



# Equestrian NSW Annual General Meeting Minutes

**APPROVED**

**TIME & DATE: 7.00PM 8 DECEMBER 2025**

**LOCATION: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA VERO VOTING PLATFORM**

## 1. MEETING ADMINISTRATION

### 1.1 Open Meeting

CEO Vireena Peacock opened the meeting at 7:04pm.

### 1.2 Quorum

With a quorum present, the AGM proceeded.  
50 members attended. A list of attendees is included in the appendix.

### 1.3 Apologies

86 apologies were noted and are included in the appendix.

## 2. Acknowledgment of Country & Presidents Address

### 2.1 Acknowledgment of Country

An acknowledgement of country was delivered by Amy Eggleton.

### 2.2 President's Address

In addition to the written report Amy Eggleton reported:

#### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted that the report would provide an overview of the year's delivery, organisational performance, and priorities for 2026.

#### **Operational Delivery & Staff Acknowledgement**

The Chair reported that ENSW continues to operate with 4.4 FTE staff. Key activities delivered during the year included:

- NSW and Australian Interschool Championships
- Full Show Horse season
- Annual Awards
- Membership, registration, and compliance processing

- Ongoing support for committees and clubs  
The Chair acknowledged the staff for their professionalism and significant contribution throughout the year.

### **Member Experience Initiatives**

The Chair outlined initiatives aimed at improving accessibility and value for members, including:

- Introduction of Recreational Membership
  - Early-bird fee discounts and maintaining NSW fee components at the same level for the second consecutive year
  - Increased financial transparency
  - Provision of free marketing tools and templates for clubs
- It was noted that all decisions continue to prioritise delivering value to members.

### **Capability Building: Clubs, Officials, Coaches & Volunteers**

The Chair reported ongoing investment in education and capability building. Achievements included:

- Progress on online learning modules for volunteers and officials
  - Governance and marketing training provided to clubs
  - Continued support for judge and coach education
  - Selection by the Office of Sport as a pilot sport for a youth development program focusing on wellbeing, nutrition, safer sport and personal development
- These initiatives support safety, welfare, and long-term sport sustainability.

### **Pathways Project Update**

The Chair advised that a Pathways Development Officer has been appointed and discipline-specific pathways aligned with the AIS FTEM model are being developed.

Draft pathways for Para-Equestrian and Show Horse have been completed, with further work underway.

The project is expected to be transformational for participation and performance over the next decade.

### **Facilities Advocacy & Social Licence**

The Chair reported ongoing advocacy to protect the Clarendon Dressage Grounds and noted support for resurfacing works on Arenas 1 and 2 at SIEC.

The importance of accessible, affordable facilities for participation was emphasised.

Efforts to strengthen horse welfare education and risk management were also noted as crucial to maintaining the sport's social licence.

### **Risk & Stewardship**

The Chair outlined key risks impacting the sport, including growing welfare expectations, increased compliance obligations, systems challenges, and cost-of-living pressures.

Despite these, NSW remains in a strong financial and strategic position.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to prudent financial stewardship and acting in the long-term interests of members and the sport including active participation in the reform and evolution of Equestrian sport in Australia.

## Closing

The Chair thanked the Board, committees, volunteers, staff, and members for their contribution to a productive and progressive year.

The Chair acknowledged the challenges ahead but expressed confidence in the organisation's direction and the strength of the NSW equestrian community.

## 3. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were taken as read.

A motion to accept the previous minutes was passed with 25 members voting to accept the minutes and 3 abstaining.

## 4. Confirmation of Board Positions

- There were 4 Elected Director positions voted on in the election:
  - Nicola Rockwell resigned from the Board following her successful election to the Board of Equestrian Australia
  - Alison McLean did not re-stand for the Board but will continue as a much-valued member of the Finance and Risk Management Committee
  - The Chair acknowledged the significant contribution made to the Board and Equestrian NSW by both Alison and Nicola.
  - Lisa Winn and Suzanne Cunningham both stood for a third term as elected directors
  - 5 new candidates stood for election
- 343 members voted
  - Lisa and Suzanne were re-elected to the Board
  - Anthony Harris and Ellie Robinson were elected as new members of the Board
- The chair acknowledged and thanked the three unsuccessful candidates for their willingness to contribute to the governance of equestrian NSW.

## 5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO noted that the Annual Report was taken as read and highlighted several positive achievements from the year.

### Acknowledgements

The CEO acknowledged the contributions of the people who make the sport possible:

- **ENSW Board** – thanked for their volunteer service, leadership, and development of the new Strategic Plan, providing clear direction for staff and committees.
- **ENSW Committees** – acknowledged as volunteers delivering important work across all discipline areas.
- **ENSW Staff** – reduced from 5 FTE to 4.4 FTE during the year, yet continued to deliver outstanding outcomes for members and the sport.

