



Horse riding in Queensland's parks and forests

A strategic framework

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Introduction

The Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (the department), through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), manages approximately seven per cent of Queensland's estate, including:

- 12.5 million hectares of protected areas and State forests (including five world heritage areas)
- 7.2 million hectares of State marine parks.

QPWS recognises that recreational horse riding has long been a part of Queensland's lifestyle and character. Along with other outdoor recreation activities, horse riding is a genuine and popular activity in many natural areas. Further to this, the 2012 QPWS Community Survey conducted by Newspoll revealed that 84 per cent of Queensland park users agreed that horse riding should be allowed on designated trails through national parks.

The Master Plan for Queensland's parks and forests sets the direction for the next decade of the state's park and forest management. The master plan acknowledges that facilitating ecotourism, recreation and heritage experiences within the protected area estate is a core QPWS service area.

To assist in this, legislative amendments have broadened the management principles applying to national parks to provide for educational, recreational and ecotourism opportunities, where these uses are consistent with the natural and cultural values of the park. Horse riding is allowed within a national park when permitted by a regulatory notice under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

This horse riding strategic framework (the framework) outlines principles and management objectives and strategies that will guide the selection and subsequent management of horse trails within national parks, however, they can also be applied to other QPWS-managed areas such as regional parks and State forests. The framework also promotes safe and enjoyable experiences for all park visitors while ensuring the natural and cultural values of the area are protected.

