

From: [Sharpe Paul](#)
To: [Gregory Sue](#)
Subject: FW: FYI ONLY: File note D. Madden & GT 25 July 2012.doc
Date: Monday, 30 July 2012 11:38:00 AM
Attachments: [File note D. Madden & GT 25 July 2012.doc](#)

Sue, FYI.
PS.

From: Phelan Michael
Sent: Thursday, 26 July 2012 3:32 PM
To: Belcher Ross; Sharpe Paul
Cc: Turner Gennieve
Subject: FYI ONLY: File note D. Madden & GT 25 July 2012.doc

[Ross / Paul](#): FYI ONLY - see summary below

[Gennieve](#): Great communication - thanks for the heads up

Regards

Michael Phelan
A/Manager, Operations Support
Great Sandy Region, QPWS

Lennox St and Alice St, Maryborough
PO Box 101, Maryborough, Qld, 4650

P: 07 4121 1683

sch4 M: Personal information - mobile

From: Turner Gennieve
Sent: Thursday, 26 July 2012 1:43 PM
To: Phelan Michael
Cc: McRae Moyra
Subject: File note D. Madden & GT 25 July 2012.doc

Michael,

As you would be aware Mr Madden's horse and camel riding business concerns are essentially an ongoing issue between him and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

The file note is for your general information only.

File Note of telephone discussion between D. Madden, Camel Company and Gennieve. Turner
Date: 25 July 2012

Summary of key points noted

- Mr Madden advised that he was meeting with Steve Dickson, later in the day to discuss his activities in the recreation area (RA) including his commercial activity permits.
- Mr Madden asked if a file note of a meeting between QPWS and the council in early December and which I attended would be on record; given that Angelika was no longer with the department.

- Mr Madden stated that he was personally aware that commercial horse riding activities were occurring within recreation area (RA) and that these operators did not have permits. He also stated that he had picked up brochures advertising their activities on the beaches within the RA.

Refer to file note for additional information.

Gennieve

Moyra, can you also file this note with the CRA permitting assessments etc.

RTI DL RELEASE - NPSR



Hon Steve Dickson MP
Member for Buderim



Queensland
Government

Minister for National Parks,
Recreation, Sport and Racing

Our Ref: CTS 04491/13

2 APR 2013

Mr David Madden
camelco@bigpond.com

Dear Mr Madden

Thank you for your letter of 28 February 2013, concerning your commercial activity permit to conduct commercial camel and horse riding tours within the Cooloola Recreation Area. The Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I understand you have recently had discussions with Mr Steven Price from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), about amending the terms and conditions of your existing permit. I am also advised that, subject to assessment and consideration by the delegate, the QPWS has no objections to receiving an application from you for a Commercial Activity Permit for a term of three years, rather than simply amending your existing permit, which has approximately 10 months to run.

The Minister hopes this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries and to lodge your application please contact Mr Simon Hughes, Team Leader, Tourism and Recreation Access, QPWS on telephone (07) 3330 5243 or via email simon.hughes@nprsr.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

sch4 - Personal information - signature

Lisa Myers
Policy Advisor

Level 7
111 George Street Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15187 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3338 9301
Facsimile +61 7 3210 2190
Email NationalParks@ministerial.qld.gov.au

CTS 04491/13

06 MAR 2013 DLO

QPS.



Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport, and Racing Ministerial Correspondence Action Sheet



Review By:	Action Required:	Action By:	
☐ Minister ☐ Director General ☐ Assistant Minister ☐ Chief of Staff ☐ Policy Advisor <div> ☐ Sport ☒ National Parks ☐ Racing </div> ☐ Media Advisor ☐ Office Manager ☐ Backbench Liaison ☐ Administration	☐ Briefing Note ☐ Reply from Minister ☐ Reply from Director General ☐ Reply from Assistant Minister ☐ Reply from Chief of Staff ☒ Reply from Policy Advisor <div> ☐ Sport ☒ National Parks ☐ Racing </div> ☐ Reply from Media Advisor ☐ Reply from Office Manager ☐ Reply from Backbench Liaison ☐ Reply from Administration ☐ For Information ☐ No Response Required - File ☐ No Response Required - Destroy	☐ Ministerial Office ☒ Department	☒ Department
		Timeframe:	Timeframe:
		☐ Same Day ☐ Tomorrow ☐ 2 Days ☐ 3 Days ☐ 4 Days ☐ 5 Days ☒ 5 Days +	☐ Same Day ☐ Tomorrow ☐ 2 Days ☐ 3 Days ☐ 4 Days ☐ 5 Days ☒ 5 Days +

Copy to: _____

Comments:

Dept to draft response.

