

**Question on Notice  
No. 506  
Asked on 30 March 2006**

**QUESTION:**

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

Will she provide an assurance that initiatives being undertaken with respect to forestry plantations will not reduce equestrian access to forest plantations?

**ANSWER:**

Managing access to State Forest plantations is the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries advises that the government is cognisant that the state plantation forests are an important multiple use resource. In addition to underpinning very significant commercial investment, these plantations give rise to a range of other landscape, conservation, grazing, beekeeping and recreation opportunities.

The Forestry Plantations Queensland Bill 2006 clarifies the responsibilities for managing and delivering this broader suite of services and enhance the delivery of these services, and it will do so in a way that is consistent with the commercial production requirements of the forests.

Nothing in the bill is intended to limit the right of people to access state plantation forests for legitimate recreational pursuits, such as horse riding, (ie, whether it be on Crown land or 'freehold' plantation areas). This access is, of course, subject to operational requirements and other restrictions on access when, for example, fire management and safety concerns require. Further, the government intends that this new structure will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that horse riding can continue in state plantation forests.