

Our Ref: BNE11116-12
BNE2005/3281
E/05/00981
Your Ref: 435-05

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 24 February 2005 forwarding a copy of a petition received by the House on 24 February 2005 regarding horse riding in south-east Queensland.

The Queensland Government remains committed to meeting the needs of both the horse riding community and conservation groups.

A Government Steering Committee has been established to help identify secure horse riding trails in areas other than national park. The Committee, which is chaired by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, has appointed a consultant to facilitate this project.

The consultant and I have already met with representatives from the horse riding community in the Noosa area to discuss the identification of alternative trails.

On 18 February 2005, staff from my office met with representatives from interested horse riding groups, including the peak endurance horse riding committee. Updates will continue to be provided to this committee. Officers from the Environmental Protection Agency have also been instructed to provide all relevant information collated from the South East Queensland Forests Agreement Community Working Group process to the consultant.

I welcome submissions from interested parties offering alternative solutions to this issue. This may include the provision of horse riding trails on areas such as road reserves, stock routes, powerline easements, other State lands, local government lands and private land.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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