

Dressage NSW Update* on Clarendon to Dressage NSW Members

*Below is a brief summary of the full document available on the DNSW website
[[DNSW Committee Statement to DNSW Members September 2022.pdf](#)
(equestrian.org.au)]

- DNSW undertook an overall Strategic Review in January 2022
- Following the Strategic Review a Clarendon Focus Group was formed

The decision was made to cease running regular club level dressage events, subject to discussions with the Licensor of the Clarendon grounds. We have now been able to meet with the Licensor, and are in a position to further update the membership:

Background:

DNSW Licence Arrangements

- DNSW may use the grounds a maximum of 36 days per annum
- Monthly maintenance is required, more often if required by the Licensor
- DNSW may not sub-let the grounds to other user groups
- The Licensor may schedule other activities on DNSW dates with 2 weeks' notice

Financial

DNSW is committed to Clarendon-specific fixed costs of \$20,000 per annum:

- Licence fee \$9,600 plus an annual increase by 1% + CPI
- Maintenance approx. \$6,000 (approx. \$500/month)
- Insurance \$3,780

Since October 2019 Clarendon has lost \$33,000, not including the waived Licence fees during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Facilities

Arenas need upgrading: approx. \$32,500/arena

Being the state sporting association, DNSW is ineligible for many grants that may assist with repair and upgrading costs

DNSW's discussions with the Licensor

The Licensor has indicated they

- will not renew the licence agreement past June 2025
- have no intention of retaining the dressage facilities
- will enforce the terms of the Licence Agreement requiring DNSW to return the area to flat ground

We have received an estimate of \$150,000 to undertake this work.

The Licensor suggest they may consider assistance with earthworks if DNSW terminates the licence by 31 December 2022. DNSW has received an estimate of \$25,000 to undertake the remaining work.

Over the past 12 months, in addition to regular maintenance, the Licensor has requested additional maintenance, including cleaning of external surfaces of structures and buildings, repairs and repainting of the perimeter fence.

Two possible ways forward:

- Continue with the lease until 2025 and risk financial exposure of approx. \$150,000
- Terminate the licence prior to 2025 and seek the Licensor's assistance with earthworks, and endeavour to limit DNSW financial exposure to \$25,000

Under both options an independent group could form to lobby the Licensor for retention of the facilities/running competitions in the future

If the grounds are retained until or even post 2025, the need to commit substantial funds to upgrade and maintain the facilities will remain.

The competition experience that Clarendon riders have come to expect, and risk management will increasingly be impacted when other activities are scheduled on competition dates.

The DNSW Committee hopes you will read the full document in order to evaluate the information and implications, and take into consideration DNSW's financial exposure, its strategic focus and overriding obligations of good governance.

DNSW Committee
22 September 2022