

Community Update - 31 October 2023

Showgrounds Governance and Management Project- Jandowae Pilot



Thanks so much to the community members who came to the recent events run by Western Downs Regional Council at the Exchange Hotel in Jandowae:

- 4 October 2023 to meet Dr Greet and Council staff who are working on this project
- 17 October 2023 for the workshop with Dr Greet considering WHAT future use and management of the Jandowae Showgrounds should look like

BACKGROUND INFORMATION made available on 17 October can be viewed on [Council's Have Your Say](#) page:

- Council's Showgrounds Strategy 2023-2038
- Jandowae Racecourse & Showgrounds Land Management Plan (LMP) 2018-2023 - (the State Government approved plan for use of the State Reserve Land) for which is due for review

WHAT WE HEARD: DIVERSITY OF USERS

- A wide range of community groups use the Showgrounds. These include Show Society, Race Club, Pony Club, Kindy, Landcare, Timbertown, Campdraft, Dog Trials, Barrel Racing, Rodeo as part of the annual show, Back to Jandowae Festival
- Some are recognised formally as 'user groups' in the current Land Management Plan
- Discussion leaned toward a more open definition of 'user group'
- A definition of a 'user group' will be part of the Constitution/Rules of Association of the future governance body
- Community members expressed interest in Showgrounds facilities being available for hire by other users

WHAT WE HEARD: USER GROUP ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES - Issues discussed included

- Levy of an annual fee - other Showgrounds have a hire discount instead of an annual fee
- Other obligations relating to upkeep and maintenance of facilities and grounds overall
- Participation in working bees etc.
- User groups definition, roles and responsibilities will be covered in formal documents for the governance body.

WHAT WE HEARD: SHOWGROUNDS GOVERNANCE

- Strong support was voiced for an Incorporated Association to govern the Showgrounds
- This underlined the rigour it would bring to clarity around decision making, transparency, accountability
- A quarterly association meeting was proposed
- We noted challenges forming another volunteer run body in such a small community
- User groups could provide a representative to the Committee
- Various models used in other small WDRC communities could be considered e.g. annually rotating responsibilities on the Association, so work is fairly shared.

WHAT WE HEARD: COUNCIL SUPPORT

Ideas for broader consideration include Council attendance at quarterly meetings, regular attendance to support improved flow of information and communication, a staff member who might lobby for ideas of the Association, an Association secretary who could be engaged through funds allocated by Council.

WHAT WE HEARD: RV CAMPING IS IMPORTANT FOR JANDOWAE: RV camping provides an important economic driver for the town. Currently there is no alternative option for RV visitors. Community wants to retain responsibility for and control of RV camping. It was noted that [CMCA have camp hosts](#). There may be community members willing to take this on.

WHAT WE HEARD: A NEW NAME: Any new name must include Jandowae; if it costs money to change, don't bother. Council will poll the community to inform any decision about naming.

FUTURE MATTERS: Please do come to the November 7 Workshop at the Exchange Hotel, 6 pm for 6.30 start.

On 7 November we'll be taking forward practical questions about HOW to make this a reality for Jandowae, securing volunteers for the Incorporated Association Executive and membership, defining user groups.