Lisa Myers

6/3/13

CTS 04491/13

Samantha Hawthorne

From: Lisa Myers
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2013 4:31 PM
To: Samantha Hawthorne
Subject: FW: Camel Company/Noosa Horse Riding Permits.

Please log in corro system

From: Camel Company of Australia [<mailto:camelco@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2013 4:12 PM
To: Lisa Myers
Subject: Camel Company/Noosa Horse Riding Permits.

Good Afternoon Lisa,

I had put a call to your office yesterday, to discuss the progress that has been made since mid January. It is now agreed that the 3 permit holders in the Cooloola RAM be located in Lot 1010 as a day use area. We have basically agreed on everything up to now and are about to sign off on the new amended permits.

I have asked the staff would there be consideration given to restarting my permit from now or from the date that everything is agreed on. I seems that to get the new term dates on my amended permit to reflect the new operating area may need a push from your end.

Basically the ministers office would have to advise Geoff Brittingham know it would be ok to have a new start and end dates on my Permits - Noosa Horse Riding and Camel Company Australia from 28.02.13 to 27.02.16. or dates thereabouts.

This would enable financial applications to assist in the re-establishment on my businesses with three years currency. As the current 10 months left would not be adequate time to support any applications. I am aware that the permit would be renewed in December this year but that is not always easy to explain to a bank manager they like to see something concrete.

It is a lot to ask I am aware but I am of the understanding that only a directive today from your office to the Regional Director Mr Brittingham could facilitate the change.

If you could consider this request it would be appreciated, thank you again for your time.

Kind Regards
David Madden
Camel Company &
Noosa Horse Riding
0408710530

File note:

Telephone discussion between Gennieve Turner and Dave Madden, Camel Company

Date: 25 July 2012

Key Point

Mr Madden advised that he was meeting with Steve Dickson, later in the day to discuss his activities in the recreation area (RA) including his commercial activity permits.

Summary of discussion – quick notes for file:

- The discussion was initially informal and included facebook and a recent invitation from Mr Madden to myself requesting to be friends. The invitation was declined, via written response on the basis of conflict of interest.
- My facebook response to Mr Madden also included a comment that my office door is always open should he wish to discuss any matters, bring coffee, I also wished him all the best for the future.
- Mr Madden advised that he was meeting with Steve Dickson, later in the day to discuss his activities in the recreation area (RA) including his commercial activity permits.
- Mr Madden asked if a file note of a meeting between QPWS and the council in early December and which I attended would be on record, given that Angelika was no longer with the department.
- I advised Mr Madden that I had personally not taken file notes at that meeting and that the outcomes of the meeting were noted by Angelika. I could not recollect if this was in her diary or on a note pad.
- Mr Madden referred to a phone call made by me to him after the council meeting.
- I confirmed that I had made this phone call to him on Angelika's request and that I recollected advising him that we had met with council and had advised them amongst other points of discussion that we would be issuing him his permits to continue his commercial operations within the CRA based on historical use.
- Mr Madden stated that he was personally aware that commercial horse riding activities were occurring within recreation area (RA) and that these operators did not have permits. He also stated that he had picked up brochures advertising their activities on the beaches within the RA.
- I advised Mr Madden that I was not aware of any unauthorised commercial horse riding activities occurring in the RA and that I would have anticipated other operators would have noted this and advised the department.
- I reminded Mr Madden that I had on previous occasions advised him that if he had any knowledge of and/or brochures of any potentially unauthorised activities occurring on the RA that he should provide this information to Michael Brown, Senior Ranger Compliance based at Maryborough. At this time I provided Mr Madden with the relevant email addresses for Michael Brown and as requested I also provided him with Ross Belcher's contact details

Comments

- The meeting Mr Madden refers to between QPWS and the council was attended by Angelika Hesse, Operations Support Manager, myself and representatives from the local council. The meeting was held at the council chambers, Tewantin.
- Mr Madden had been in contact with Angelika on a number of occasions and indicated that he was very concerned that his commercial activity permits would not be issued if council was to intervene.
- The telephone call made to Mr Madden a short time after the meeting was a courtesy call, to provide him with some form of reassurance that his activities within the Cooloola Recreation Area were to be approved by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on the basis of proven historical use. Angelika was travelling in the vehicle when I made the call to Mr Madden on her telephone.

