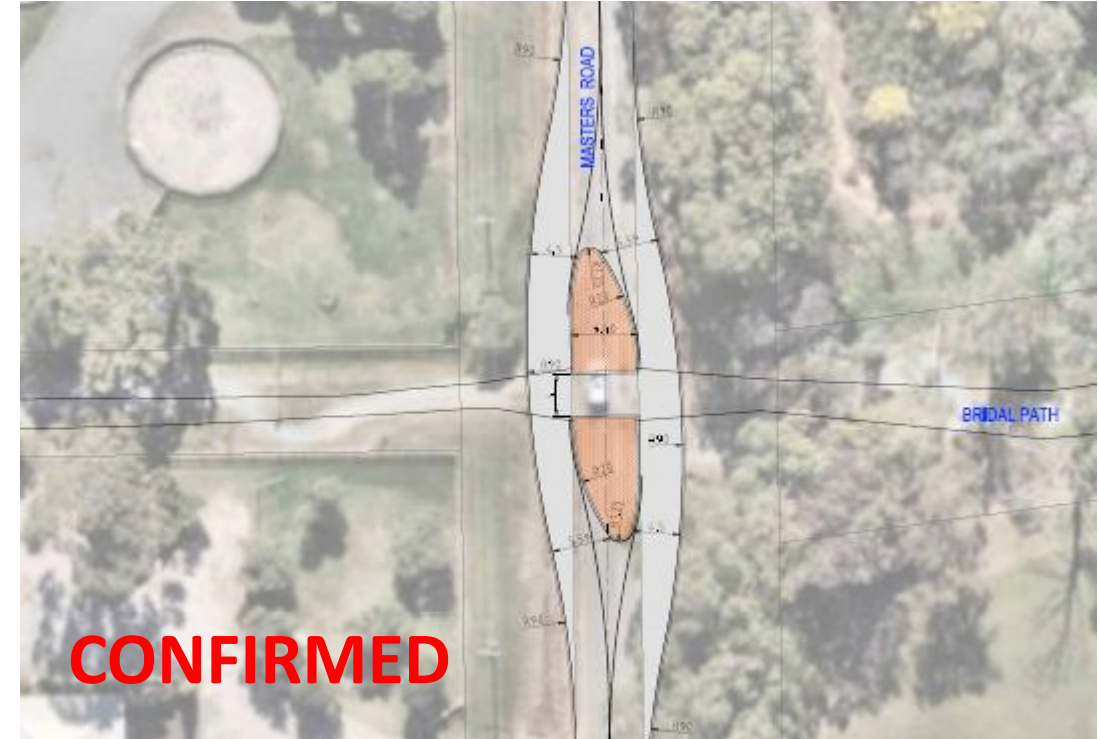
MASTERS ROAD UPDATE



Northern Blister Island



Middle Blister Island



Pegasus Crossing & Blister Island

\$5M State Govt Grant: Must be completed by June 2027

With thanks to Hugh Jones for organising the funding

WORKSTREAM 7 – SAFETY CONTROLS

MASTERS ROAD UPDATE

PROJECTED TIMELINE

- Now: Engaged surveyor – Survey in progress
- Now: Geodetic information sourced
- Now: Engaged Design Consultant – Developing Options (*needs survey data to do the work*)
- Sep – Oct 26: Complete the surveys and design (DDRA will be able to provide feedback on options)
- Nov 26 – Feb 27: Procurement process
- **Feb 27 (TBC)** – Start works (Duration TBC)
- Works must be completed by 30 Jun 27

WS7- PASS WIDE & SLOW

AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EDUCATION/PARTICIPATION EVENT



Set for 18 October 2026

A map of the Wungah area showing a red route with distance markers (1.5 km to 5 km) and a blue dashed line. Landmarks include Wexford Park Riding School, Polymate Trailers, and Equine Park - Darling Downs.

— $5.34 + 1.66 = 7 \text{ km}$

- ✓ The DDRA is assisting the Shire with this event

- ✓ **If you want to participate or be a volunteer, let Eric know at the end of the AGM**

