

Submission from The Agility Dog Club of NSW Inc.

Re: access to storage garages under the dog buildings at Castle Hill Showground.

The Agility Dog Club of NSW was formed in 1989 and was the first “agility only” dog club in NSW. Today it is one of only two such clubs. Our members come from as far a field as the Southern Highlands, Eastern Suburbs and the Central Coast. We have trained at Castle Hill Showground since our inception.

ADC rents two double garages under the dog buildings at Castle Hills Showground to house three double axel trailers full of equipment and also store assorted other equipment. This equipment is heavy and cumbersome and is therefore awkward to hand carry onto the dog grounds. The trailers are towed onto the grounds via the adjacent concrete ramp.

These trailers are used every week and occasionally at weekends. One of the trailers is regularly hired out to other dog clubs in NSW.

The North West Railway’s construction site in the Showground will impact on our use of the area.

Our first concern is the safety and well being of our members and their dogs. Although the area is to be fully fenced off, this will not stop construction and traffic noise from reaching our training area. Many young dogs can be noise sensitive and will be unable to focus on the lessons successfully. Some might even attempt to escape the area. This will then not be a positive learning experience for the dog or owner. This could result in less people bringing their dogs to training-something which will have a flow on effect in suburban areas.

Our second concern is access to the ground for our equipment trailers. We require enough space to tow the trailers out of the garages and up onto the fields and vice versa.

To address these issues ADC would like

1.
 - a) a sound/sight barrier along the entire access/egress route behind the dog grounds.

And either

2.
 - a) an area 33m by 18 metres behind the buildings to be kept free. The length of 33meters is measured from the concrete ramp along the building and extending 8m beyond at the Showground Road end. The width goes across to the existing gravel road along the creek side. This would allow us ample room to tow the trailers out of the storage area, turn and access the concrete ramp and return them with ease.

b) Vehicular access to this area would be via the grounds . An alternate access point would have to be made to allow us, council, ambulances and any other necessary vehicle access to the grounds and behind the building. This access could be from the existing car park area on the high side of the grounds near the covered pavilion.

Or

3.

a) an access road be made available around the Showground Road end of the dog grounds, along behind the grounds to join the existing concrete ramp. This would allow access to an area to turn the trailers around if necessary.

b) The concrete apron directly behind the building to be widened to 11metres to allow for removal and return of trailers.

c) Keeping a road access available around the grounds would allow any necessary vehicle access to the grounds via the exiting concrete ramp.

And we would also ask that

4.

a) Trees that are removed to be compensated for by plantings elsewhere on the grounds.

b) Extra parking formed by providing lighting to the parking area adjacent to Showground Road, just below the terraced rings. The surface would need improving also.

Re public access to the grounds

We suggest using the roundabout at Middleton Road, it would need to be widened to allow use for public access

A road could then be made wrapping around the main arena, thru the stables, cross the area in between the Show Office and the Pavilion theatre to access the existing car park area.