- I have on a number of occasions advised Mr Madden that the sole purpose of the meeting between QPWS and council was not to discuss his activities.

Additional information regarding this meeting such as attendees, purpose of meeting may be held on email or Maryborough files.

RTI DL RELEASE - NPSR

From: nprsminanddg.corro@npsr.qld.gov.au [nprsminanddg.corro@npsr.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 8 March 2013 1:05 PM

To: SHARPE Paul

Subject: Allocated to you; Due19/03/13; CTS No.04491/13; Concerning Camel Company / Noosa Horse Riding Permits / Email from David Madden / dated 28 February 2013

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

CTS No. 04491/13 has been allocated to you by Greentree Anne for action. This item is due on 19/03/13. They provided the following comments (if any): **Hi Paul, could you please arrange for a response to be prepared and submitted to me by COB 19 March 2013. Before commencing a response please click on Accept Authorship button and then the Open Template button. Regards Shalan.**

The request concerns: **Camel Company / Noosa Horse Riding Permits / Email from David Madden / dated 28 February 2013 .**

You should either:

1. Allocate this to an officer for action. ([show me how](#))
2. Take responsibility for preparing a response by 'Accepting Authorship'. ([show me how](#))
3. Send back to the person who sent it to you by selecting 'Return to Sender'. ([show me how](#))

Please click on the [Item Link](#) to view the item on MECS.

If you have any queries please contact Greentree Anne or officers from NPRSR - Minister by emailing to nprsminanddg.corro@npsr.qld.gov.au or via the link [Management Team Link](#).

email: EmailAllocateAgencyOfficerForResponseESU

RTI/DL RELEASE - NPRSR

RE: Camels to discuss

From: Sharpe Paul [Paul.Sharpe@nprsr.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2013 4:31 PM
To: Dargusch Marc
Subject: RE: Camels to discuss

Due By: Monday, 5 December 8907 6:42 PM

Marc, I think if you and Simon pushed Anne for some direction, we may get something out of her.

Ok see you soon in Bris.

PS.

From: Dargusch Marc
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2013 4:25 PM
To: Sharpe Paul; Hughes Simon; McCarthy Damian
Subject: RE: Camels to discuss

Understood Paul - very keen to pull together the 'knowns' from current thinking across CRD/TVA. I reckon you might just have some of the answers - or between us all we can make them up. Maybe we could then communicate our best view to the regions.

Has Anne got an appetite to sort through these issues ?

I'm in Bris for Tue/Wed/Thur each week for the next four weeks - lookin' forward to working with you blokes.

M

From: Sharpe Paul
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2013 4:03 PM
To: Dargusch Marc; Hughes Simon
Cc: McCarthy Damian
Subject: RE: Camels to discuss

Marc,

Yep the 1 year renewals were agreed to, but with hindsight we should have gone with 3 year renewals.

The cancellation of Permits and then the issue of new Agreements at any time, was never really an issue, as long as we account for permit fees paid, and refund or credit that.

Re the Permit versus Agreement decision; the matter of what is a TIPA activity / TIPA site is again relevant, horse and camel riding on a beach at Cooloola is, for mine, the same as quad biking on an existing track on Moreton Island, that is: it is neither a TIPA activity, nor at TIPA site, and so a renewal, swap to Agreement (of any term), transfer via surrender / reissue, or even granting of a new Permit should not be an issue. BUT ...

Recent attempts to document the rules around TIPA transfers and new Permits have failed.

I think we now have to also consider if the applicant 'has previously applied, and previously we knocked them back, then they don't get a permit, if not, we may be able to issue a new one??

RE: Camels to discuss

Agree Marc...we really need a clear 'shared view' of how we intend dealing with the above issues pre-TIPA.

There is plenty of confusion in central office over this issue.

I don't have the answers.

PS.