**Is anything
else
needed?**

**WORKSTREAM 7
SAFETY CONTROLS**



Vote on options as required

WORKSTREAM 8 – MAINTENANCE

TRACTOR AND MOWER MAINTENANCE



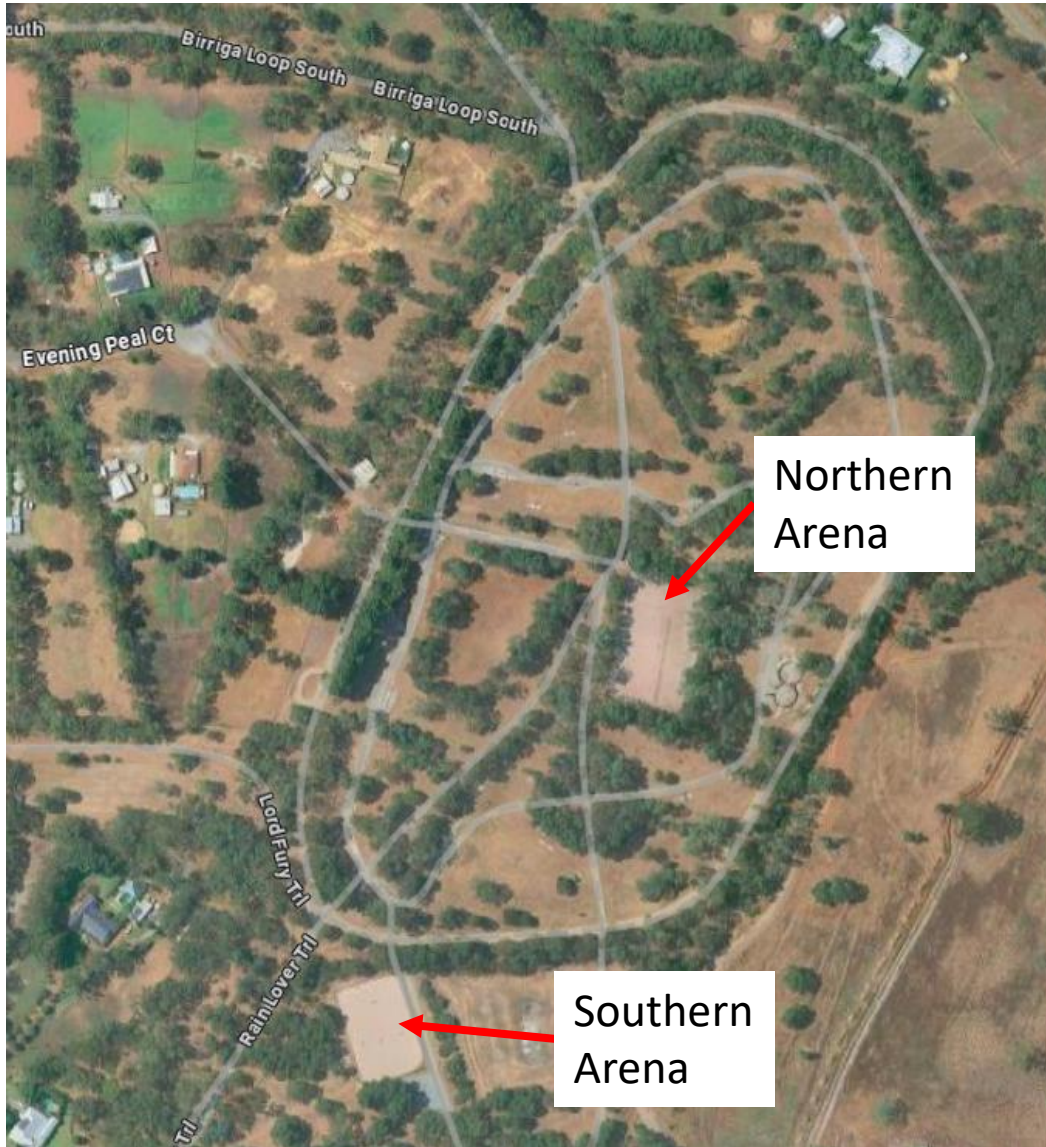
Lots of maintenance was conducted on the equipment to keep it running properly



With thanks to everyone involved

WORKSTREAM 8 – MAINTENANCE

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN ARENAS IN THE 70 ACRES



Lots of work done on the northern arena – Levelling, jumps, dressage markings, etc.

WORKSTREAM 8 – MAINTENANCE

SOUTHERN ARENA IN THE 70 ACRES

Work is ongoing with the southern arena

Northern
Arena

Southern
Arena



- ✓ Encroaching grass is being removed and the surface re-levelled
- ✓ New sand will be provided and levelled – 12/13 June 26

There were still drainage problems

WORKSTREAM 8 – MAINTENANCE

SOUTHERN ARENA IN THE 70 ACRES

- ✓ We dug down to the base using the tractor
- ✓ The base was then trimmed, and a drain was added from the southwest corner of the arena so the water can flow away
- ✓ The surface was then replaced, Harley raked (to make it softer) and levelled
- ✓ It is now a much better surface, and the water drains off quickly

Phase 2 of the refurbishment was done



WS8 – WATER TRAILER



- ✓ As a part of the DDRA liaison with Landcare SJ, we are looking after and using a firefighting/watering trailer
- ✓ The old pump has recently been replaced, and further works are being conducted to ensure that this capability is usable
- ✓ This provides a useful facility for us (but it is still owned by Landcare SJ)

