***[Set out the name and address of your MP in the top left-hand corner of the page. As a general rule, MPs should be addressed ‘Mr/Mrs/Dr/Ms, first name initial, last name, MP’. For example:***

***Ms B.* Vallence *MP***

***Member for Evelyn***

***143 Main St***

***Lilydale***

***VIC 3140***

***Politicians who have been or are government ministers will have the title “The Honourable” prefixing their name. For example, Hon A. N. Albanese MP.***

***Start your letter as follows: ‘Dear Sir/Madam’ or ‘Dear Mr/Mrs/Dr/Ms Last Name’. For example:***

***Dear Ms.* Vallence*,***

***DELETE INSTRUCTONS IN [BRACKETS] BEFORE SENDING ]***

Dear **[INSERT TITLE AND NAME,]**

I am writing to you to show my support for the Yarra Valley Equestrian Park Project. I am an active member of the Yarra Valleys’ horse community and I believe this Park would be a huge asset to the Equestrian Community in the East of Melbourne while also fitting in with the below local government strategies

* **OPEN SPACE**: Yarra Ranges Council Plan 2013-2017 identifies actions that the council will undertake to implement actions from the Recreation and Open Space Strategy including reviews of specific facilities like equestrian facilities.
* **WOMEN IN SPORT:** The Yarra Ranges Council supports gender equity and is committed to facilitating a gender equitable workplace and community by redressing gender inequality. Their Gender Equity Plan identifies that “Women and girls have equitable access and decision-making opportunities in relation to council facilities, civic participation and services.” Existing sports funding enhances existing inequality with the majority of funding going towards male dominated sports. Equestrian sports are one of the few female dominated sports.
* **YARRA VALLEY TRAIL** **&** **GREEN WEDGE**: The Green wedge management plan protects the beautiful natural environment of the Yarra Valley by outlining how it is protected from inappropriate development. The development of an equestrian centre is consistent with the aims and intent of the Green Wedge Management Plan.
* **TOURISM & EMPLOYMENT**: Yarra Ranges Council Economic Development Strategy 2012/2022 identifies both the targeted development of land aimed at ensuring business growth and improvements to soft and hard infrastructure, and attracting new investment, development and business opportunities to the region.
* **HEALTH for ALL AGES:** The Recreation and Open Space Strategy (2013-2023) identifies a blueprint for creating healthy and active environments and services including measures to support the development of clubs and participation initiatives in the Yarra Ranges. It identifies that there is a demand for equestrian facilities stating “Equestrian sports should be catered for” at a regional level. Health policy alignments identify that the council will “Work in partnership with community organisations to increase the number of quality sport and active recreation opportunities.”
* **YOUTH**: The Yarra Valley Equestrian Park will help to create a liveable community by increasing youth participation, improving community health outcomes, reducing youth at risk, increasing physical activity and reducing isolation of older people

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to you support and involvement with the Yarra Valley Equestrian Park Project.

Sincerely,

**[YOUR NAME]**

**[YOUR ADDRESS]**