From: Dargusch Marc
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2013 2:43 PM
To: Sharpe Paul; Hughes Simon
Subject: RE: Camels to discuss

G'day Sime and Paul

Has our stance changed on dealing with renewals on TIPA sites ? It was only last year that there was debate about how long we would renew permits for - I believe some FI operators were only extended by one year. The debate also related to Cooloola/Moreton and I thought we agreed that we might look to extending for 3 years as TIPA timing was unclear. We were definitely not looking at transitioning to CAAs pre-TIPA and definitely not looking at extending the duration of either their permits or CAAs to something greater than 3 years.

We need to get our heads together as this is closely related to bedding down issues surrounding the release of capacity in TIPA areas - another area where we seem to be changing our stance.

We really need a clear 'shared view' of how we intend dealing with the above issues pre-TIPA. There is plenty of confusion in the Regions over this issue.

Keen to talk.

Regards - Marc

Marc Dargusch

A/Manager

Commercial & Recreation Development Unit
Commercial and Visitor Services Branch

Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing

sch4 - Personal information - mobile

marc.dargusch@nprsr.qld.gov.au

From: Price Stephen (Cotton Tree - Caboolture)

Sent: Monday, 11 March 2013 12:00 PM

To: Hughes Simon

Cc: Sharpe Paul; Dargusch Marc

Subject: RE: Camels to discuss

Hi Simon / Paul

I have no objections to renewing these permits for three years and while philosophically I support the notion of issuing a commercial activity agreement I am leaning towards deferring the support of such at this point in time. Yes, this may be somewhat differing from recent conversations.

I understand Cooloola was identified as a TIPA site and as such issuing of an agreement may be jumping the gun with regards to determining sustainable use of the area and appropriate fees. Even if we do not run a full TIPA process the renewing of a permit will buy some time to allow for consideration of these matters. However if we issue an agreement I believe we will be locked into issuing agreements for future requests even before we know where we want to be in the future.

I strongly believe considering recent event that Mr Watson and Mr Madden (both have approached us with regards to longer security) are offered the same arrangements however it does raise a question of the current application before us where the operator is planning to operate out of the Noosa North Shore Retreat. All being equal should we be offering them an agreement also?

Renewing existing permits for three years will essentially bring existing operators in line and will also allow time for some TIPA or similar consideration of this activity to take place. The reality is that we would not be in a position to offer a greatly extended agreement anyway due to some of the land dealings and while this in itself does not influence my overall consideration these matters will influence the length of any agreement being issued at least in the short term.

I will organise to talk to Madden and Watson with regards to reissuing their permits for three years.

Cheers

Stephen Price

RE: Camels to discuss

Operations Manager
Sunshine Coast Burnett
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing
Ph:07 545961334 [redacted] Personal information - mobile

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Stephen.Price@nprsr.qld.gov.au

From: Hughes Simon
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2013 2:46 PM
To: Price Stephen (Cotton Tree - Caboolture)
Cc: Sharpe Paul
Subject: FW: Camels to discuss

FYI – We don't have a problem with this at all

Simon Hughes

Team Leader

Southern Permits Team

Commercial and Visitor Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Ph: 3330 5243

Ph: [redacted] Personal information - mobile

From: Sharpe Paul
Sent: Friday, 8 March 2013 1:32 PM
To: Hughes Simon
Subject: Camels to discuss

Simon, any reason why, with the Regions concurrence, we would not issue a new Permit for 3 years, or dare I say and Agreement for longer??

<< File: 1362713266525_View.pdf >>

From: nprsrminanddg.corro@nprsr.qld.gov.au [nprsrminanddg.corro@nprsr.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2013 3:13 PM
To: SHARPE Paul
Subject: CTS No: 04491/13 for your information/input concerning: Camel Company / Noosa Horse Riding Permits / Email from David Madden / dated 28 February 2013

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

CTS No 04491/13 concerning the above is currently assigned to **Greentree Anne** for action. It has been decided that you need to be involved so you have been sent a link to this item for your information/input. Please see below for relevant comments.

Hi Simon - I think we should approach this as support for him lodging an application so that we don't preempt the delegate. Your views pls? tks, ag

Please click on the [Item Link](#) to view the item on MECS.