**Is anything
else
needed?**

**WORKSTREAM 8
MAINTENANCE**

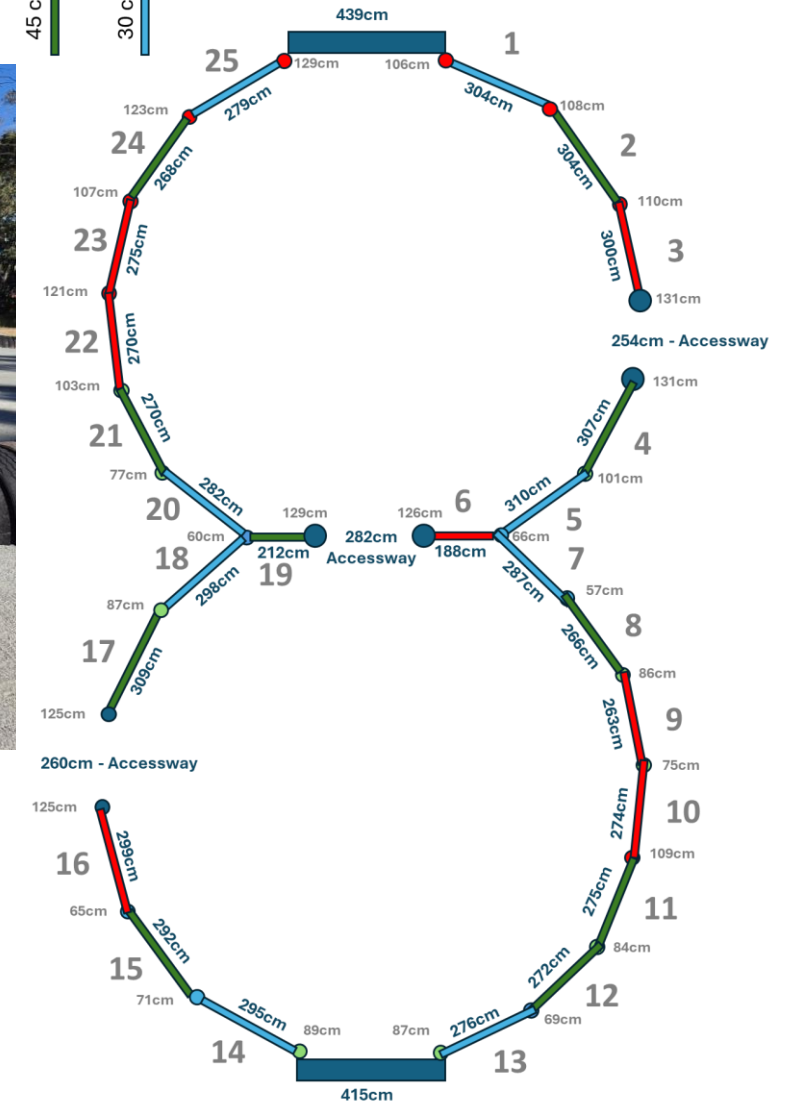


Vote on options as required

WORKSTREAM 10 – JUMPS



Jump – Tyre Top Height



- ✓ The biggest task for this WS over the last year was the **construction of the tyre jump**
- ✓ The tyre jump is well used