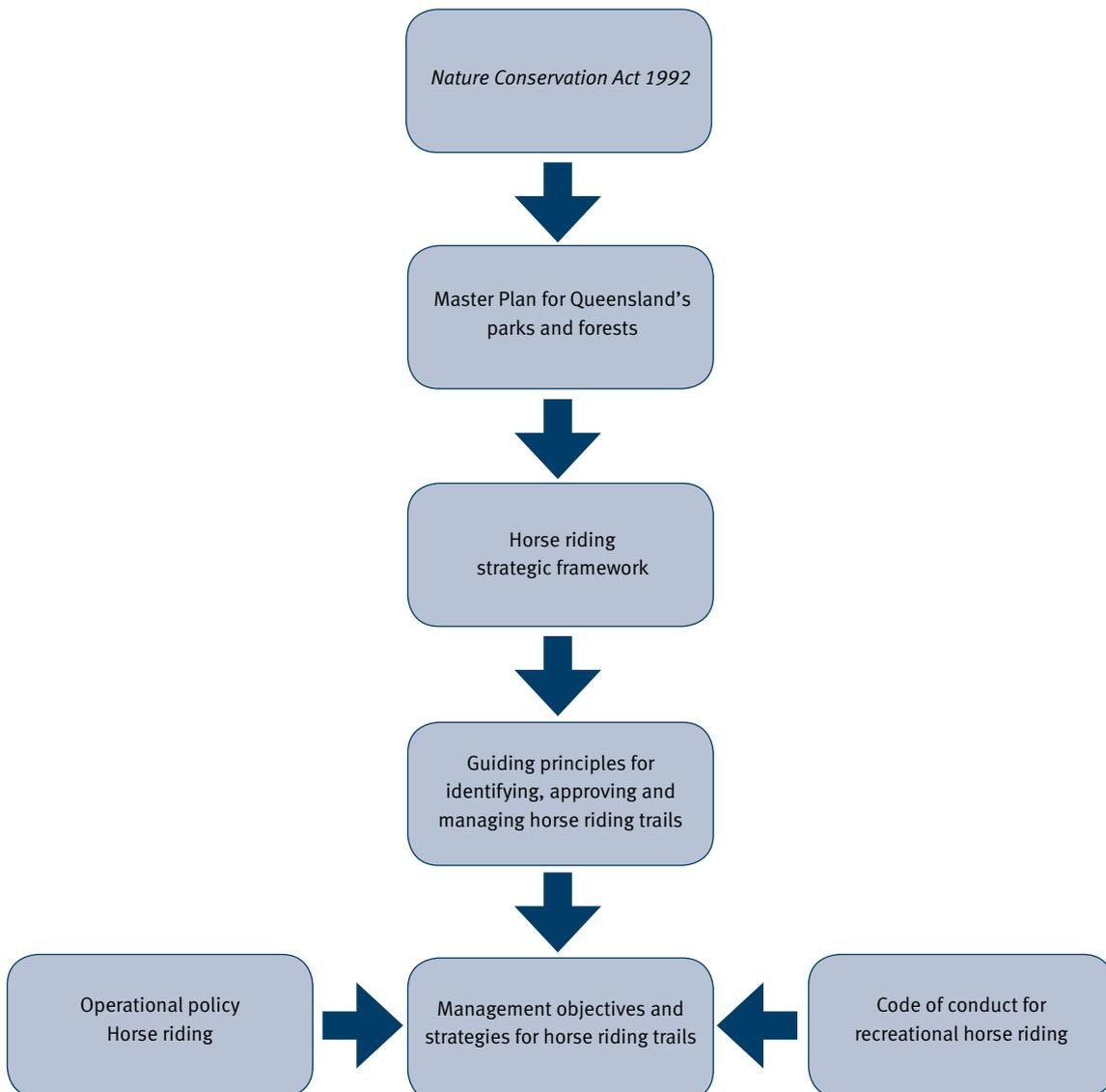


Figure 1 The framework structure

Legislation and scope

The cardinal principal of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* has been retained — that a national park is managed to the greatest possible extent, for the preservation of the area’s natural condition and the protection of its cultural resources and values.

Section 124 of the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006 has been amended to allow horse riding in national parks, if permitted by a regulatory notice under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Amendments have also been made to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to reduce the number of protected area classes to seven. Of particular relevance to horse riding is the ‘grandfathering’ of the forest reserve tenure. This tenure will subsequently be abolished once a review and reclassification of all remaining forest reserves is finalised.

The framework deals primarily with introducing and managing horse riding opportunities within national parks, although it can be applied to other QPWS-managed areas to ensure a consistent management approach to the activity. Horse riding is already allowed in regional parks when permitted by a regulatory notice under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; and in State forests, timber reserves and forest recreation areas when permitted by a regulatory notice under the *Forestry Act 1959*.



Photo: Robert Ashdown, Queensland Government.

Guiding principles for identifying, approving and managing horse riding trails

Six overarching principles assist in identifying and approving horse riding trails and the subsequent management of these trails.

The principles are supported by management objectives and strategies.

Principle 1

Natural and cultural values of national parks are not compromised by horse riding trails

National parks represent the highest level of conservation protection of Queensland's landscapes and biodiversity. Therefore, horse riding opportunities within a national park should not impact on the existing natural or cultural values.

Principle 2

There is a genuine demand for horse trails in the area

QPWS regional staff and local horse riding sectors will be instrumental in nominating potential horse riding opportunities within national parks. Local knowledge from rangers and consultation with the horse riding sector will ensure trails are suitable for, and needed in the area. Horse riding trails within national parks will only be provided where demand justifies establishment and maintenance costs, and after appropriate stakeholder consultation has occurred.

Principle 3

Introduction of horse riding into national parks is on designated, formed QPWS-managed roads only and, where possible, provides connectivity to existing horse trails

Designated, formed QPWS-managed roads with hardened surfaces will be the only roads considered for horse riding opportunities within national parks to provide an appropriate buffer for the surrounding environment. This includes fire trails.

Where possible horse riding trails within national parks should provide links to existing trails, such as the South East Queensland Horse Trail Network (SEQHTN) and the Bicentennial National Trail (BNT). This will maximise existing infrastructure networks as well as provide cost effective connectivity between trails and better access from townships, clubs, ecotourism facilities, businesses and local and cultural historical features.

Principle 4

Horse riding trails closed during the forest transfer process will be investigated for reopening

QPWS will investigate reopening horse trails closed during the forest transfer process when former State forests were transferred to national parks and other protected area tenures. This will be subject to the activity's compatibility with other trail uses and adherence to other guiding principles.

