



## MEDIA STATEMENT | 16 April 2024

### Statement regarding loss of horse, Isabella:

The City of Victor Harbor and Victor Harbor Horse Drawn Tram are devastated to announce the passing of much-loved horse, Isabella.

On the morning of Monday, 15 April 2024 Isabella was sadly euthanised following complications associated with Ross River Virus.

Ross River Virus is a mosquito-borne illness that is common in many regions across Australia. It can cause similar symptoms in horses as it does humans.

Isabella had tested positive for the virus several weeks ago, initially experiencing a high temperature. Over time, she also suffered loss of appetite and neurological decline.

In line with advice from vets as symptoms worsened, Isabella was transported to Mt Torrens where she was able to receive specialised, intensive veterinary care for the past three weeks.

Unfortunately, a continuing decline in her health and the discovery of colic lead to the difficult veterinary decision to euthanise Isabella and put an end to her pain.

Seven other horses have tested positive to Ross River Virus since November 2023, however all are improving in condition and expected to make a full recovery. While recovering from the virus, these horses have not been operating the Horse Tram.

### Horse Tram Operations

While the Horse Tram Team processes the loss of Isabella and works to rebuild muscle strength and fitness for other horses who have tested positive to Ross River Virus, the Horse Tram will be operating on a reduced timetable.

Visitors should check the Victor Harbor Horse Drawn Tram Facebook page at [facebook.com/VictorHarborHorseDrawnTram](https://facebook.com/VictorHarborHorseDrawnTram) for regular updates on operating times.

### About Isabella

Isabella (or Izzy) was often referred to as the 'Queen of the Horse Tram'. She was a kind, brave and gentle soul, and was easily recognisable by her dark, long, platted forelock.

When pulling the Horse Tram, she exuded an impressive energy which many could only describe as her 'strutting her stuff'. Isabella loved to be pampered and enjoyed soaking up attention from visitors.

Her passing is being felt greatly by the Horse Tram Team, as well as the wider community.