

Our Ref: BNE11116-14  
BNE2005/8030  
E/05/02276  
Your Ref: 471-05

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 13 May 2005 forwarding a copy of a petition received by the House on 12 May 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.

On 10 May 2005, the Beattie Government announced a world-class 236 kilometre horse riding trail network in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, which is an outcome of the first stage of this project. More than 166 kilometres of the Noosa-Tewantin trail is available immediately, a further 20 kilometres of track requires only minor work, with the remaining 47 kilometres to be completed over time. This new trail network will be permanent regardless of tenure and will travel through safe and beautiful surroundings.

Similar networks are being investigated for the Gold Coast hinterland, Mapleton, Bellthorpe and western Brisbane.

Staff from my office will continue to meet with representatives from interested horse riding groups, including the Queensland Endurance Riders Association. Updates will also continue to be provided to these representatives.

.../2

- 2 -

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. Submissions can be addressed to the Environmental Protection Agency, Terrestrial Planning Unit, PO Box 15155, City East QLD 4002.

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**