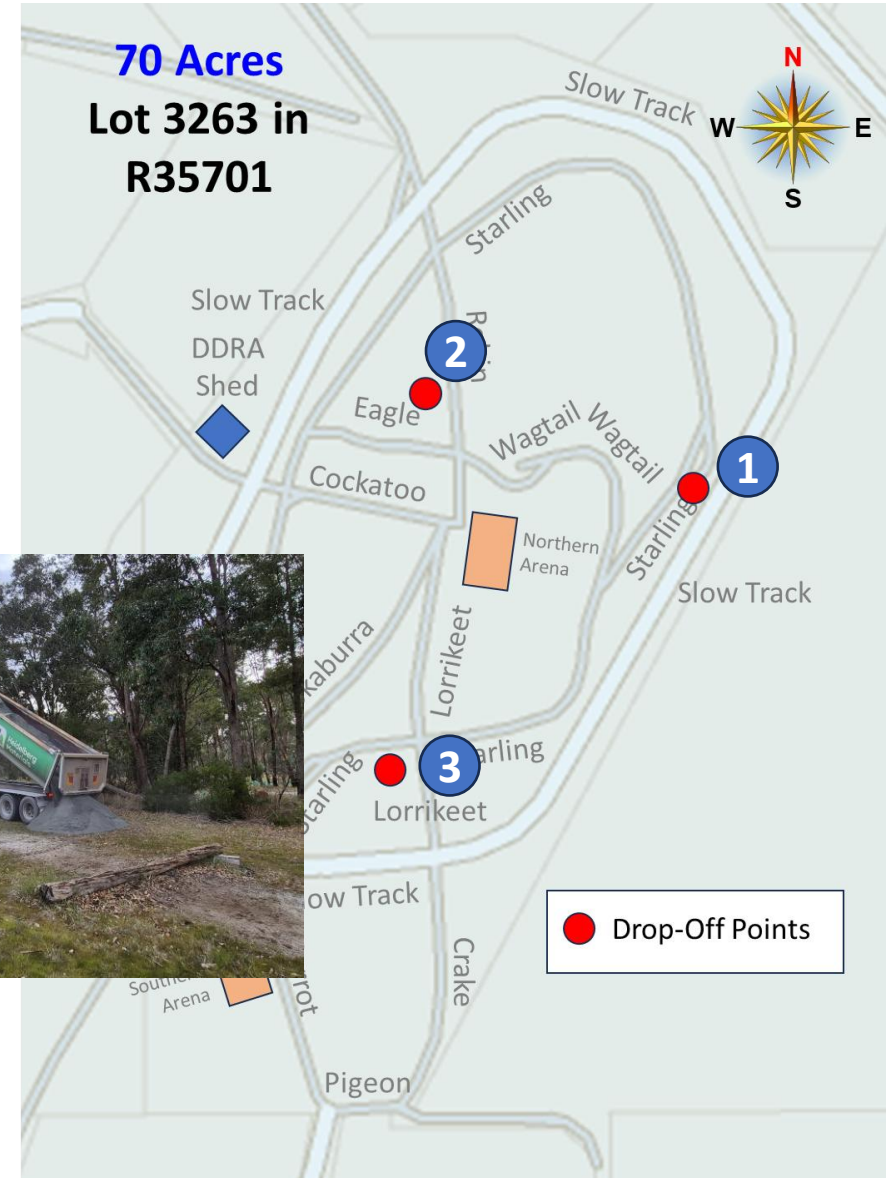
WORKSTREAM 10

- Volunteers are implementing a *program for refurbishment* of the jumps in the 70 Acres
- Many of the *rotten ones were removed* and burnt on the bonfire (ones in the blue circles)
- We will be replacing old/poor jumps over the next year
- The trotting fines then need to be laid (the fines are ready to go)



WORKSTREAM 10 JUMPS

- *Three loads of Trotting fines have been delivered, ready to do the take-off/landing areas (and other tasks)*