### Key Operational Achievements

The CEO reported several major achievements, including:

- Delivery of the NSW and Australian Interschool Championships with the opening ceremony incorporating Olympians and Paralympians a true highlight.

- Successful delivery of the 3rd National Show Horse Competition, contributing to strong growth in the discipline.
- Annual Awards Night held at a new venue and time.
- Ongoing support to thousands of members, clubs, officials, and committees statewide.
- Significant effort and perseverance in working through challenges associated with the new JustGo platform.

The CEO reinforced that all work undertaken is for the benefit of ENSW members.

### **Support for Clubs & Officials**

The CEO outlined key supports provided during the year, including:

- Over **\$100,000** invested into officials education programs.
- Free membership for officials in the current financial year
- Delivery of club initiatives such as Experience Days to strengthen participation and engagement.

### **5. Facilities & Social Licence**

The CEO highlighted two essential requirements for the future sustainability of the sport:

#### **1. Strong horse welfare standards**

- ENSW supported EA's horse welfare initiatives.
- Two horse-welfare education modules were developed by ENSW Education Manager following participation in EA's FEI Horse Welfare workshop.

#### **2. Access to suitable competition venues**

- Ongoing support for the Office of Sport regarding SIEC maintenance and resurfacing.
- Continued advocacy to retain access to Clarendon.
- Safety Grants and letters of support provided to clubs to assist with facility upgrades and grant applications.

### **Challenges & Outlook**

The CEO noted several headwinds impacting the sport, including:

- Increasing welfare and compliance expectations
- Cost-of-living pressures
- Ongoing systems challenges

Despite these challenges, ENSW maintains:

- Strong organisational foundations
- Robust governance processes
- Sound financial management
- A clear strategic plan to guide future work

The CEO reaffirmed their role as a steward of the sport, committed to protecting and advancing the interests of members.

The CEO expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and looks forward to the year ahead.

## 6. Financial Statements & Reports

The CEO noted that the 2024–25 Financial Report was taken as read and provided key commentary on membership trends, income, and forward budget considerations.

### Income Overview

- Membership revenue continues to comprise the majority of ENSW income.
- Additional income sources include interest earnings and the annual grant from the NSW Office of Sport.

### Membership Trends

- **2024–25:** Small overall decline in membership.
  - **2025–26 YTD:** Membership down 19% including a 36% decrease in Senior Competitor members, the largest membership category.
  - Decline attributed to increased fees (EA component doubling) and public uncertainty within the sport.
- **Officials Membership:** Remains stable, supported by ENSW's **\$0 membership fee** for officials.

### Planned Use of Retained Earnings (2025–26)

- ENSW will invest a portion of available retained earnings back into the sport this financial year.
- ENSW expects to deliver a deficit budget in 2025–26 due to increased investment in Strategic Plan initiatives.
- ENSW membership fees (ENSW component) have remained flat for the second consecutive year.
- Investment in discipline committees will also remain unchanged.

### Changes to Income Presentation

- The CEO noted that a significant perceived reduction in income will appear in the accounts due to EA now collecting EA membership fees directly, rather than via the State branches.
- This is a reporting change, not a reduction in ENSW-controlled revenue streams.

### Financial Management & Governance

The CEO outlined ENSW's strong governance and financial oversight framework, including:

- External accountants: Sports Accounting Australia
- External auditors: separate independent audit firm
- Oversight by the Finance & Risk Management Committee, which independently reviews budgets, financial performance, and risk.
- Monthly detailed financial reporting is maintained and presented to the Board for review.
- ENSW received an "Excelling" rating for financial management practices in the Office of Sport's ASC Game Plan assessment — the highest possible rating.

## 7. Motions from Members

No motions were received from Members

## 8. Appointment of Auditor

A motion to appoint DFK Laurance Varnay as the auditor for the next two years was passed with 28 members voting in favour of the motion and 4 abstaining.

## 9. Questions and Comments

*Question: In regard to the financial statements for 24/25, how come there is no revenue from the dressage council but there is an expense. Most other discipline councils contributed revenue.*

Answer: DNSW, JNSW and EvNSW are separate legal entities and collect and hold their own funds. ENSW supports their work with membership funds. You can view the separate financial statements for these organisations on their respective websites.

*Question: Hi Vireena Can you advise who was successful in the voting for the board. My connection has been very bad here. Thanks*

Answer: Sue Cunningham and Lisa Winn were re-elected to the Board and Tony Harris and Ellie Robinson have been elected as new Board Directors.

