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8 December 2004

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 21 October 2004 forwarding a copy of a petition received by the House on 20 October 2004 concerning horse riding in South East Queensland.

I recently announced increased protection for 195 000 hectares of former forestry land.

Our State has some of the most bio-diverse forests in Australia yet the nation's lowest level of forest protection. Our booming economy and population growth is placing ever greater pressures on our natural assets – pressures for development, recreation and protection.

The Government is determined to address these pressures in a balanced way. It has recently announced a number of initiatives, including the SEQ Regional Plan, with objectives to better sustain economic growth, our Queensland lifestyle and our world-class environment.

Ongoing implementation of the 1999 SEQ Forests Agreement (SEQFA) is entirely consistent with these objectives. After significant consultation with all stakeholders, it is providing:

- transition for the timber industry with 'one last cut' over the next 20 years from old-growth forest areas while alternative supplies from plantations are developed;
- provision of opportunities for recreational activities, including horse-riding; and
- greater protection of forest species and the forest-based tourism industry.

Recreational opportunity has been provided for a wide range of uses, including horse-riding, walking, hiking, cycling, trail-biking, four-wheel driving, orienteering and abseiling.

The Beattie Government recognises the recreational, cultural and economic value of horse riding and has provided more than \$8,544,719 to support recreational horse riding across the state, including \$5,939,388 for purpose built facilities for a range of riding disciplines.

The Beattie Government's support is also more than financial. It has consulted on and incorporated rider input into the recent SEQFA announcement, including retention of riding areas in 62 state forests, creation of a special land tenure in 16 *National Park (Recovery)* areas and conversion of 17 state forests to Conservation Park tenure which allow riding in perpetuity. These elements were a result of positive negotiation and consultation with riders.

Consequently, riding continues unaffected in large areas of SEQ which remain state forest, including Gilbert, Esk, Wivenhoe, Wamuran, Kilcoy, Woodford, Glass House, Beerwah, Kenilworth, Jimna, Yabba, Imbil, Elgin, Tewantin, Gympie and many others. As areas cease logging over the next 20 years their final tenure will be decided, but no decision will be made without rider consultation. A list of areas is attached for your information.

Riding will also continue on existing and new areas tenured as Conservation Park. These areas include Nerang, Daisy Hill, Bunyaville, Samford, Clear Mountain, Brisbane Forest Park, Beerburrum, Woodford, Peachester, Landsborough, Parklands, Tuchekoi, Cherbourg, Gympie, Rosedale and Calliope. A list of areas is attached for your information.

It is recognised new national parks are not available to horse riders. However national parks represent approximately only 4% of Queensland. New SEQFA National Parks are the third most bio-diverse forests in Australia and deserve the highest possible protection. National park status provides this protection. For decades neither horses nor other non-native animals have been specifically allowed in national parks, a position maintained by Governments of all political persuasions.

Our forebears established this policy and good reasons remain for it to continue. There is evidence the abundance of many forest species is in decline – in fact so many SEQ forest species are in decline they are a third of the state's listed rare, vulnerable or endangered species. While threats faced by these animals are imperfectly understood, this is insufficient reason to delay or weaken protection.

Rather, it's imperative we strengthen protection and restore natural conditions to the extent practicable. Consequently, the Beattie Government has stepped up park ranger numbers by 142 or 30% to better manage park, fire and pest risks. We will also spend around \$10 million on fire and pest management in 2004-05, including an extra \$6m over 3 years to fulfil the *2004 Enhanced Pest and Fire Management* election commitment.

The challenge is to balance the importance of riding with the importance of ecological protection. Consequently the Beattie Government has announced a new partnership with riding representatives to identify alternative riding trails as soon as possible, preferably within 12 months. It also has allocated \$650,000 to establish alternative off-reserve trail rides.