**Is anything
else
needed?**

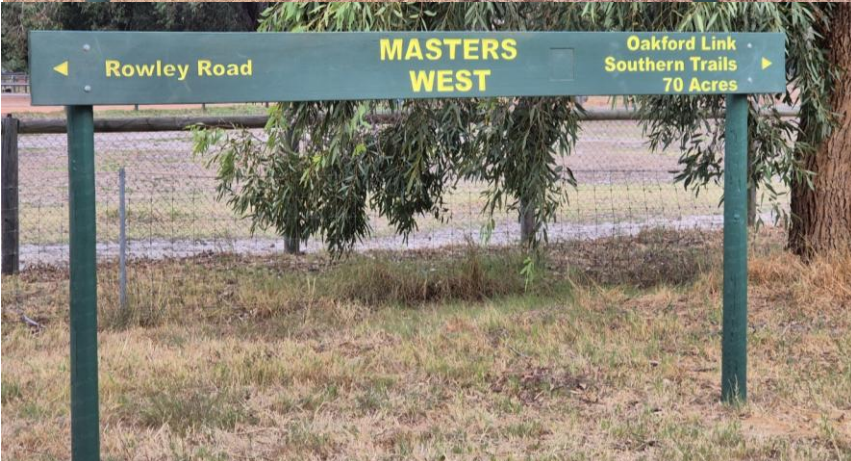
**WORKSTREAM 10
JUMPS**



Vote on options as required

WORKSTREAM 12 – SIGNAGE

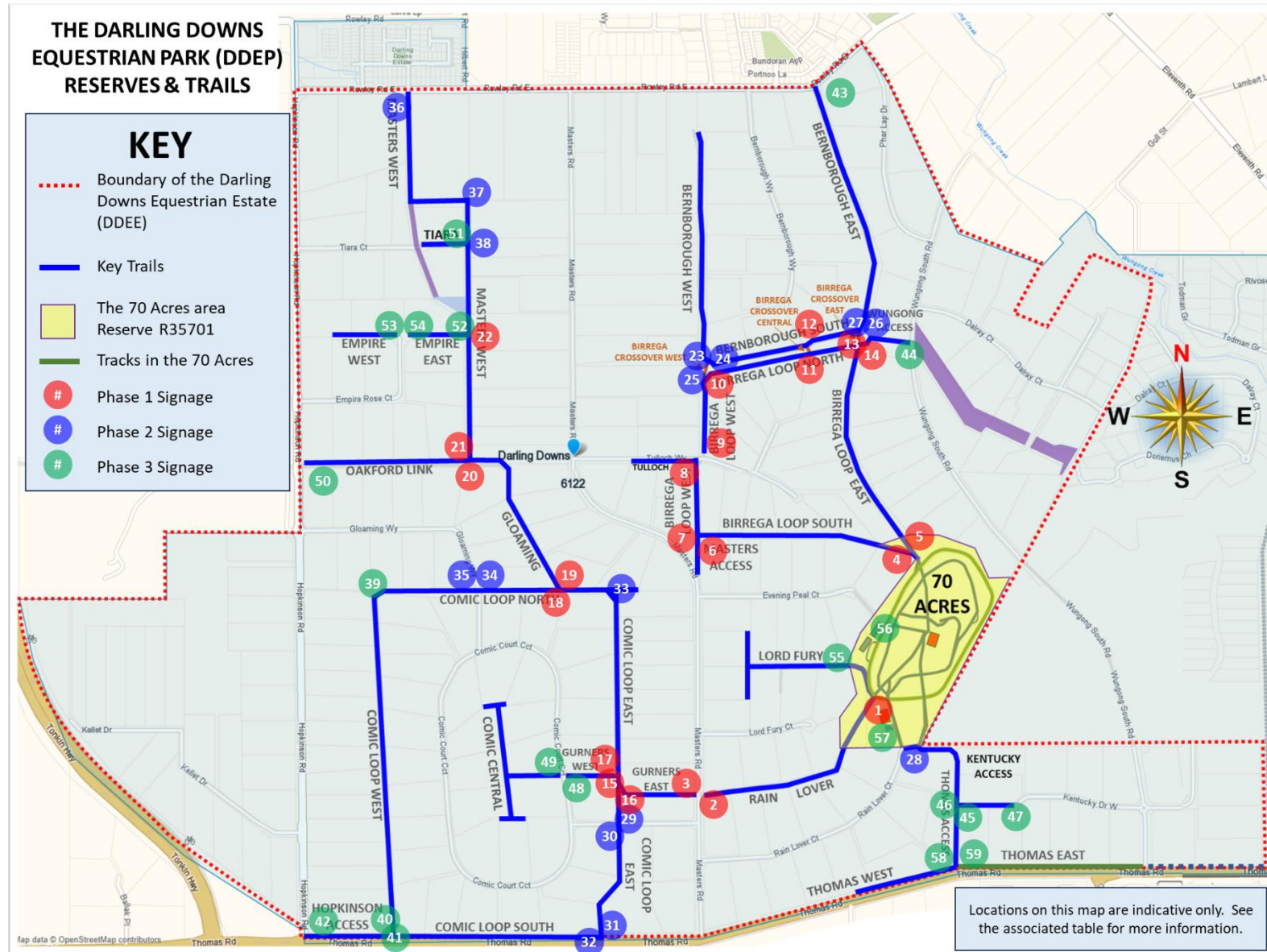
TRAIL SIGNAGE – PHASE 2 COMPLETED – HOLDUP ON THE QR CODES



- ✓ 38 Trail signs were installed (Phase 1 & 2) – All from Grants: Thanks to **Hugh Jones** & **Byford Community Bank**
- ✓ QR Codes held up due to tech/Google limitations – Still stalled on this aspect
- ✓ This matter will be resolved prior to the end of November 26
- ✓ Then we will look at Phase 3

WORKSTREAM 12 – SIGNAGE

TRAIL SIGNAGE



Further grants
will be sourced

This will create a
network that
makes the DDEP
easier to use and
safer

**Is anything
else
needed?**

**WORKSTREAM 12
SIGNAGE**



Vote on options as required

VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 5

Resolution:

To accept the updated report on the implementation of the DDRA Strategic Development Plan and the new works discussed and agreed during this AGM.

Proposer

Secunder

Vote

AGENDA ITEM 6

Present/consider and vote to accept/otherwise the Committee's Annual Report (Bruce)

DDRA Annual Committee Report

2025/26 FY

Darling Downs Residents Association (DDRA) Committee's Report - 2025/26



During the 2025/26 Financial Year, the Darling Downs Residents Association (DDRA) volunteers have managed, coordinated, and completed a great deal of important work. To achieve the tasks summarised in this report, DDRA volunteers provided more than 2,554 hours of effort to support the community. The following points outline some of the key outcomes achieved through this effort.

