

**Question on Notice
No. 764
Asked on 24 May 2005**

QUESTION:

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (Ms Boyle)—

For each of the last two financial years and for the year to date (reported separately)—

- (1) What is the number of prosecutions recorded against individuals horse riding in protected areas, by region?
- (2) For each of those prosecutions listed in (1), what was the nature of the offence in each instance?
- (3) For each of those prosecutions listed in (1), what was the penalty handed down in each instance?

ANSWER:

- (1)-(3) Over the past two financial years no infringement notices or prosecutions have been recorded against horse riders for riding on protected areas. Regional staff have issued several warnings to horse riders who were unknowingly riding in protected areas, or forest reserves without a permit; however, none of these individuals has re-offended. Warnings are issued at the discretion of the officer, depending on the offence committed and the intent of the individual responsible. Horse riders, along with other recreational groups, are generally a responsible and law abiding group and tend not to abuse the rules following a warning and explanation of the indiscretion they may have unknowingly committed.

Tenure changes under the South East Queensland Forests Agreement will result in easier access to designated areas where horse riding is permitted. At present horse riders require a "permit to traverse" to ride a horse on State forest and forest reserve. With gazettal to protected area estate, a permit will not be required to ride in conservation parks or national park recovery areas where horse riding will be permitted. Signage will be used to identify trails where horse riding will be permitted in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1994* regulations.