While riders and Government work together to identify new trails, transitional arrangements have been developed to allow riding in a number of areas for up to nine years under *National Park (Recovery)* tenure. These areas include Austinville, Springbrook, Nerang, Tamborine, Brisbane Forest Park, Mount Mee, Lockyer, White Mountain, Woodford, Landsborough, Bellthorpe, Conondale, Mapleton, North Arm, Tewantin, Kin Kin, Traveston, Wrattens and Dawes.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Environment
Minister for Local Government and Planning
Minister for Women

Attachment 1

State Forest and Timber Reserve areas in SEQ Bioregion where horse riding is currently allowed.

Estate Name	Estate Type	Gazetted Area (ha)	Estate Name	Estate Type	Gazetted Area (ha)
Amamoor State Forest	SF	7010	Kabunga State Forest	SF	331
Bauple State Forest	SF	9500	King State Forest	SF	74
Beerburrum East State Forest	SF	12862	Lilydale State Forest	SF	32
Beerburrum West State Forest	SF	9126	Lockyer State Forest	SF	202
Beerwah State Forest	SF	5547	Luttons State Forest	SF	313
Bellthorpe State Forest	SF	492	Lynchs Hill State Forest	SF	117
Brooyar State Forest 1	SF	3330	Marys Creek State Forest	SF	5193
Brooyar State Forest 2	SF	242	Mount Mee State Forest	SF	912
Canungra State Forest	SF	0.22	Mount Stanley State Forest 1	SF	4350
Cinnabar State Forest	SF	388	Neerdie State Forest 1	SF	239
Conondale State Forest	SF	30	Oakview State Forest	SF	1156
Crohamburst State Forest	SF	64	Palen State Forest 1	SF	460
Curra State Forest	SF	4827	Palen State Forest 2	SF	97
D'Aguilar State Forest	SF	1530	Parklands State Forest	SF	54
Deer Reserve State Forest	SF	2894	Peachester State Forest	SF	734
Delaneys Creek State Forest	SF	287	Pechey State Forest	SF	1206
Deongwar State Forest	SF	4730	Ringtail State Forest	SF	1730
Diaper State Forest	SF	2193	Schact Creek State Forest	SF	2.75
Elgin Vale State Forest	SF	11707	Squirrel Creek State Forest	SF	6689
Esk State Forest	SF	944	Sunday Creek State Forest	SF	305
Eumundi State Forest 2	SF	4	Toolara State Forest	SF	41590
Fishermans Pocket State Forest	SF	560	Traveston State Forest	SF	85
Gallangowan State Forest	SF	4980	Upper Kandanga State Forest	SF	90
Gambubal State Forest	SF	538	Walli State Forest	SF	405
Geham State Forest	SF	364	Wappa State Forest	SF	50
Glastonbury State Forest	SF	2090	West Cooroy State Forest	SF	1150
Gympie State Forest	SF	12	Wickham Timber Reserve	TR	198
Imbil State Forest 1	SF	16665	Woondum State Forest	SF	452
Imbil State Forest 2	SF	3824	Wrattens State Forest	SF	1051
Jimmys Scrub State Forest	SF	890	Yabba State Forest	SF	15996
Jimna State Forest	SF	10356	Yurol State Forest	SF	1759
				EPA	
			Glen Rock Regional Park	Freehold	6300
Total hectares					221782