- ✓ **Trails Maintenance.** In late November and early December 2025, the trails in the 70 Acres were refurbished with support from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (SoSJ). The DDRA Committee would like to thank the SoSJ for funding this important work, which was completed by contractors. DDRA volunteers also performed extensive maintenance on other trail surfaces to ensure they were safe and usable. This included filling low points in many chicanes and crossovers, as well as conducting regular maintenance on the slow track in the 70 Acres. Towards the end of the period, steps were also being implemented to make the Birrega Crossover East and adjacent trail safer. This task was completed on 19 July 2026 as explained at [this link](#).
- ✓ **Trail Development.** The DDRA liaised extensively with the Tonkin Extension Alliance (TEA) to help ensure that the changes to the Comic Loop South trail were safe for the user community. The resulting trail is much safer than the original implementation. However, as discussed below, the issue with the adjacent safety wall remains unresolved.
- ✓ **Rest Areas.** Another picnic table was installed near the northeastern corner of the Birrega Loop trail. This extends the network of rest areas being developed by the DDRA, making the Darling Downs Equestrian Park (DDEP) more user-friendly. Funding for additional picnic tables has been promised by the SoSJ for the 2026/27 FY. These will be installed by the DDRA in the vicinity of the northern and southern arenas within the 70 Acres.
- ✓ **Vegetation Management.** DDRA volunteers have been kept busy during the year with mowing and clearing fallen/dead trees/bushes, and branches. In particular, our volunteers did a great job of clearing the trails and keeping them open for community use. In many cases, trails were cleared in as little as two hours after a report of a fallen tree was received.
- ✓ **Vegetation Management – Mulching.** This year, the DDRA implemented a new initiative to improve the process for mulching fallen/dead branches and trees. Under this new process, the DDRA tractor directly supports the SoSJ team in mulching. The resulting mulch can then be used to control weeds, as discussed below. The DDRA's direct support from the tractor made these operations much more efficient and safe. The Committee thanks the DDRA tractor drivers who have made this new approach a success.
- ✓ **Native tree/bush planting.** In July 2025, volunteers planted around 1,200 new native trees/bushes to help provide better noise barriers and enhance the area for native fauna. The new planting techniques used by the volunteers during this session have helped improve the survival rate. The DDRA would like to thank MetCONNx for donating the plants, fertiliser, and other equipment, and for providing their employees' support, so that

DDRA Annual Committee Report

2025/26 FY

the DDEP could be enhanced and made safer. The DDRA also want to thank Landcare SJ for their advice and support, and the many volunteers who worked hard to complete the planting despite some rain on the day.

- ✓ **Utilising the mulch.** The mulching of dead trees/branches has presented a great opportunity for improving the DDEP. Over the year, scores of tonnes of mulch have been produced, and DDRA volunteers have spread it to help control weed growth and aid the new native plants to establish themselves. There is a lot more mulch available, which will be spread over the next few months to help create an even better environment.
- ✓ **Traffic Management Issues.** The DDRA has been working with the Shire, Main Roads and other stakeholders to help address traffic management issues in the area. This year, numerous improvements have been achieved. These include reducing the speed on Masters Road from 70 kph to 60 kph. The DDRA would like to thank Hugh Jones MLA (the Member for Darling Range) for his support in achieving this important control. Additionally, through close liaison with the SoSJ, speed and horse warning signs have been installed on Rain Lover Court and Evening Peel Court. Since their installation, speeding problems on these access roads to the 70 Acres have been greatly reduced.
- ✓ **Safety Wall on Comic Loop South Trail.** Ongoing discussions are underway with the TEA, the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID), the SoSJ, and other stakeholders to secure their implementation of a safety barrier to protect horses and riders using the Comic Loop South trail. This initiative has been strongly requested by a large user community, who gathered on 22 February to show just how important the safety wall is to many people. The participants in this rally are shown in the following picture. A detailed [safety report](#) was developed to assist the government to understand the risks. At the time of writing this Annual Report, a final decision was not forthcoming from the government.



- ✓ **Pass Wide and Slow.** As a part of the SoSJ support for this important road safety programme, the DDRA coordinated a ride on 14 September 2026. Unfortunately, poor weather on the day reduced the number of participants attending. However, the work the DDRA volunteers have done in planning this event will help ensure their future success. The next Pass Wide and Slow event is currently planned for 18 October 2026.
- ✓ **Arena Improvements.** During the year, many improvements were made to the two arenas within the 70 Acres. This included repairing fencing, laying out dressage and jumping areas, providing more jumps, and improving the surfaces. For the southern arena, this included adding more river sand, carefully levelling the surface, and improving the drainage. The southern arena works were finalised on 30 July 2026, as explained at [this link](#).