If you have any queries please contact Greentree Anne or officers from NPRSR - Minister by emailing to nprsrminanddg.corro@nprsr.qld.gov.au or via the link [Management Team Link](#).

email: EmailInformationOfficerNotification

RTI DL RELEASE - NPRSR

From: nprsrminanddg.corro@nprsr.qld.gov.au [nprsrminanddg.corro@nprsr.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2013 11:09 AM
To: SHARPE Paul
Subject: Item Finalised : 04491/13 Subject: Camel Company / Noosa Horse Riding Permits / Email from David Madden / dated 28 February 2013

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Our records indicate that you wrote Correspondence Number 04491/13. It has been finalised. If any comments were added they will appear below:

Letter date stamped, scanned, emailed and attached to MECS. Finalising work-flow. Thanks, Jessica Rea

Item Details

Document Type: Min - Request for Reply

Subject: Camel Company / Noosa Horse Riding Permits / Email from David Madden / dated 28 February 2013

As this correspondence is a public record, if procedures require it, please go to the workflow form, print the attachments and ensure they are attached to the appropriate departmental file. It will be automatically declared a record on MECS and added to the Department's Records Management System by MECS

You should also check whether any changes were made to the draft that you prepared.

Please click on the [Item Link](#) to view the Min - Request for Reply

If you have any queries please contact NPRSR - Minister or officers from NPRSR - Minister by emailing to nprsrminanddg.corro@nprsr.qld.gov.au or via the link [Management Team Link](#).

email: EmailFinaliseSignOffAuthor

RTI DL RELEASED - NPRSR

From: Powley Alicia [Alicia.Powley@nprsr.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2013 2:45 PM
To: Sharpe Paul
Subject: Noosa North Shore Retreat

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

Hi Paul

I have had [redacted] call again in regards to Noosa North Shore Retreat and their CAP for horse riding that they applied for in Cooloola.

I know that new policies need to be written in regards to the issuing of new CAPs within TIPA areas but [redacted] s78B(2) - Privacy about the fact that [redacted] still hasn't heard any decision. It has been over the 40 business days as well.

Are you or someone able to give [redacted] a call to explain what is going on? His number is [redacted] s78B(2) - Privacy s78B(2) - Privacy - mobile

Cheers
Alicia

Alicia Powley
Project Support Officer
Commercial & Visitor Services
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Level 4, 400 George Street, Brisbane
PO Box 15187 City East QLD 4002
Ph: (07) 3330 5241

RTI DL RELEASE - NPSR

From: Sharpe Paul [Paul.Sharpe@npsr.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2013 11:01 AM
To: Hughes Simon
Subject: FW: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore
Attachments: Equathon Letter to Minister Jann Stuckey 12 April 2013.pdf

Due By: Monday, 5 December 8907 6:42 PM

Simon, FYI.
Not sure what the issue is really. Expect a request for Min reply shortly.
Regards, PS.

From: Greentree Anne
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2013 9:54 AM
To: Sharpe Paul; Brittingham Geoff
Subject: FW: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

Anne Greentree
A/Executive Director
Technical Services
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service

P 07 3330 5318

ch4 - Personal information - mobile

E anne.greentree@npsr.qld.gov.au

From: O'Dwyer Kerry
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2013 9:38 AM
To: Corro NPRSR Minister and DG
Cc: Cook Clive; Greentree Anne
Subject: FW: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

For recording thanks

Kind regards

Kerry O'Dwyer
Director, Office of the Director-General
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

 (07) 3338 9304 Personal information - mobile

 kerry.odwyer@npsr.qld.gov.au

Level 7 | 111 George Street | Brisbane Queensland 4000

PO Box 15187 | City East | Queensland 4002

Great State. Great Opportunity

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Alex Watson [<mailto:alex@equathon.com>]
Sent: Saturday, 13 April 2013 1:18 PM
To: tourism@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Cc: premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au; NationalParks@ministerial.qld.gov.au; Glaister John; Price Stephen (Cotton Tree - Caboolture); 'Noosa Electorate Office'; mark.jamieson@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au; 'Cr Stephen Robinson'; 'Dirk Olbertz'; 'Michael Craig'; Daniel.Gschwind@qtic.com.au; 'Damien Massingham'; 'Donna Little'; 'Anne Wilson'; clairebourke1@bigpond.com; eco@ecotourism.org.au; 'Mick Hodges (Custom Alloy)'
Subject: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

Dear Minister, Dear Jann,

Please see the attached letter regarding issues affecting tourism operations and recreation on Noosa North Shore.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Watson
Triple Olympian
Managing Director
EQUATHON Holdings
PO Box 301, Noosa Heads, QLD 4567, Australia
T. (07) 5446 5494
F. (07) 5446 5450
M. Personal information - mobile
E. alex@equathon.com
www.equathon.com.au



Riding to perfection...

