

**Andrew Beattie - Re: Berry Bypass**

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**From:** j f <witch-on-a-broom@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 16/12/2012 4:51 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Berry Bypass

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Berry bypass plans which I believe will significantly and adversely affect these much used community grounds.

The current grounds, which it is important to note, have benefited greatly from fundraising undertaken by the Equestrian Centre, the Local Community and its supporters and will be drastically impacted upon. In the current financial climate, it is not a secret that Governments on all levels has seen funding to clubs and local projects subject to cutbacks or total discontinuation of funding, thus relying very much on the Community for its proactive fundraising for such centres. Yet, it appears all the work and fundraising that has been poured into the Equestrian Centre by the COMMUNITY, is under serious threat/

I feel there are also significant OH&S concerns with the proposed bypass.

I am not sure if those who do the blueprints for such plans have fully grasped that it is also an EQUESTRIAN site and as such comes with special requirements.

These included, but not restricted to the following:

\*Horses are transported using slower and much larger vehicles plus towed floats or trucks. As such these require larger tracts of land area to SAFELY turn (at a slower than your average car speed) and manoeuvre. This is not only due to the size/weight of the vehicles and trailers used, but also to ensure the well being of the horse. Horse owners have an ethical and legal obligation to ensure that the welfare of the horse in their care is catered for and to do so on such grounds means safe roads and areas MUST exist.

I believe the proposed plans will put the above at risk which will have a flow on effect to the public if the worst case scenario occurs .

\*Such sporting clubs, such as the Equestrian Centre, also have a high percentage of families with young children. Some of these young children also ride their ponies on these grounds. As much as Parents try and reduce any risk to their children by

seeking/buying quiet ponies; providing appropriate safety equipment, the one thing they cannot try and control are other members of the public, in particular, how one drives their motor vehicle/truck.

\*Of course, the responsible and more knowledgeable members of the public, slow down and are mindful of horse riders to prevent horses becoming agitated with noisy , fast vehicles in close proximity. Unfortunately, I cannot see how a 100km/hour expressway will allow even the best intentioned of drivers to be able to take such measures without putting their own safety at risk. I am extremely concerned that such volume and noise of traffic, that it will be only matter of time in such an instance that an accident will occur. This usually has a tendency to be either the more inexperienced rider and/or children , who do not have the presence of mind to deal with such situations.

\*This also covers the children/teenagers/young adults who frequently use the skateboard facility and often ride their bikes to that location. Sometimes, young people who have their minds focused on pleasure-eg skateboarding, may become distracted and I believe this would be courting disaster with an expressway in close proximity. It would be more than a great shame, that such a dual purpose facility which seems to cater for the local children and youth (which is EXACTLY what the community wanted) would become rendered virtually inaccessible because of major safety concerns.

On a social welfare note, how often does one hear others lament the “youth of today” and that “when I was their age, I didn’t sit in front of a computer or get into trouble”, yet here it is actively being considered now to reduce or, even render unusable, a Community facility that actively encourages and supports the children and youth to redirect their energies positively. I do wonder if the real cost of Communities slowly losing such resources will ever be known?!

There are also many other major community benefits by retaining the Equestrian and Skateboard facility as it is.

These are:

- \*The location of the facility Centre has safe and many points of access.
- \*The facility has access to essential amenities eg Bathroom/toilets
- \*A very large percentage of people who visit the Equestrian club, my family & I

included, frequently take the short walk into Berry at each event and shop in between classes, which most definitely puts money back into the local retailers. (I can say now, having to account for an expressway would from my perspective, seen an end to that). All business in regional areas such as Berry deserve as much encouragement and support as possible and the facility more often than not positively contributes to this.

In conclusion, I feel that to change the location directly or in close proximity to The Equestrian Club (& Skateboard facility) would have an adverse socio-economic affect on the Community.

Regards

Julia Finney