Thank You to the Volunteers

So much work done to achieve these outcomes

DDRA Committee

- Planning & coordination of works and management
- Coordinating with the Shire and other stakeholders
- Implementing actions to achieve the various goals identified

DDRA Stalwarts

- Mowing, clearing trees, planting and doing much of the other work described for the workstreams
- Being on call to help and working hard to help achieve the goals

Other volunteers

- Many people have participated in one or more busy bee – their help is invaluable as we need assistance to achieve the objectives

**WE CAN DO EVEN MORE WITH ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS. COME AND JOIN!
YOU ARE WELCOME TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY PART OF THE TEAM**

VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 6

Resolution:

To accept the DDRA Committee's Report.

Proposer

Secunder

Vote

FINANCIAL REPORT 25/26 FY

Income

	Working Account	WS20 Account	Total
Balance at the beginning of the FY	\$ 3,418.12	\$ 3,566.52	\$ 6,984.64
Annual Payment from the Shire (inc other support)	\$ 18,660.00		\$ 18,660.00
Grants for WS12	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 36,000.00
Other funds received	\$ 1,281.26	\$ 250.28	\$ 1,531.54
Total Funds Available for the FY <i>Beginning + Revenue</i> (A)	\$ 34,359.38	\$ 28,816.80	\$ 63,176.18

Expenditures by Workstream	Working Account	WS20 Account	Total	% of Total
WS0 - DDRA Insurance	-\$ 2,157.60		-\$ 2,157.60	4.1%
WS0 - Administration (Bank fees, AGM costs, etc.)	-\$ 456.25		-\$ 456.25	0.9%
WS0 - Other Expenditures	-\$ 24.99		-\$ 24.99	0.0%
WS1 - Trails, Maintenance & Development	-\$ 1,281.26		-\$ 1,281.26	2.4%
WS2 - Rest Areas	-\$ 1,394.25		-\$ 1,394.25	2.7%
WS3 - Demarcations	\$ -		\$ -	0.0%
WS4 - Vegetation Management - Fuel	-\$ 1,825.76		-\$ 1,825.76	3.5%
WS4 - Vegetation Management - Equipment, etc.	-\$ 87.40		-\$ 87.40	0.2%
WS5 - New Vegetation - Expenditures	-\$ 721.35		-\$ 721.35	1.4%
WS6 - Fences/Gates/Chicanes/Mounting Blocks	\$ -		\$ -	0.0%
WS7 - Access Controls	\$ -		\$ -	0.0%
WS8 - Maintenance - Mower/Tractor	-\$ 2,593.34		-\$ 2,593.34	5.0%
WS8 - Maintenance - Other	-\$ 2,879.97		-\$ 2,879.97	5.5%
WS9 - Vandalism Repair	\$ -		\$ -	0.0%
WS10 - Jumps	-\$ 3,506.82		-\$ 3,506.82	6.7%
WS11 - Shed Upgrade	-\$ 863.94		-\$ 863.94	1.6%
WS12 - Signage	-\$ 14,998.84	-\$ 19,069.29	-\$ 34,068.13	65.0%
WS13 - Health & Safety	-\$ 188.10		-\$ 188.10	0.4%
WS14 - Amenities	\$ -		\$ -	0.0%
WS20 - Communications & Web presence	-\$ 323.32		-\$ 323.32	0.6%
	-\$ 33,303.19	-\$ 19,069.29	-\$ 52,372.48	100.0%

FINANCIAL REPORT 25/26 FY

Balance in Accounts at the end of the FY (D)

Budgeted expenses not realised yet (Committed)

WS1 - Birrega Drain East crossover

WS6 - Hitching Rails

WS8 - More sand for the southern arena

WS12 - QR Codes

WS12 - Phase 3 Part 1 Signage

Total Additional Budgeted Funds (E)

Funds available after Budgeted Funds spent

Working	WS20	Total
\$ 1,056.19	\$ 9,747.51	\$ 10,803.70
Reconciled	Reconciled	Reconciled
	\$ 600.00	
	\$ 1,300.00	
	\$ 1,400.00	
	\$ 3,116.30	
	\$ 4,000.00	
	<u>\$ 10,416.30</u>	
D - E	<u><u>-\$ 668.79</u></u>	