ATTACHMENT 2

SEQFA future protected area tenures for all planning areas

Planning Group	Forest Reserve	Future protected area tenure
BANIA	Bania Forest Reserve ^Ψ	National park/national park (recovery)
BANIA	Mount Perry Forest Reserve	Resources reserve
BANIA	Nour Nour Forest Reserve ^Ψ	National park/national park (recovery)
BANIA	Wonbah Forest Reserve	National park/resources reserve
BEERBURRUM	Beerburrum Forest Reserve 1*	National park/conservation park
BEERBURRUM	Beerburrum Forest Reserve 2	National park
BEERBURRUM	Beerwah Forest Reserve	National park/forest reserve
BEERBURRUM	Crohamhurst Forest Reserve*	Conservation park
BEERBURRUM	Maleny Forest Reserve 1	National park
BELLTHORPE	Bellthorpe Forest Reserve 1	National park
BELLTHORPE	Bellthorpe Forest Reserve 2 ^{Ψ*}	National park/national park (recovery)/conservation park
BLACKWATER FORESTS	Blackdown Tableland Forest Reserve	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Bulburin Forest Reserve	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Calliope Forest Reserve*	Conservation park
BOYNE VALLEY	Dan Dan Forest Reserve	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Dawes Forest Reserve 1 ^Ψ	National park (recovery)
BOYNE VALLEY	Dawes Forest Reserve 2	National park/resources reserve
BOYNE VALLEY	Degalgil Forest Reserve	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Kroombit Tops Forest Reserve	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Maxwelton Forest Reserve	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Polmaily Forest Reserve 1	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Polmaily Forest Reserve 2	National park
BOYNE VALLEY	Wietalaba Forest Reserve ^Ψ	National park (recovery)
BUNYA	Cooyar Forest Reserve	National park
BUNYA	Neumgna Forest Reserve ^Ψ	National park/national park (recovery)
BURNETT	Bingera Forest Reserve	National park
BURNETT	Cordalba Forest Reserve	National park
BURNETT	Littabella Forest Reserve*	National park/conservation park
BURNETT	Warro Forest Reserve	National park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Bunyaville Forest Reserve*	Conservation park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Clear Mountain Forest Reserve 1*	Conservation park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Clear Mountain Forest Reserve 2*	Conservation park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Daguiilar Forest Reserve ^{Ψ*}	National park/national park (recovery)/conservation park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Deer Reserve Forest Reserve	National park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Enoggera Forest Reserve ^{Ψ*}	National park/national park (recovery)/conservation park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Moggill Forest Reserve ^Ψ	National park (recovery)
DAGUILAR RANGE	Mount Glorious Forest Reserve ^Ψ	National park/national park

		(recovery)/conservation park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Mount Mee Forest Reserve	National park/national park (recovery)
DAGUILAR RANGE	Samford Forest Reserve*	Conservation park
DAGUILAR RANGE	Samsonvale Forest Reserve	National park
DAISY HILL/WICKHAM	Canungra Forest Reserve	Conservation park
DAISY HILL/WICKHAM	Daisy Hill Forest Reserve*	Conservation park
		National park/national park (recovery)
DAISY HILL/WICKHAM	Tamborine Forest ReserveΨ	National park/national park (recovery)
DAISY HILL/WICKHAM	Wickham Forest ReserveΨ	National park/conservation park
DULARCHA	Dularcha National Park*	National park/national park (recovery)
DULARCHA	Mooloolah Forest ReserveΨ	National park
EURIMBULA	Eurimbula Forest Reserve 1	National park
EURIMBULA	Eurimbula Forest Reserve 2	National park
EURIMBULA	Eurimbula Forest Reserve 3	National park
GYMPIE	Amamoor Forest Reserve	National park
GYMPIE	Glastonbury Forest Reserve	National park/forest reserve
		National park/national park (recovery)
GYMPIE	Goomboorian Forest ReserveΨ	National park
GYMPIE	Gympie Forest Reserve	Conservation park
GYMPIE	King Forest Reserve*	National park
GYMPIE	Toolara Forest Reserve	Conservation park
		National park/resources reserve
GYMPIE	Womalah Forest Reserve	National park
GYMPIE	Woondum Forest Reserve 2	National park
HELIDON HILLS	Esk Forest Reserve	National park
HELIDON HILLS	Gatton Forest Reserve	National park
HELIDON HILLS	Geham Forest Reserve	National park
HELIDON HILLS	Hampton Forest Reserve	National park
		National park/national park (recovery)/resources reserve
HELIDON HILLS	Lockyer Forest ReserveΨ	National park
HELIDON HILLS	Perseverance Creek Forest Reserve	National park
HELIDON HILLS	Ravensbourne Forest Reserve	National park
		National park/national park (recovery)
HELIDON HILLS	White Mountain Forest Reserve	National park/national park (recovery)
KENILWORTH	Conondale Forest Reserve 1Ψ	National park/national park (recovery)
		National park/national park (recovery)
KENILWORTH	Conondale Forest Reserve 2Ψ	National park
KENILWORTH	Elgin Forest Reserve	National park
KENILWORTH	Imbil Forest Reserve 1	National park
KENILWORTH	Imbil Forest Reserve 2	National park
KENILWORTH	Jimna Forest Reserve	National park
		National park/national park (recovery)
KENILWORTH	Kenilworth Forest ReserveΨ	National park
KENILWORTH	Yabba Forest Reserve 1	National park
KENILWORTH	Yabba Forest Reserve 2	National park
MAIN RANGE	Alford Forest Reserve	National park
MAIN RANGE	Burnett Creek Forest Reserve	National park
MAIN RANGE	Emu Vale Forest Reserve	National park
MAIN RANGE	Gambubal Forest Reserve	National park