Principle 5

Potential conflict with other existing recreational user groups is minimised

Horse riding will be introduced into national parks on designated, formed QPWS-managed roads only. Therefore, horse riders will be sharing these trails with other user groups, mainly walkers and cyclists.

QPWS has a well-established give-way code which is communicated to park users using on-park signage, web pages, park brochures and other printed materials. Horse riding opportunities within national parks will only occur where conflict with existing user groups is minimal and the give-way code will apply.



Figure 2 Give-way code

Principle 6

Trails are suitable and safe for horse riding

Potential horse riding trails within national parks will be assessed as to their suitability with regard to:

- gradient, topography and soil type
- distance from main roads and other potential activities that may startle horses (e.g. logging)
- trail heads will be suitable for vehicle and horse float parking
- appropriate risk management strategies will be implemented.

Trail head and directional signage will aid riders to select trails commensurate with their riding ability and to stay on designated trails.

Management objectives

Management objectives are listed under each of the guiding principles.

Management strategies to achieve the management objectives are included at Appendix 1.

These objectives and strategies provide the practical application to ensure the principles are met when identifying horse riding opportunities within national parks and other QPWS-managed areas, and to assist in the subsequent management of these trails.

Natural and cultural values of national parks are not compromised by horse riding trails

National parks represent the highest level of conservation protection of Queensland's landscapes and biodiversity. The cardinal principle of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* states that a national park is managed to the greatest possible extent, for the preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of its cultural resources and values.

Management objectives

MO1	The integrity of native vegetation surrounding horse trails is maintained.
MO2	Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are protected.
MO3	Adverse impacts on populations of plants and animals of conservation significance adjacent to horse trails are minimised.
MO4	Pest plants on horse trails are controlled and their encroachment into the protected area is minimised.
MO5	Adverse effects on freshwater systems and the surrounding environment are minimised.
MO6	Trails are selected and managed to minimise the impacts of erosion and disturbances to the surrounding natural environment.
MO7	Indigenous cultural values are recognised and protected.
MO8	Sites with cultural and historical significance/value (e.g. logging, mining, coach routes) are managed and protected in partnership with stakeholders.
MO9	The unique biosecurity status of island national parks is acknowledged and protected.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for management strategies to achieve objectives

Photo: Maxime Couquard, Queensland Government.



There is a genuine demand for new horse trails in the area

When selecting horse trails within national parks, consideration will be given to areas that have a history of horse riding and support from local communities; and areas where a horse trail network may enhance local ecotourism opportunities and provide economic benefits. However, in areas where existing horse trails receive little or no use, providing additional trails through this process will generally not be considered.

Ideally, a partnership approach to monitoring and maintaining horse trails within national parks will be adopted between QPWS and local horse riding sectors.

Management objectives

MO10	Partnerships with all horse riding trail managers, the horse riding sector, key stakeholders and park users will enhance the selection and management of horse trails within national parks.
MO11	All commercial horse riding activities are nature-based, promote protection of the area’s natural values and do not impact on other activities in the park, including independent riding.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for management strategies to achieve objectives

Introduction of horse riding into national parks is on designated, formed QPWS-managed roads only and, where possible, provides connectivity to existing horse trails

To date, the biophysical scientific monitoring of the SEQHTN has shown that when horse riding is conducted on dirt roads built for vehicles (i.e. designated, formed QPWS-managed roads) there is little additional impact on the road surface, in terms of soil compaction and erosion from horse riding. Therefore, the introduction of horse riding into national parks will be focused on existing designated, formed QPWS-managed roads.

Where possible, it is anticipated that horse riding trails within national parks will link to existing horse trail networks around the state on other lands managed by QPWS, local councils, statutory authorities and private landowners.

QPWS will consult with adjacent landowners/managers to ensure potential linkages are commensurate with external agency and land management capabilities.

Management objectives

MO12	Suitable designated, formed QPWS-managed roads, including roads constructed for fire management purposes, provide a hardened base for horse riding and a buffer zone from surrounding vegetation.
MO13	Where possible, horse riding trails through national parks provide connectivity to existing trails to encourage extended loops and enhance the horse riding experience.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for management strategies to achieve objectives

Photo: Tourism and Events Queensland.



