

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**TITLE**      **HorsesLandWater: Peri-Urban project**

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### **New project for healthy horses and environment**

**Around Australia, horse property managers, horse owners and government agencies are working together in a new project designed to improve the health of both horses and the environment.**

The 'HorsesLandWater: Peri-Urban Project' will target the urban fringe around five major population centres and build a knowledge base with support groups in each of the areas to tackle the issue of the impact of horses on the environment around the urban fringe.

With the growth of the urban fringe as our population centres expand, combined with an increase in small land holdings being made available by Councils & Shires, it is important that responsible land management practices are followed.

The HorsesLandWater: Peri-urban project is being managed by Horse SA through HorsesLandWater, with support from project partners including Melbourne Water, Environmental Protection Agency SA, Australian Harness Racing Board (AHRB), Australian Pony Club Council (APCC), Greening Australia Exchange Program, Tasmania South NRM Board, Adelaide and Mt Lofty Natural Resources Management Board.

"We are excited to be involved in a new national project," Horse SA's Executive Officer, Julie Fiedler, said today.

Ms Fiedler said that for the first time the new initiative brought together horse owners, environmental groups and government agencies with a common goal - to improve the environment in which horses are kept and at the same time improve the health of the horse and the environment. It is based around a "Community of Practice" model, involving the sharing of information & research findings, setting up of networks, and seeking feedback in relation to horse-keeping practices.

"With responsible management of horse properties comes many benefits, not just to horses and their owners, but to the wider community and perhaps more significantly the wider environment," she said.

"A well-managed property has many benefits to the health of the horse and the health of the hip pocket of the owner.

"Many common horse health problems can be significantly reduced by good land management practices and by employing sound horse care principles, horse owners can reduce feed and vet bills and increase the value of their properties.

"This new project will lead to a very real win-win situation for all concerned."

The HorsesLandWater: Peri-urban Project is funded through a National Landcare Programme Natural Resource Innovation Grant."

Anyone interested in taking part in the project should visit the website [www.horseslandwater.com](http://www.horseslandwater.com) or contact Julie Fiedler on 08 8294 2460.

**For more information, contact:**

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