

<b>Policy title</b>	Recreational Horse-Riding on Beaches
<b>Responsible manager(s)</b>	Director, Planning & Sustainability Services
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Divisional Manager, Environmental Services
<b>Directorate</b>	Planning & Sustainability Services
<b>Approval date</b>	27 June 2017
<b>Outcome area</b>	Support Services
<b>Strategy</b>	
<b>Delivery Program</b>	SS1.2 Maintain a sound governance framework within which Council operates
<b>Operational Plan</b>	SS1.2.2 Ensuring transparency in council dealings

### Purpose

Horse-riding is a popular recreation and sporting activity, and appreciation and enjoyment of coastal areas on horseback is a quality experience for horse-riders. All recreational activities, including horse riding, can generate impacts on the environment and must therefore be managed in accordance with legislative requirements and the objectives for which certain lands are allocated. Eurobodalla Shire Council's policy was formulated to regulate the use of beaches by recreational horse-riders, as a result of community and tourism consultation coupled with environmental constraints. The Policy addresses effects on the environment from horse-riding, particularly coastal beach zones, and defines areas where horse-riding on beaches is permitted.

### Policy aims

- Provide for recreational horse-riding activities where appropriate, and ensure the ecologically sustainable management of horse-riding on beaches.
- Promote a balanced, flexible and responsive approach to the management of recreational horse riding and the protection of the natural heritage of beaches.
- Ensure that the mix and pattern of recreational use on beaches maintains an appropriate level of safety, equity, harmony and satisfaction amongst all visitors.
- Apply principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- Ensure consistency and fairness in the manner in which Council deals with horse-riding on beaches.
- Make council's policies and requirements for horse-riding on beaches readily accessible and understandable to the public.

### Policy statement

<b>1</b>	<b>Application</b> This policy applies to all beaches within the Eurobodalla Shire.
<b>2</b>	<b>Legislation</b> Eurobodalla Shire Council complies with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .
<b>3</b>	<b>Criteria for approval</b> The following criteria are used to determine approved recreational horse riding areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal effects on nearby residents</li> <li>• Minimal impact on dunal, estuarine and foreshore areas</li> <li>• Minimum disruption to other normal users of the area, particularly where dogs and people frequent the area</li> <li>• No through-roads or cycleways</li> <li>• Proximity to National Parks and Reserves and public bridle tracks</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate Signage requirements</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Approved areas</b></p> <p>Recreational horse-riding areas on public beaches is currently permitted at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Beach from Square Head to end of Sandy Place</li> <li>• Maloneys Beach from end of Hibiscus Close to National Park</li> <li>• Bengello Beach from sandpit to windsock</li> <li>• Bingie Beach from National Park to Coila Lake</li> <li>• North Nangudga Beach, with access by road only and not along Handkerchief Beach</li> </ul>

### Implementation

Requirements		Responsibility
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Compliance Process</b></p> <p>This policy will be implemented via council's Compliance Policy.</p>	Council Officers
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Approved Areas</b></p> <p>Approved areas have been in place and are reviewed and approved following public exhibition, submissions and consideration of criteria.</p>	Council Managers and Officers
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Enforcement</b></p> <p>Rangers will enforce the policy and determine follow up actions.</p>	Rangers
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Staff</b></p> <p>Under supervision, applicable Council staff will be responsible for ensuring that policies are implemented appropriately within their work area, after they have received relevant training to do so.</p>	Council Officers
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Concerns</b></p> <p>Concerns received regarding this policy will be recorded on Council's Customer Service (CSR) or records system and handled in accordance with Council's Customer Service or Complaints Policy. They will be used to analyse the history of concerns and to help determine follow up actions.</p>	Council Officers
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Consultation</b></p> <p>Consultation regarding this policy will occur as relevant with key stakeholders and may include legislative bodies, other agencies, relevant legislation, industry guidelines, and public comment. Public submissions regarding this policy are invited for consideration during the policy exhibition period.</p>	As required

### Review

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years. It may also be reviewed and updated as necessary if legislation requires it; or when Council's related policies, functions, structure or activities change; or when technological advances or new systems change the way that Council manages recreational horse-riding on beaches.

The policy may be revoked at the expiration of twelve months after the declaration of the poll for the next general NSW local government election, unless Council updates or revokes it sooner.

**Note:** *The next general local government election is expected to be held in September 2020.*

Reviews of the effectiveness of this policy could include the following:

Performance indicator	Data source(s)
Breaches	Council records
Internal or external audit	Audit

### Governance

This policy should be read in conjunction with any related legislation, codes of practice, relevant internal policies, and guidelines.

#### Related legislation and policies

Name	Link
Compliance Policy	<a href="http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au">www.esc.nsw.gov.au</a>
Local Government Act 1993	<a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/lga1993182/">www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/lga1993182/</a>
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997	<a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/poteoa1997455/">www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/poteoa1997455/</a>
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979	<a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/epaaa1979389/">www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/epaaa1979389/</a>
Native Vegetation Act 2003	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/nvact.htm">www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/nvact.htm</a>

#### Related external references

Name	Link
Division of Local Government	<a href="http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/">www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/</a>
Department of Environment and Heritage	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/">www.environment.nsw.gov.au/</a>
National Parks and Wildlife Services	Horse Riders Code

#### Change history

Version	Approval date	Approved by	Min No	File No	Change
1	22 Sep 2009	Council	09/291	E09.3418	Policy adopted.
2	10 Sep 2013	Council	13/276	E13.7095	Reviewed and updated. Report O13/60
3	27 Jun 2017	Council	17/214	E06.0381	Reviewed and updated. Report GMR 15/021.

#### Internal use

Responsible officer	Director Planning & Sustainability Services		Approved by	Council	
Min no	17/214	Report no	GMR17/021	Effective date	27 Jun 2017
File no	E06.0381	Review date	Sep 2020	Pages	3