RTI DL RELEASE - NPSR



TM

Riding to perfection...

12 April, 2013

Hon. Jann Stuckey MP
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business
and Commonwealth Games
GPO Box 1141,
Brisbane QLD 4001

via email: tourism@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister, Dear Jann,

HORSE RIDING TOURISM ON NOOSA NORTH SHORE

I am writing to seek your assistance in leading positive change for the best future for horse riding tourism and recreation on Noosa North Shore.

My business, Equathon Horse Riding, has been an active participant in promoting Adventure Tourism in Queensland. From attendance at Destination Q last year in Cairns to being a QLD Tourism Awards Winner we seek to provide world-class horse riding experiences to our customers.

Since your election to office I have steadfastly supported the LNP policies of promoting a more engaged process between tourism, outdoor recreation and access to conservation areas where this is appropriate and sustainable. As an example, we have recently had a very good outcome working with QPWS in regard to the continuation of horse riding for the local community in Eumundi Conservation Park.

The Noosa North Shore is a contentious area where we, as a responsible tourism business, are continually under pressure to preserve the right to access trails which provide a worthy experience to our customers. We need a committed plan, agreed to by the various stakeholders, which gives our business and recreational riders a clear view of the future tenure of horse riding in this area. In the absence of a plan it is impossible for us to invest in developing and promoting a tourism business to local, interstate and international visitors that supports the high standards we expect for operators in Queensland.

Currently we are receiving outstanding support from the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Minister Dickson, Director-General, John Glaister and local QPWS staff led by Stephen Price have been excellent in assisting us with access and good management strategies for riding activities on Teewah Beach. I would like to recognise and sincerely thank them for their efforts.

Equathon Holdings

ABN 11 058 005 977 ACN 058 005 977

T. 07 5446 5494 F. 07 5446 5450 M. 0411 513 226

PO Box 301 Noosa Heads QLD 4567

E. info@equathon.com



TM

Riding to perfection...

Outside of the beach itself we must have access to trails which provide a safe and worthwhile experience for customers. Unfortunately, under the previous state government and the then Noosa Council, environmental lobbyists have been able to push through the closure of trails which were in long-standing use for horse riding. Despite an absence of scientific evidence to demonstrate why horse riding should cease to be permitted in these areas, and with almost no consultation with tourism operators or the public, a significant list of trails have been closed.

Most recently, in the immediate aftermath of the Noosa de-amalgamation vote Council officers have written to us to advise that another series of trails which have been in use for horse riding for the past 30 years or more are now closed without further consultation. This is despite a recent survey conducted by the SCRC demonstrating that some 80 percent of residents and visitors are in favour of horse riding on the Noosa North Shore.

Minister, we need leadership and planning in this area for the future of tourism and recreation. Tourism is the major economic activity in Noosa so it seems totally counter-productive to be making policy to hurt the interests of viable and responsible tourism operators. Regularly, Equathon is listed on TripAdvisor as being in the top one or two activities to do in Noosa. However, we cannot run a world-class experience for customers if we are, as it seems now, to be restricted to riding along the side of roads and under a series of power-lines. That is sub-standard and really, in regard to a quality tourism experience, is inadequate at best.

Without wanting to labour the point I wish to demonstrate the extent we go to be engaged and responsible in the conduct of our business. We are members of Tourism Sunshine Coast, Tourism Noosa, Tourism Fraser Coast, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, EcoTourism Australia (Advanced level registration) and current permit holders with QPWS.

With all these bodies we actively contribute to the promotion of nature-based and adventure tourism and the promotion of outdoor recreation for the benefit of locals and visitors alike. It is a topic we are passionate about and to which we are extremely committed.

We firmly believe that horse riding is an activity that has historical, cultural and recreational rights to be included in conservation areas where proper scientific evidence demonstrates that any impacts can be mitigated and managed. The most recent scientific research published by QPWS itself (Dr. J. Neldner, July 2012) shows that even in the case of intensive horse riding activity on trails in South-East Queensland the impacts were negligible.