Horse riding trails closed during the forest transfer process will be investigated for reopening

Historical usage of horse trails closed as a result of the forest transfer process will be considered in the early selection of horse riding opportunities within national parks. QPWS will work closely with the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) and the Queensland Horse Trail Working Group to identify suitable trails.

Management objectives

MO14	Historical usage, as well as compliance with other guiding principles and management objectives, will inform the decision making process and assist QPWS to investigate reopening such trails.
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Please refer to Appendix 1 for management strategies to achieve objectives

Potential conflict with other existing recreational user groups is minimised

The introduction of horse riding into Queensland national parks will be on designated, formed QPWS-managed roads that are generally open to other recreational users such as walkers and cyclists.

Multiple user groups accessing trails may result in conflict and create safety issues due to competition for space or for limited resources.



Photo: Liz Naumann, Queensland Government.

Communication and consultation with local user groups and clear, consistent signage will be used to ensure conflict is minimised.

To assist in minimising disturbance to other park users, group activity permits must be obtained from QPWS for all organised horse riding, such as club or competitive events, endurance rides and historic re-enactments. They may also be required for horse riding in large groups that may interfere with general public use of an area. A group activity notification form can be lodged electronically and is available on the department's website at www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/.

The independent scientific monitoring program includes assessing the social impacts of horse riding on other user groups. Reports can be found on the department's website.

Management Objectives

MO15	The impact on trails by different user groups is understood and impacts on natural values from trail use is minimised.
MO16	Illegal use of trails is minimised.
MO17	Horse riding on designated trails within national parks is an accepted recreational activity.
MO18	Trails on which horse riding is permitted within national parks provide a safe environment for all users.
MO19	Conflict between different user groups is minimised.
MO20	Trail user conflicts and impacts on natural values associated with group horse activities are minimised.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for management strategies to achieve objectives

Trails are suitable and safe for horse riding

Where appropriate, QPWS aims to provide horse riders with quality nature-based recreational opportunities throughout the state that offer scenic and safe areas to ride. Appropriate signage to guide rider trail selection will be provided as will directional signage.

Regulatory notices will allow horse riding to occur on designated trails through national parks. Riders are required to comply with regulatory notices, the code of conduct for horse riding and relevant departmental policies.

The code of conduct for horse riding outlines rider responsibilities when riding within QPWS-managed areas. It contains standards of conduct and measures to promote rider safety, reduce conflicts with other trail users, and minimise the impacts on the physical and natural resources of the park.

MO21	Horse riding trails provide a diversity of horse riding experiences and riders are informed of the level of difficulty of each trail section.
MO22	Horse riders can easily find their way along horse trails.
MO23	Horse riding trails are a safe place to ride horses.
MO24	Emergency management procedures are in place for horse riding trails.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for management strategies to achieve objectives

Scientific monitoring

The SEQHTN was established to provide horse riding access to a number of former State forests in South East Queensland transferred to national parks under the South East Queensland Forests Agreement. This was achieved by declaring strips of forest reserve tenure along horse trails that passed through adjacent areas of newly declared national parks.

To ensure the potential social and biophysical impacts from horse riding along the SEQHTN and adjacent areas were monitored, the Queensland Government committed to a detailed scientific monitoring program that would operate over a 20 year period with regular points of review.

The SEQHTN scientific monitoring program is conducted by the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA). The scope of this monitoring program will be expanded to include horse riding trails through national parks around the state. An implementation strategy will be introduced when it is known where horse riding trails will occur.

The methodology of the scientific monitoring program and reports to date can be found on the department's website.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure requirements for horse riding trails through national parks will be determined on a case-by-case basis before the trails are open to public use.

Infrastructure may include:

- horse access stiles/horse step overs
- horse hitching rails
- horse wash racks/watering points
- horse shelters
- fencing.

The QPWS Landscape Architectural Services has developed plans for the above infrastructure.