ITEM 7 - FINANCIAL REPORT 26/27 FY

WS20 Account

Main Account - 1 st July 2026	\$ 1,056.19
Income/Revenue	
Revenue received from beginning of FY to date	\$ 18,715.00
	\$
Total Expenditure	-\$ 3,176.72
WS0 - DDRA Insurance	-\$
WS0 - Administration (Bank fees, AGM costs, etc.)	-\$ 3.60
WS1 - Trails, Maintenance & Development	-\$ 770.00
WS2 - Rest Areas	-\$
WS4 - Vegetation Management - Fuel	-\$ 240.43
WS4 - Vegetation Management - Equipment, etc.	-\$
WS5 - New Vegetation – Expenditures (inc Mulching)	-\$
WS6 – Gates, Chicanes etc	-\$ 715.00
WS8 - Maintenance - Mower/Tractor	-\$ 412.75
WS8 - Maintenance - Other	-\$ 1,017.00
WS10 - Jumps	-\$
WS11 - Shed Upgrade	-\$
WS12 - Signage	-\$ 17.94
WS13 - Health & Safety	-\$
WS20 - Communications & Web presence	-\$
Closing Balance at Bank	\$ 16,594.47

Funds in WS20 1 st July 25	\$ 9,747.51
Income/Revenue	
Interest received	\$ 21.18
Advertising/sponsors	\$
State Govt Signage Grant	\$
Expenditures	
Signage	\$ 0
Closing balance at bank	\$ 9,768.69

Total funds at present	\$ 26,363.16
Minus Signage-Not paid yet	\$ 3,488.34
Minus cyclical expenses	\$ 4,400.00
Available for Projects	\$ 18,474.82

VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 7

Resolution:

To accept the DDRA Financial Report.

Proposer

Secunder

Vote

AGENDA ITEM 8

Committee Members

AGENDA ITEM 8 – COMMITTEE STATUS

Role	Name of Incumbent	Date Elected	End of Term (Max 3 yrs) (ROA Clause 11.4(2))
President	Bruce Hilliard	29 Aug 24	2027
Vice President	David Ransom	23 Sep 25	2028
Works Manager	Eric Chabros	23 Sep 25	2028
Secretary	Pam Hilliard	29 Aug 24	2027
Treasurer	Carol Fawcett	29 Aug 24	2027
Ordinary Members	Brian Vale	29 Aug 24	2027
	Robyn Vale	29 Aug 24	2027
	Dave Emery	29 Aug 24	2027
	Eugene Kestel (Hiatus)	29 Aug 24	2027
	Matt Emery	29 Aug 24	2027
	Charlotte Boyes	23 Sep 25	2028
	Emily Dagnall	23 Sep 25	2028

Are there any additional volunteers?

VOTE ON AGENDA ITEM 8

Resolution:

To accept the **new** members/nominees to become members of the DDRA Committee for a period of up to three years (as per RoA Clause 11.4(2)).

Proposer

Secunder

Vote

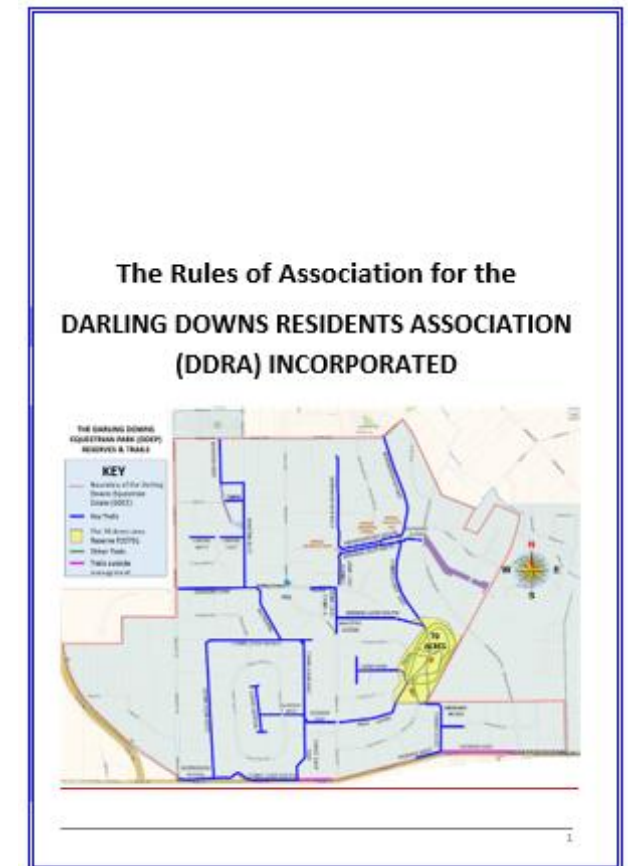
AGENDA ITEM 9

Discuss and vote on other Agenda items raised by DDRA members, in accordance with Clause 18 of the DDRA Rules of Association **(Bruce)**

The Rules of Association need to be updated to reflect changes imposed by the Government and other modifications

The changes will be distributed for discussion soon

A Special General Meeting will be conducted here at 7:00PM on Wednesday, 25 November 26



AGENDA ITEM 10

General Business

*Does anyone have any matters they
want to raise now?*

AGENDA ITEMS 11

Close the meeting (Bruce)



DARLING DOWNS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Thank you for your time and support