MAIN RANGE	Gilbert Forest Reserve	National park
MAIN RANGE	Goomburra Forest Reserve	National park
MAIN RANGE	Mount Mathieson Forest Reserve	National park
MAIN RANGE	Palen Forest Reserve 1	National park
MAIN RANGE	Palen Forest Reserve 2	National park
MAIN RANGE	Palen Forest Reserve 3	National park
MAIN RANGE	Spicers Gap Forest Reserve	National park
MAIN RANGE	Teviot Forest Reserve	National park
MAPLETON	Maleny Forest Reserve 2	National park
MAPLETON	Maleny Forest Reserve 3	National park
MAPLETON	Mapleton Forest Reserve Ψ	National park/national park (recovery)
MAPLETON	Maroochy Forest Reserve 1	National park
MAPLETON	Maroochy Forest Reserve 2	National park
MAPLETON	Maroochy Forest Reserve 3	National park
MAPLETON	Parklands Forest Reserve*	Conservation park/resources reserve
MAPLETON	Walli Forest Reserve	National park
MARODIAN	Boompa Forest Reserve 3	National park
MARODIAN	Gigoomgan Forest Reserve	National park
MARODIAN	Glenbar Forest Reserve	National park
MARODIAN	Grongah Forest Reserve	National park
MARODIAN	Kilkivan Forest Reserve	National park
MARODIAN	Marodian Forest Reserve	National park
MARODIAN	Miva Forest Reserve	National park
MARODIAN	Teebar Forest Reserve 1	National park
MARODIAN	Teebar Forest Reserve 2	National park
MT WALSH	Boompa Forest Reserve 1	National park
MT WALSH	Boompa Forest Reserve 2	National park
MT WALSH	Woowoonga Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Ban Ban Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Benarkin Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Beninbi Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Cherbourg Forest Reserve*	National park/conservation park
MURGON/TARONG	Mount Binga Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Nangur Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Pidna Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Woroon Forest Reserve	National park
MURGON/TARONG	Yarraman Forest Reserve	National park
NOOSA	Noosa Forest Reserve	National park
NOOSA	Tewantin Forest Reserve 1	National park/national park (recovery)
NOOSA	Tewantin Forest Reserve 3	National park
NOOSA	Tuchekoi Forest Reserve*	National park/conservation park/resources reserve
NOOSA	Woondum Forest Reserve 1 Ψ	National park/national park (recovery)/resources reserve
NOOSA	Woondum Forest Reserve 3*	Conservation park
NUMINBAH/NERANG	Austinville Forest Reserve 1	National park
NUMINBAH/NERANG	Austinville Forest Reserve 2 Ψ	National park (recovery)
NUMINBAH/NERANG	Austinville Forest Reserve 3	National park
NUMINBAH/NERANG	Clagiraba Forest Reserve	National park

NUMINBAH/NERANG	Nerang Forest Reserve*	National park/conservation park
NUMINBAH/NERANG	Numinbah Forest Reserve Ψ	National park/national park (recovery)
NUMINBAH/NERANG	Springbrook Forest Reserve	National park
WONGI	Wongi Forest Reserve	National park/forest reserve
WONGI	Woocoo Forest Reserve	National park
WRATTENS	Kandanga Forest Reserve	National park
WRATTENS	Oakview Forest Reserve	Resources reserve
WRATTENS	Wrattens Forest Reserve	National park/resources reserve

* Horse riding continues on conservation park.

Ψ Horse riding continues for 9 years on national park (recovery).