Camping opportunities are available for horse riders in some State forests and on private property around the state. Generally, facilities such as enclosed yards are provided adjacent to the camping area.

Additional camping opportunities for horse riders within QPWS-managed areas will be at the discretion of the relevant QPWS Regional Director, in line with the guiding principles while ensuring adequate supporting infrastructure (to be decided at a regional level on a case-by-case basis) is provided.

Trail roll out

The first horse riding trails within national parks under the framework will be:

- trails that are part of the current SEQHTN
- sections of the BNT that traverse Queensland national parks.

These trails will require regulatory notices under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to be installed to permit horse riding to occur.

Subsequent horse riding trails within national parks will be:

- suitable ex-State forest trails throughout the state closed to horse riding during the forest transfer process.

Subsequent horse riding trail selection will be guided by the following process:

1. According to the guiding principles, relevant QPWS staff and representatives from the horse riding sector will collaboratively identify trails through national parks that were closed to horse riding during the forest transfer process (i.e. ex-State forest trails). These trails will be the first to be considered under the framework. QORF and the Queensland Horse Trail Working Group will be instrumental in this process.
2. Where current horse riding trails in an area receive little or no use, or conversely, where significant impacts on natural or cultural values of the park are occurring because of horse riding, QPWS staff can nominate trails for closure, with appropriate justification. Consultation with local horse riding sector and other stakeholders will take place before trails are closed to horse riding.
3. Consultation with external stakeholders regarding additional horse riding trails within local national parks is conducted on an as-needs basis and will be guided by QPWS regional staff. External stakeholders may include Traditional Owners, conservation groups, other recreational user groups, adjacent landholders and land managers (e.g. private property, local council, statutory authorities, HQPlantations). Consultation will initially be in writing and follow-up consultation, if needed, may take the form of meetings, forums or workshops.
4. Horse trails will be made suitable for the activity prior to opening — i.e. track upgrades completed; infrastructure, regulatory notices and directional signage installed; communication with other trail users completed; DSITIA informed of new trails so baseline scientific monitoring can occur.
5. Location of horse riding opportunities within national parks will be communicated through media releases and on the department's website.

Appendix 1

Management strategies for identifying, approving and managing horse riding trails

Management objectives	Management strategies
1. The integrity of native vegetation surrounding horse trails is maintained	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The monitoring program will monitor and assess the impacts of horse riding and other trail use on vegetation, including weeds and erosion. 2. Where appropriate, promote knowledge and appreciation of the ecosystem values along horse trails. 3. Promote the code of conduct for horse riding to minimise impacts on vegetation communities. 4. Determine and implement appropriate management strategies in response to any adverse impacts on vegetation identified by the monitoring program.
2. Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems are protected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QPWS to monitor impacts from horse riding on endangered, and of concern, regional ecosystems (including weed and erosion), and where necessary, give priority to restoring any affected areas. 2. QPWS to monitor known populations of plants and animals of conservation significance along horse trails and record responses to disturbance. 3. Implement suitable management actions that respond to any issues identified from monitoring of plants and animals of conservation significance.
3. Adverse impacts on populations of plants and animals of conservation significance adjacent to horse trails are minimised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QPWS to monitor known populations of plants and animals of conservation significance along horse trails and record responses to disturbance. 2. Implement suitable management actions that respond to any issues identified from monitoring of plants and animals of conservation significance.
4. Pest plants on horse trails are controlled and their encroachment into the protected area is minimised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the adoption of weed seed hygiene procedures by horse riders, other trail users and managers, to help reduce the spread of pest plants, as per the code of conduct for horse riding. 2. QPWS to monitor the distribution and severity of pest plant infestations, especially those of climbing pasture legumes including sirato <i>Macroptilium atropurpureum</i>, glycine <i>Neonotonia wightii</i>, silver-leaf <i>Desmodium uncinatum</i> and <i>Macrotyloma axillare</i>. 3. The monitoring program will assess changes in pattern and distribution of weeds and evidence of weed disperser. 4. Ensure level two pest management strategies address pest management issues associated with the horse trails and are compatible with the monitoring program.
5. Adverse effects on freshwater systems and the surrounding environment are minimised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where possible new horse riding trails do not cross through freshwater systems. 2. The monitoring program will assess the impacts of horse riding on water quality (including nutrient concentrations, turbidity and dissolved oxygen). 3. Provide off-stream watering facilities for horses at key locations. 4. Harden erosion-prone creek crossings and severely eroded sections of horse trails. 5. Develop and implement a maintenance schedule for horse trails. 6. Promote the code of conduct for horse riding to minimise impacts on freshwater systems. 7. Develop and implement appropriate management strategies that respond to any significant impacts identified by the monitoring program.

