

Club fears being forced to move

FOR more than 25 years, the Horsemen's Pony Club has called Whiteman Park its home, but the club fears this could all be in jeopardy after the board of Whiteman Park refused to extend its lease beyond 2012.

Club president Tim Wright said the club was told that it conflicted with the priority one catchment protection report that classifies them as an equestrian centre, which Mr White says is "not fitting", as horses are not kept on the property.

On behalf of the WA Planning Commission, the board advised Mr Wright of an opportunity for the club to relocate within Whiteman Park, where there would be no impact on groundwater.

The WAPC said State Planning Policy 2.2 Gngangara Groundwater Protection regulated against detrimental effects to the groundwater resources and states that high-risk land-use activities should not occur in these areas.

Mr Wright said he had been liaising with Member for Swan Hills Frank Alban, who assured him that Premier Colin Barnett would be looking after the issue.



Horsemen's Pony Club president Tim Wright.

Picture: Matthew Poon

"If they kick us off then surely nobody else is going to get in there because it is under priority one," he said.

"If anything, we're the best custodians for

that land. We have no plans to develop or change the site."

He said it would cost the club at least \$1.2 million to move to a different site.

Advocate
20/5/09 ps

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