

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Horse training project on track

New training facilities for horses are taking shape at Mount Barker's Frost Park.

Stables for eight horses have been built on vacant land next to the town's sporting hub and a 1300m training track is next.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$100,000 through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme supported the Mount Barker Turf Club's \$576,000 project.

Club vice president Lyn Heppel said the stables and track would enable local horse trainers to continue their training programs during the football season, when the running rail is removed from the Frost Park race track.

"Mount Barker doesn't have year-round training facilities," Ms Heppel said.

"Providing the new stables and the training track will fill this gap, and we hope to attract trainers to relocate to this region.

"Trainers from the Mid West and Goldfields could use the facilities to continue training their horses during their off-seasons," Ms Heppel said.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said that attracting trainers from other regions would boost Mount Barker businesses serving the racing industry.

"Local trainers will be able to use the facilities, supporting the existing thoroughbred racing industry in the region," Mr Manning said.

"Opening the facilities to trainers from other regions has the potential to build economic activity in Mount Barker."



Plantagenet Sheds and Steel director Shaun Dayman prepares to fit the tack room door at the new stables.

As part of the project, irrigation will be installed using water from a dam inside the training circuit to damp down the sand track during training sessions.

Ms Heppel said the existing stables at Frost Park were often full on race days and the new stables would be used for overflow accommodation.

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