**GENERAL PUBLIC AMENITY LOCAL LAW NO.1**

**Part 3 ANIMALS**

24. KEEPING OF ANIMALS ON PRIVATE LAND – HORSES

A common enquiry with Council’s Community Safety team is:

 ***“How many horses can I have on my new property?”***

Council’s local law provides information on what is allowed on a property without a permit as well as what triggers the requirement for a permit. The following information is general and is the common response to new property owners who may or may not be new to owning livestock.

The acreage block size in the new Low Density Residential Zone estates within our municipality is approximately 1 acre (4000m2). Although these blocks are a larger size and entice residents to have some extra animals, it can cause an issue with feeding and nuisance issues.

For example, once a house is built on a block of 4000m2 (1 acre), the possible agistment area for any type of livestock reduces substantially, often to less than 2000m2 after a garden has been established. This means that the actual agistment area is less than 2000m2.

Even though Councils Local Law No 1 allows 4 horses on a property in any zone (other than in the general residential zone) between 1000m2 and 2 hectares (¼ acre and 5 acres), the natural food supply is unable to be sustained, so the owner is required to purchase fodder (hay and hard feed) permanently as the paddocks are never rested to enable the grass to regenerate.

Requirements for owners with small acreage can consist of:

* The necessity to pick up and remove manure daily from the paddocks
* Electrification of boundary fences
* Building of shelters and sheds for storage
* Storage of feed (hay, chaff etc) which attract rodents and pests.

During the winter months, a lack of agistment area contributes to:

* Bogging up of ground
* Accumulation of wet fodder causing odour and pests
* Accumulation of manure and other waste.
* Damage to common fencing, etc

During the summer months, a lack of agistment area contributes to:

* Attraction of pests
* If not cleaned regularly, accumulation of manure or other waste
* Smell
* Dust

Fencing must be of the highest quality (electrified) in order to prevent livestock from leaning over into road reserves or neighbouring paddocks and to prevent livestock from escaping which is a danger to the community.

If every second property in a new estate of small acreage has at least one horse, the above issues are multiplied.

Please contact Council’s Community Safety team on 5220 7111 should you require any assistance or guidance on this or any section of the Local Law.