

**Question on Notice
No. 821
Asked on 25 May 2006**

QUESTION:

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

What consultations to date have been held with regard to the proposed horse riding trails and what, if any, future consultations will be held?

ANSWER:

The development of the proposed horse trail networks for South East Queensland has, and continues to be, a collaborative process involving consultants, government staff, local riders, conservation groups and the community.

The process takes into account trail locations and tenure recommendations of the community working groups held between 2001 and 2003. These groups included horse riders as well as representatives from Indigenous groups, local government, conservation groups, beekeepers, other recreation groups and the general community.

The Premier and I have met personally with horse riders on numerous occasions. During a meeting on 23 November 2004, we agreed to work together to identify a new permanent network of horse riding trails for South East Queensland. Since then, I have also regularly met with the Member for Nicklin and horse riders to discuss progress and trail alignments. Other members of the Government and I have also had discussions with the Member for Ferny Grove and the Member for Glasshouse as well as relevant local councillors.

All proposed horse riding trails developed to date have involved a formal public consultation phase of at least one month. During these processes, I released a statement inviting comments on the network proposal, placed advertisements in all relevant newspapers, and sent letters to groups and individuals who have been previously involved inviting their feedback. On average, I have received 50 submissions for each horse riding network proposal.

In April 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency facilitated a workshop with horse riding representatives across South East Queensland to examine the proposed horse trail network maps, line by line.

This feedback, as well as submissions made by the general public, will guide the development of the final horse trail networks.

On 12 May 2006 I released the proposed horse riding network for the Caboolture/Bellthorpe/Kenilworth/Mapleton region for public consultation. This network includes about 3,000 kilometres of trails within forest reserves, state forests and road reserves.

Riders will be able to view many landscapes, from volcanic peaks, coastal wallum, hoop pine plantations, tall open eucalypt forests, subtropical rainforest, rocky gorges, boulder-strewn streams and much more.

The proposed network includes connections to townships, horse-riding clubs, showgrounds, public horse yards, watering points and the Bicentennial National Trail.

With the Noosa network of trails now completed and a similar network for the Western Brisbane and Gold Coast/Beaudesert regions nearing completion, these are the last areas to go out to public consultation.

Consultation does not end there however, the Government will continue to work with Members of Parliament, local government, horse riders and conservation groups until final networks are developed.