



Hon Kate Jones MP

Member for Ashgrove

Ref: CTS 15543/10



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Climate Change
and Sustainability**

30 SEP 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 1 September 2010 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1515-10 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the House support healthy lifestyles where Australians can maintain connections to the culture and freedom of this country. The Petition therefore requests the continuation of the existing public access trails, such as horse riding trails, in state forests in the event these state forests are transferred into national parks.

Arrangements for the progressive transfer of state forests to protected areas on the Atherton Tableland are currently being considered. An important part of this process will be a serious examination of all commercial and recreational activities in this region. Where appropriate, the Government will continue to allow these activities after the conversion of state forests to other tenures.

For example, during the South East Queensland Forest Agreement process, significant horse trails along formed management roads were identified and gazetted as forest reserves where horse riding can continue.

In relation to horse riding on the Atherton Tableland, the Department of Environment and Resource Management has established a local working group to determine which management roads have historically been used for horse riding. This working group includes representation from horse riding organisations. The group has met and it is anticipated that it will provide advice on tracks used by horse riders this year.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Robert Hughes, Assistant Director, Marine and Terrestrial Policy of the department on telephone 07 3330 5985.

Yours sincerely

Kate Jones MP
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

Level 13
400 George Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3239 0844
Facsimile +61 7 3227 6309
Email sustainability@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.derm.qld.gov.au