Equathon Holdings

ABN 11 058 005 977 ACN 058 005 977

T. 07 5446 5494 F. 07 5446 5450 M. 0411 513 226

PO Box 301 Noosa Heads QLD 4567

E. info@equathon.com



TM

Riding to perfection...

Unfortunately, all too often we are seeing the desire to close horse riding trails being led by the persuasion of minority group philosophy and prejudice rather than by scientific evidence and good management in the interests of the broader public.

Minister, even though these latest challenges to our business and the rights of horse riders are a local council issue I am asking you and your government to take a leadership role in this area by asking the key stakeholders to come to the table and work for a sustainable plan for horse-riding into the future on Noosa North Shore. From my discussions with Mr. Damien Massingham, General Manager of Tourism Noosa, I am aware that Tourism Noosa has offered to convene such a meeting.

In closing, I underline the fact that although this letter is from my principal role as a director of Equathon it is also on behalf of other concerned local business owners such as Noosa North Shore Retreat and recreational horse riders who are either local residents or regular visitors to Noosa North Shore. I have copied this letter to those interested parties.

Looking forward to your response with thanks for all you have done and continue to do for the future of tourism in Queensland.

With kindest regards,

sch4 - Personal information - signature

Alex Watson
Triple Olympian/Managing Director
Equathon Holdings



c.c. Premier Campbell Newman

NPRSR – Minister Steve Dickson, Mr. John Glaister, Mr. Stephen Price

Hon. Glen Elmes MP

SCRC – Mayor Mark Jamieson, Cr. Stephen Robinson

Noosa North Shore Retreat – Mr. Dirk Olbertz, Mr. Michael Craig

QTIC – Daniel Gschwind – Chief Executive

Tourism Noosa – Mr. Damien Massingham, General Manager

QORF – Donna Little, CEO; Anne Wilson, Secretary

Queensland Horse Council & ATHRA – Claire Bourke, Director

EcoTourism Australia

Mr. Mick Hodges

Equathon Holdings

ABN 11 058 005 977 ACN 058 005 977

T. 07 5446 5494 F. 07 5446 5450 M. 0411 513 226

PO Box 301 Noosa Heads QLD 4567

E. info@equathon.com

From: Hughes Simon [Simon.Hughes@npsr.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2013 11:42 AM
To: Sharpe Paul
Subject: RE: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, 5 December 8907 6:42 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Yellow Category

No issue – looks like reduced access to Council areas and he give's us a wrap. All roads available on our estate except NP tenure

Simon Hughes

Team Leader

Southern Permits Team

Commercial and Visitor Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Ph: 3330 5243

Mb: Personal information

sch4 - Personal information - mobile

From: Sharpe Paul
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2013 11:02 AM
To: Hughes Simon
Subject: FW: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

Simon, FYI.

Not sure what the issue is really. Expect a request for Min reply shortly.

Regards, PS.

From: Greentree Anne
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2013 9:54 AM
To: Sharpe Paul; Brittingham Geoff
Subject: FW: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

Anne Greentree

A/Executive Director

Technical Services

Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service

P 07 3330 5318

sch4 - Personal information - mobile

E anne.greentree@npsr.qld.gov.au

From: O'Dwyer Kerry
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2013 9:38 AM
To: Corro NPRSR Minister and DG
Cc: Cook Clive; Greentree Anne
Subject: FW: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

For recording thanks

Kind regards

Kerry O'Dwyer

Director, Office of the Director-General

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

 (07) 3338 9302 work  mobile

 kerry.odwyer@npsr.qld.gov.au

Level 7 | 111 George Street | Brisbane Queensland 4000

PO Box 15187 | City East | Queensland 4002

Great State. Great Opportunity

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Alex Watson [<mailto:alex@equathon.com>]

Sent: Saturday, 13 April 2013 1:18 PM

To: tourism@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Cc: premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au; NationalParks@ministerial.qld.gov.au; Glaister John; Price Stephen (Cotton Tree - Caboolture); 'Noosa Electorate Office'; mark.jamieson@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au; 'Cr Stephen Robinson'; 'Dirk Olbertz'; 'Michael Craig'; Daniel.Gschwind@qtic.com.au; 'Damien Massingham'; 'Donna Little'; 'Anne Wilson'; clairebourke1@bigpond.com; eco@ecotourism.org.au; 'Mick Hodges (Custom Alloy)'

Subject: Horse Riding on Noosa North Shore

Dear Minister, Dear Jann,

Please see the attached letter regarding issues affecting tourism operations and recreation on Noosa North Shore.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Watson
Triple Olympian
Managing Director
EQUATHON Holdings
PO Box 301, Noosa Heads, QLD 4567, Australia
T. (07) 5446 5494
F. (07) 5446 5450

sch4 Personal information - mobile

E. alex@equathon.com

www.equathon.com.au



Riding to perfection...

