



8. **PROPOSAL FOR AN INDOOR MULTI USE EQUESTRIAN FACILITY AT CANTERBURY PARK PLUS ASSOCIATED HORSE GRAZING AND RIDE-OUT ACCESS FOR CHRISTCHURCH RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

The Board was in receipt of a report from the Parks and Waterways Manager seeking Council approval for Christchurch Riding for the Disabled (RDA) to lease a site on the recently acquired A & P show grounds, to erect a indoor arena adjacent to the A&P stables.

Council purchased 89ha of "Canterbury Agricultural Park" for the A&P Association in March this year. This purchase has increased the total Council reserve size to 126 ha. The planning process for the site is underway with many ideas and applications being received from the public.

While other applications are being held over until this years show and planning workshops, RDA's lease application is being promoted as an exception. They compliment both the A&P Show function with a large clear span building suitable for a range of displays and exhibits and have two commercial bloodstock company's interested in utilising the building for their sales. In addition the association of horse riding with the new park is considered to be a sound objective complimenting the existing outdoor arena, stables and cross country course.

Developing the A & P area for multi-use equestrian activities would give the sports Dressage, Show Jumping and Pony Clubs etc a home in the city similar to other sports such as soccer and rugby etc.

People with disabilities would not only be able partake in an excellent therapy program but be able to share an outdoor park by being taken through the park on horse back.

Riding for the Disabled (RDA) is an association of volunteers who fund, provide facilities and organise therapeutic riding programs for people of all ages with a wide range of physical, intellectual and mental disabilities.

In 1997 the Christchurch Group of RDA identified a need to expand its facilities, which could not be done at its present site. A Lotto funded feasibility study quantified the demand for therapeutic riding in Christchurch and identified the criteria for relocation and expansion of its facilities. Since 1997 the committee has looked at several relocation options but the option that best satisfies the criteria is at Canterbury Park.

The Board **decided** to support, in principle, that the Christchurch Riding for the Disabled application to lease approximately 4000m<sup>2</sup> adjacent to the Issac Arena in Canterbury Park be approved in principle subject to a resource consent being granted.