<p>6. Trails are selected and managed to minimise the impacts of erosion and disturbances to the surrounding natural environment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote awareness of the code of conduct for horse riding to minimise erosion and compaction on the trails. 2. Manage trails as part of the normal QPWS road maintenance schedule, incorporating best practice in design, construction and maintenance of recreational trails. 3. Monitor track condition associated with trail use, including erosion, compaction and informal track development, through the monitoring program and QPWS staff observations. 4. Harden trail surfaces, where needed, to reduce the effect of trampling associated with activities, such as horse riding. 5. Ensure that trail maintenance and management strategies are complemented by the monitoring program. 6. Where appropriate, employ strategies to address sites affected by increased erosion from trails, including fencing critical habitats, hardening trail surfaces, improving drainage, establishing silt traps and other infrastructure, providing designated watering areas for horses, restricting use of trails and temporary closure of trails.
<p>7. Indigenous cultural values are recognised and protected</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New horse trails are on existing designated, formed QPWS-managed roads (including fire trails) to minimise disturbance to surrounding sites. 2. Where necessary, consult with local Traditional Owners before allowing horse riding on new trails. 3. Investigate potential opportunities to interpret and promote the protection of Indigenous cultural values.
<p>8. Sites with cultural and historical significance/value (e.g. logging, mining, coach routes) are managed and protected in partnership with stakeholders</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate potential opportunities to interpret and promote historical values. 2. Where possible, incorporate significant stories and places into interpretive and educational material along horse trails. 3. QPWS to liaise and consult with local historical societies, museums and individuals to ensure information is accurate.
<p>9. The unique biosecurity status of island national parks is acknowledged and protected</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horse riding will not be permitted on Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area island national parks except where the island has a recent history of horse riding and/or stock use.
<p>10. Partnerships with all horse riding trail managers, the horse riding sector, key stakeholders and park users will enhance the selection and management of horse trails within national parks</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QPWS to engage with horse riding sector and consult with stakeholders and user groups to select suitable horse riding opportunities within national parks. 2. Develop and maintain relationships with local councils and other agencies that have management responsibilities for horse trails in the area. 3. Exchange information on recreational trail management issues with other management agencies and key stakeholders where appropriate. 4. Explore opportunities for cooperative maintenance of horse riding trails with the horse riding sector. Establish arrangements, such as collaborative agreements, where appropriate.
<p>11. All commercial horse riding activities are nature-based, promote protection of the area's natural values and do not impact on other activities in the park, including independent riding</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commercial operators will be subject to the standard QPWS policies and procedures for permitting and use of the area. 2. Facilitate the availability of accurate and appropriate information for commercial operators. 3. Any new commercial operator applications for horse riding will be assessed in accordance with the relevant QPWS policies and procedures and with consideration to potential impacts on the environment and other trail users. All assessments will consider any current information available from the monitoring program on the impacts of current horse riding activities.

