

## Hundreds of horses found slaughtered near Wagga Wagga NSW

Wagga Wagga City Council has led a joint government investigation into the slaughtering of hundreds of horses at a property near Wagga Wagga in NSW.

Council was supported by NSW Police in investigating reports that horses had been butchered at the property and their carcasses left in a dry creek bed.

The information led to Council entering the property supported by members of NSW Police, the NSW Food Authority, Local Land Services, the Department of Primary Industries and Racing NSW.

Initially the focus of the investigation was to confirm whether the carcasses had been left in the dry creek bed and possible offences under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act.

Once the inspection of the property commenced it became clear that the slaughtering of horses had been occurring for a long period of time.

Numerous separate dumps of carcasses were discovered at locations throughout the property.

It is estimated that there are in excess of 500 horse carcasses. Some of these carcasses were no more than skeletal remains while others were killed relatively recently.

Once the extent of the operation had been identified NSW Police and other State Government agencies began collecting evidence for possible offences and regulatory actions under a range of NSW State Government legislation.

The matter remains a current investigation. No further comment will be made at this time.

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## About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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