

CLIENT: RSPCA | LOCATION: Rural Australia

THE BRIEF:

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Queensland (RSPCA Qld) is the state's leading animal welfare charity and is dedicated to improving the lives of all domestic, farmed and native animals throughout the state.

At its Queensland headquarters in the outer Brisbane suburb of Wacol exists a horse paddock that suffers from very poor drainage. Whenever it rained, the ground would become boggy and the majority of the sand base would wash away, exposing the drainage.

The paddock had been in this state of disrepair for a number of years, but until recently it was rarely used. In recent times there have been a larger than usual number of horses seized by, or surrendered to the RSPCA. This is due to horse owners not being able to afford to buy hay at ever-escalating prices as a result of the extensive drought in Queensland. As such, there was a pressing need to upgrade the horse yard at RSPCA's Queensland headquarters.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:

As a charity, the RSPCA needed a cost-effective solution to the drainage problem. It was important that the surface stabilisation solution they chose would work for horses and other livestock, particularly because the animals are often in poor condition when they arrive at the RSPCA facility. Prior to installing the GEOHEX Erosion Control System, the RSPCA employed contractors to clean the horse yard approximately every three or four weeks to keep the environment healthy for the sick animals.



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THE SOLUTION:

RSPCA's Head Vet saw the GEOHEX Erosion Control System in another equine facility and recommended it be used to upgrade the RSPCA Wacol facility. RSPCA Facilities and Maintenance Manager David Jack made contact with GEOHEX to discuss how the GEOHEX Erosion Control System could solve the RSPCA's problem.

GEOHEX and its contractor worked together to install the system in the horse yard as well as in four bays in front of the stables. A total of 680 square metres of GEOHEX was installed. The GEOHEX system was installed and then filled with crusher dust – a blue metal aggregate which provides a smooth, stable surface.

The GEOHEX Erosion Control System has been designed with a 99.7 per cent non-porous surface that has been engineered to allow rainwater to slowly run off into soil and then into the water table beneath, rather than having it run off into drainage. This minimises drainage issues and also supports the environment by contributing to water conservation.

"For us it's pointless taking neglected animals off other people and not looking after them in the best way possible," explains the RSPCA's David Jack. "This new surface makes that achievable. Since [GEOHEX] was installed we've had plenty of rain and there's been no flooding or bogginess. The animals are happy and we're really thrilled."

WHY GEOHEX:

GEOHEX's permeable paving system is the ideal solution for stables and arenas where drainage often becomes a problem. GEOHEX is a self-draining paving system that reduces ongoing bedding costs, makes it ideal for a wide range of equine applications and facilities.

Made from high impact resistant, 100 per cent recycled – and 100 per cent recyclable – co-polymer polypropylene as plastic matting and paving, the GEOHEX Erosion Control System is Australian-made, environmentally friendly, and designed to reduce maintenance and logistics costs; while at the same time increasing safety and water conservation.



"The people from GEOHEX couldn't have been more helpful," Jack added. "The installer had to work around the horses and was very adaptable."

THE RESULT:

A very happy client with a facility that keeps animals safe and content as they return to full health. As a result of the positive relationship it has established with GEOHEX, RSPCA Queensland is now considering upgrading another of its paddocks with GEOHEX once it secures funding.

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Installing Geohex™ ▼



After Geohex™ ▼