<p>12. Suitable designated, formed QPWS-managed roads, including roads constructed for fire management purposes, provide a hardened base for horse riding and a buffer zone from surrounding vegetation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake scientific monitoring to assess impacts from trail use and inform management decisions. 2. Local conditions, infrastructure available, site impacts, and sustainable visitor capacities will determine group sizes permitted on designated tracks without a permit.
<p>13. Where possible, horse riding trails through national parks provide connectivity to existing trails to encourage extended loops and enhance the horse riding experience</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QPWS to engage with stakeholders to ensure potential horse trail linkages are commensurate with external agency land management objectives and capabilities.
<p>14. Historical usage, as well as compliance with other guiding principles and management objectives, will inform the decision making process and assist QPWS to investigate reopening such trails</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QPWS to consult with the horse riding sector to reopen trails with a historical significance to the community, trails with historical or cultural values and trails with strong user support base.
<p>15. The impact on trails by different user groups is understood and impacts on natural values from trail use is minimised</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor the spatial and temporal patterns of use by different trail users and associated impacts through the monitoring program and QPWS staff observations. 2. Adapt management to respond to any key issues arising from monitoring. 3. Develop and implement management strategies that target any user groups impacting on the trails.
<p>16. Illegal use of trails is minimised</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install regulatory signage that clearly states where horse riding and other activities is permitted. 2. Install appropriate directional signage to ensure designated trails are clearly recognisable and marked. 3. Monitor illegal use of trails and enforce requirements for users to remain on designated trails. 4. Install appropriate infrastructure that restricts illegal trail use.
<p>17. Horse riding on designated trails within national parks is an accepted recreational activity</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide appropriate public information and signage to ensure that users of the national park trails are aware that horse riding is permitted on designated trails. 2. Promote the sustainable use and management of the trail network.
<p>18. Trails on which horse riding is permitted within national parks provide a safe environment for all users</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The give-way code for multi-use trails is well communicated and all trail users are encouraged to follow this code. 2. Promote safe use of trails to all user groups. 3. Encourage different user groups to be aware of the potential hazards from other trail users. 4. Develop appropriate signage to inform the public.
<p>19. Conflict between different user groups is minimised</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The monitoring program and QPWS staff observations will monitor trail users' perceptions or experiences of conflicts with other users. 2. Adopt appropriate management strategies to resolve any conflicts or issues identified through monitoring.
<p>20. Trail user conflicts and impacts on natural values associated with group horse riding activities are minimised</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any group permit applications for horse riding will be assessed in accordance with the relevant QPWS policies and procedures and will consider potential impacts on the environment and other trail users. 2. Assess the impacts of large horse riding events, such as endurance events, through the monitoring program and adapt management as appropriate in response to the results of monitoring.

<p>21. Horse riding trails provide a diversity of horse riding experiences and riders are informed of the level of difficulty of each trail section</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate the degree of difficulty ('easy', 'moderate' or 'advanced' grade) of each trail section, based on steepness of slope and surface standards. 2. Provide signage indicating difficulty level along trail sections.
<p>22. Horse riders can easily find their way along horse trails</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Display regulatory notices to indicate the tracks where horse riding is allowed within the national park. 2. Display orientation signs at trail heads and directional signage along trail sections and at trail intersections to help guide trail users. 3. Camping opportunities for horse riders within national parks and other QPWS-managed areas are at the discretion of the relevant QPWS Regional Director, in line with the guiding principles and ensuring adequate supporting infrastructure is provided.
<p>23. Horse riding trails are a safe place to ride horses</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential horse riding trails within national parks will be assessed as to their suitability with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gradient, topography and soil type • distance from main roads and other potential activities that may startle horses (e.g. logging) • trail heads suitable for vehicles and horse float parking. 2. Infrastructure requirements for horse riding trails through national parks will be determined on a case-by-case basis before the trails are open to public use. 3. Conduct routine hazard inspections to identify risks to rider safety and manage in accordance with the relevant QPWS risk management standards. 4. Encourage horse riders to ride responsibly on the trail network and follow the code of conduct for horse riding. 5. Advise riders to contact their nearest QPWS office, tourist information centre, and/or visit the departmental website for details about local conditions. 6. Promote rider awareness of other trail users.
<p>24. Emergency management procedures are in place for horse riding trails</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review emergency procedures to ensure they are current and adequately address horse riding activities. 2. Ensure emergency procedures are maintained and communicated to all relevant QPWS staff. 3. Continue to maintain partnerships between QPWS and local emergency agencies.