*Comment: Thanks to the Equestrian Community for your vote and I will continue to serve to the best of my ability on the Board – Tony Harris*

## 10. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7.23 pm.

## Appendix – Attendees and Apologies

### Attendees - 50

| First Name | Member Number |           |         |
|------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
|            |               | Kerry     | 2075530 |
| Alison     | 2300677       | Kristen   | 2109705 |
| Amy        | 4011776       | Linda     | 1030068 |
| Angela     | 2115522       | Linda     | 2100047 |
| Annyka     | 2106639       | Lisa      | 2300568 |
| Anthony    | 2104973       | Lynda     | 2010112 |
| Aoife      | 1030846       | Lynne     | 1038229 |
| Catherine  | 2084262       | Maree     | 1053826 |
| Cathie     | 2033213       | Maree     | 2115941 |
| Dee        | 2112849       | Mark      | 1018202 |
| Ebony      | 2112651       | Mary      | 2110499 |
| Ellie      | 1055130       | Melinda   | 2010759 |
| Emily      | 2101691       | Natalie   | 2110878 |
| Gillian    | 2115192       | Philippa  | 2103046 |
| Giorga     | 2107100       | Prudence  | 2024361 |
| Grainne    | 1037392       | Rachael   | 2082918 |
| Helen      | 2058667       | Robert    | 4004731 |
| Jane       | 2110277       | Sally-Ann | 2010724 |
| Jeff       | 2102581       | Sue       | 2100555 |
| Jenna      | 2111540       | Susie     | 2054027 |
| Jenny      | 2075352       | Suzanne   | 2101804 |
| Jillian    | 2302515       | Suzanne   | 2065317 |
| Jodie      | 1027516       | Sylvia    | 2107719 |
| Kay        | 2108691       | Toni      | 2076319 |
| Kerrie     | 2027766       | Trevor    | 2109669 |

Vireena 2113991

## Apologies - 86

| First Name | Member Number |           |         |
|------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
|            |               | Felicity  | 2101617 |
| Alice      | 2100724       | Gabrielle | 2106476 |
| Amanda     | 2080758       | Graeme    | 2108676 |
| Amber      | 2044260       | Hamish    | 2100654 |
| Amelia     | 1017505       | Helen     | 2031804 |
| Amie       | 2200057       | Helen     | 1039112 |
| Amity      | 1037304       | Hunter    | 2044998 |
| Angela     | 2100202       | Jaclyne   | 2102594 |
| Anna       | 2010374       | Jane      | 2113317 |
| Annabelle  | 2107824       | Jannine   | 2110577 |
| Anwen      | 2015943       | Jason     | 1047828 |
| Belinda    | 2040688       | Jennifer  | 2084152 |
| Ben        | 8100292       | Jessica   | 1031308 |
| Bree       | 3098181       | Jessica   | 2101338 |
| Brooke     | 2011114       | Jill      | 2114090 |
| Carolyn    | 2050937       | Josh      | 2302183 |
| Catherine  | 1057267       | Judith    | 2105918 |
| Christina  | 2115747       | Karen     | 2111054 |
| Clemency   | 2201180       | Karen     | 2105470 |
| Damon      | 2072481       | Karen     | 2048033 |
| Diane      | 1034354       | Kathryn   | 2109508 |
| Emily      | 7001307       | Krissy    | 2024031 |
| Emma       | 2302582       | Kristen   | 2110778 |
| Emma       | 2102463       | Leonore   | 1010582 |
| Felicity   | 2114715       | Linda     | 2111827 |

|          |          |           |         |
|----------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Louise   | 2010449  | Sheryl    | 2061489 |
| Lucy     | 1020835  | Sienna    | 1022848 |
| Mark     | 2040497  | Susan     | 2010919 |
| Maryann  | 2109056  | Tanya     | 2500831 |
| Matthew  | 1020941  | Tara      | 2106475 |
| Meredith | 1020284  | Tara      | 2102601 |
| Michelle | 2500644  | Terry Ann | 2073066 |
| Natalie  | 2101507  | Timothy   | 2048059 |
| Nigel    | 92004600 | Tina      | 2106249 |
| Patsy    | 1043418  | Yvonne    | 1049096 |
| Petra    | 2010804  |           |         |
| Rachel   | 2030863  |           |         |
| Rachel   | 2105295  |           |         |
| Rebecca  | 2076416  |           |         |
| Rebecca  | 2101808  |           |         |
| Rebecca  | 1037348  |           |         |
| Rena     | 2103707  |           |         |
| Robyn    | 2111680  |           |         |
| Robyn    | 2101531  |           |         |
| Sally    | 2116806  |           |         |
| Sally    | 1017614  |           |         |
| Sally    | 2011756  |           |         |
| Sarah    | 2010450  |           |         |
| Sarah    | 2500643  |           |         |
| Sarah    | 2105978  |           |         |
| Saskia   | 1055797  |           |         |
| Scott    | 2105205  |           |         |