RTI/DL RELEASE - NPSR

From: Hughes Simon [Simon.Hughes@npsr.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 29 April 2013 4:27 PM
To: Sharpe Paul
Subject: FW: Amended Camel and Horse Permits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, 5 December 8907 6:42 PM
Flag Status: Completed

FYI and any corro that comes through

Simon Hughes
Team Leader
Southern Permits Team
Commercial and Visitor Services
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Ph: 3330 5243

MO: Personal information - mobile

From: Turner Gennieve
Sent: Monday, 29 April 2013 12:29 PM
To: Hughes Simon
Subject: RE: Amended Camel and Horse Permits

Hi Simon

Your response regarding the process past and present is detailed and clear.

Have you received any positive/negative feedback from Mr Madden?

Might need to keep an eye out on typo's – between all of us we should be able to pick up errors in spelling e.g. L2B11 A small amount of fees for the camels is permitted.

Cheers GT

From: Hughes Simon
Sent: Wednesday, 24 April 2013 3:50 PM
To: info@camelcompany.com.au; info@noosahorseriding.com.au
Cc: Southern Permits Team
Subject: Amended Camel and Horse Permits

Hi Dave and Lyn

I sincerely apologise for taking time in redrafting your permits' amendments.

As you know, the process has undergone considerable negotiation and liaison between QPWS Sunshine Fraser Region officers and yourselves. My team has been diligent and careful in the drafting to ensure accurate, standardised conditions across all horse permits, to foster the positive working relationship that QPWS seeks to maintain with all animal Commercial Operators in the Cooloola RAM.

Please find attached an electronic copy of your amended permits for camels and horses, which includes exclusive access to a designated site in the Great Sandy Resource Reserve for the purposes of unloading and conducting your business horse and camel riding activities on the adjacent Cooloola Recreation Area beach.

We have not charged you any fees for negotiating these complex amendments to your permits as I understand that the Regional

officers have actively sought to provide you with this unique site opportunity to ensure the continuation of your horse riding business and provide for a start-up of your camel tours, which have not been run for a number of years due to access issues with the Regional Council.

These permits are valid until the 14th December this year. In our initial decisions we discussed the opportunity to draft a longer term Commercial Agreement for your activities. While QPWS is very supportive of developing Agreements for these types of activities in the Cooloola RAM it was decided to not progress this at this stage as the Tourism in Protected Areas policy framework has not been finally decided by Government. This policy to convert all permit holders to longer term Agreement is likely to apply to most operators where there is a commercial demand for access. Providing you with an Agreement prior to this decision may impact on a number of similar operators within the area who may also wish to enter into an Agreement for this activity.

I am aware that you have since requested a three year permit, and I can confirm that we can issue both these amended permits under current legislation for a further three years from the date of receipt of an application for each permit with full payment of fees. Each application will incur a reduced Application Fee of \$140.50 as both permits will require minimal assessment, and no change to conditions. The Permit Fees for each permit for more than two years will be \$638. We can do a pro-rata discount on the permit fees for both applications from the date that we receive any application before the end of your current permits. For example if you submit on June the 14th we will refund you for 6months of each old permit at approximately \$106 per permit.

Application and Permit Fees are detailed on-line on the Department website. Please follow the following links for more information.

http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/services/index.php?category_id=237

Should you wish to apply for new permits with a further three year term please complete the application forms that can be found in the following link:

<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/forms/index.html>

Please phone me at any time if you require additional information, or if I can be of assistance.

Kind regards

Simon Hughes

Team Leader

Southern Permits Team

Commercial and Visitor Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Ph: 3330 5243

MB [redacted] Personal information - mobile

RTI DL RELEASE - NPRSR