

**Daniel Walsh**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 February 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** Mayor; John Wilson; Martin Ballangarry; John Ainsworth; Brian Finlayson; Susan Jenvey; David Jones; Janine Reed; Anne Smyth  
**Cc:** Michael Coulter  
**Subject:** Guidelines for minimum standards for keeping horses in urban areas: Factsheet 16

Dear Councillors

I called you earlier today to discuss a proposal to tether a quiet horse on overgrown blocks within the Nambucca township. I refer your attention to Section 4 of the attached Department of Primary Industry guidelines that deal with tethering in urban areas.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/general/welfare-of-horses/awfact16>

I am an experienced horse handler and tethered many horses during my early years in Goulburn. I am a Nambucca Shire Council ratepayer and live in the centre of Nambucca Heads (directly behind Centrelink) so I'm easily accessible to the areas on which I would like to place 'Troy' during the day. (You may be familiar with the private taxi service I operate locally under the name *Companion Driver* or know me personally as a (very tall!) former employee of the RSL.)

Tethering is an age-old practice supported by common law but technically against the policy of the Nambucca Shire Council. As we know, policy is not always set in stone. I seek your consideration to permit me to tether Troy in Nambucca on a one-month trial basis. I will of course maintain the highest standards of checking on my horse twice daily for feed rotation, water, general welfare and liaison with nearby residents. I have already obtained approval from nearby residents to hold him in a grassed fenced enclosure beside the Nambucca Vet Surgery at night and will clean up after him on a daily basis. I will also have Troy insured for public liability in the unlikely event someone approached him or interfered with his tethering equipment.

I realise permission must be obtained from landowners - especially those that have failed to maintain their mowing responsibilities - but I would also like council to consider letting me tether on council land. Of course the benefits to council are less mowing, less fire risk and to deter snakes coming close to homes. With optimal growing conditions, it seems a shame to see all that green grass and fire fuel going to waste.

I look forward to knowing your views on this proposal - either way - before raising it publicly at the next council meeting.

Regards, Gina Bennett



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