Summary of Business

Excerpts from the Minutes of the EWA Board of Directors meeting
held at 6.30pm on 15 September 2026

ATTENDANCE: A Wilkins (Chair), R Hovell (Vice-Chair), R O'Halloran (Finance Director), PA Huntington, K Kent, M Dagostino, K Freeman

IN ATTENDANCE: Sophie Parkes (Acting CEO)

APOLOGIES: J Moffitt

Disclosure of Interest

Anne Wilkins 2024-2026	Moora & Districts Horsemans Assoc – President Member, Swan River Dressage Club
Rory Hovell 2024-2026	Showjumping Competitor CEO & Manager Yalambi Farm Stud (Breeder) Yalambi Jumping Classic Show Organiser Equestrian Coach
Rosalyn O'Halloran (Finance Director) appointed 2025	Child is a member of Swan Valley Pony Club
PollyAnn Huntington 2025-2027	WAYER Organising Committee (OC), FEI Official, EAJOC Committee Member
Kelly Kent 2025-2027	Wallangarra Adult Riders – Committee Member/Communications Australian Friesian Warmblood Horse Society – Deputy Chair Event Director OC, EWA Para Dressage Showcase 2026
Michael Dagostino 2026-2028	Director of Perth Racing Director of Harvey Water Equestrian Competitor
Kaisa Freeman – 2026	Nil
Jodi Moffitt – 2026	Eastern Hills Pony Club – Secretary Daughter – riding member of Eastern Hills Pony Club & EWA competitor
Sophie Parkes 2026	Previous Chair of Jumping WA, Equestrian Competitor, Equestrian Coach, Manager of Yarrada Farm Riding School

1. **FINANCE REPORT**

The Finance Director presented an updated forecast to the end of the financial year. The Board noted that the forecast position has improved on earlier in the year, assisted by the savings achieved through the insurance market review and by reduced expenditure across the organisation. Work continues towards returning the organisation to a break-even position.

2. **EQUESTRIAN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

2.1 Chief Executive Officer

The Board noted that this was the final Board meeting for the Acting CEO, Sophie Parkes, and recorded its thanks for her work during the interim period. The incoming Chief Executive Officer, Zac Acott, commences on Monday 5 October 2026, with a full handover day scheduled.

2.2 Annual Elections

Nominations for the Board and for Sport Committees close on 30 September 2026. Elected vacancies are: Board 2, Dressage 2, Eventing 5, Show Horse 6, Jumping 3, Para-Equestrian 6 and Coaching 3. Members are encouraged to consider nominating. Voting arrangements will be confirmed following the close of nominations.

2.3 Medical Incident Review

The Board discussed medical coverage at events and the value of independent review where a concern is raised.

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that medical incidents, and queries regarding compliance with medical coverage requirements, be referred to Kerrie Robbins for independent review.

2.4 Grants

The Board discussed opportunities across Interschool, inclusion, regional and health promotion funding, and agreed that a grants strategy should be settled before further resourcing is committed.

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a grants strategy and discussion paper be prepared for consideration at the next Board meeting, addressing available grants, priorities, scope and budget.

3. STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

3.1 C Quest Arena

The Board received a detailed report on the two tenders received for the C Quest arena and warm-up area. Following consideration, the Board resolved to continue discussions with the preferred tenderer, subject to finalising and agreeing the terms, the timeline, any adjustments and the contract. No contract will be entered into ahead of confirmation of funding. Timing is being planned around the quieter months at the Centre, with the objective of completion ahead of the 2027 competition season.

3.2 International Dressage Arena

Works to the international dressage arena are complete. The arena performed well at the event held over the preceding weekend and competitor feedback was positive.

3.3 Facilities

- SEC Lease – the lease has been renewed for a further twelve months.
- Cool Room – works are complete and the unit is operating.
- Inclusion Infrastructure – the application covering replacement of the lift, a mobile ablution block including an accessible toilet, and CCTV remains under assessment.
- Cross Country Course – the Board discussed the condition of the course and the arrangements applying to the jumps and will consider a paper setting out the options.

3.4 Events

The Board approved arrangements for a rodeo to be held at the State Equestrian Centre on Saturday 5 December 2026, run by an external promoter. Further details will be released closer to the date.

4. MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

- Interschool – selection criteria were published for the Interschool National Coach position, three applications were received and Karen Spice was appointed on merit, having regard to her ability to coach across disciplines.
- JEDS and EWA Squads – the Board reviewed the programme and agreed that selection criteria, a revised budget and a revised clinic schedule be prepared for approval, with input from experienced coaches.
- Christmas & New Year – the office will not close over the Christmas and New Year period. A staffing roster has been agreed so that members can continue to be assisted with memberships and bookings.

The next ordinary meeting of the Board will be held in October 2026.