

Policy title	Recreational Horse-Riding on Beaches
Responsible manager(s)	Director, Planning and Sustainability Services
Contact officer(s)	Divisional Manager, Environmental Services
Directorate	Planning and Sustainability Services
Approval date	11 October 2022
Outcome area	1 Our sustainable shire celebrates our natural environment and outdoor lifestyles
Strategy	1.2 Value, protect, and enhance our natural environment
Delivery Program	1.2.3 Work in partnership to provide natural resource management to develop community awareness of environmental opportunities, issues and impacts
Operational Plan	1.2.3.3 Monitor, inspect and respond to public and environmental health matters

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 engagement, 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 way 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

1	Application This policy applies to all beaches within the Eurobodalla Shire.
2	Legislation Eurobodalla Shire Council complies with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> .
3	Criteria for approval

	<p>The following criteria are used to determine approved recreational horse-riding areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal effects on nearby residents • minimal impact on dunal, estuarine and foreshore areas • minimum disruption to other normal users of the area, particularly where dogs and people frequent • no-through roads or cycleways • proximity to National Parks and reserves and public bridle tracks • appropriate signage requirements.
4	<p>Approved areas</p> <p>Recreational horse-riding areas on public beaches are currently permitted at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Beach from Square Head to the end of Sandy Place • Bengello Beach from sandpit to windsock • Bingie Beach from National Park to Coila Lake • North Nangudga Beach, with access by road only and not along Handkerchief Beach. <p>Refer to Appendix 1 to view aerial photos of each location.</p>

Implementation

Requirements	Responsibility
<p>1 Compliance process</p> <p>This policy will be implemented via Council's Compliance Policy.</p>	Council officers
<p>2 Approved areas</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
<p>3 Enforcement</p> <p>Rangers will enforce the policy and determine follow-up actions.</p>	Rangers
<p>4 Staff</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
<p>5 Concerns</p> <p>Concerns received regarding this policy will be recorded on Council's 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
<p>7 Consultation</p> <p>Consultation regarding this policy will occur as relevant with key stakeholders, and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislative bodies • other agencies • relevant legislation industry guidelines • public comment. 	As required

	Public submissions regarding this policy are invited for consideration during the policy exhibition period.	
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Review

This policy will be reviewed every four 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 2024.*

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	https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/council-policies
<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-030
<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>	https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1997-156
<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1979-203
<i>Local Land Services Act 2012</i>	https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2013-051
<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>	https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2016-063

Related external references

Name	Link
The Office of Local Government	https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/
Office of Environment and Heritage	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/

Office of Environment and Heritage – Code of Practice for Horse-Riding in Parks	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/code-of-practice-for-horse-riding-in-parks
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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
4	11 Oct 2022	Council	22/265	S004-T00060	Reviewed and updated. Report GMR 22/265

Internal use

Responsible officer		Director Planning and Sustainability Services		Approved by	Council
Min no	22/265	Report no	GMR22/099	Effective date	11 Oct 2022
File no	S004-T00060	Review date	11 Oct 2022	Pages	8

Appendix 1: aerial photos of recreational horse-riding areas



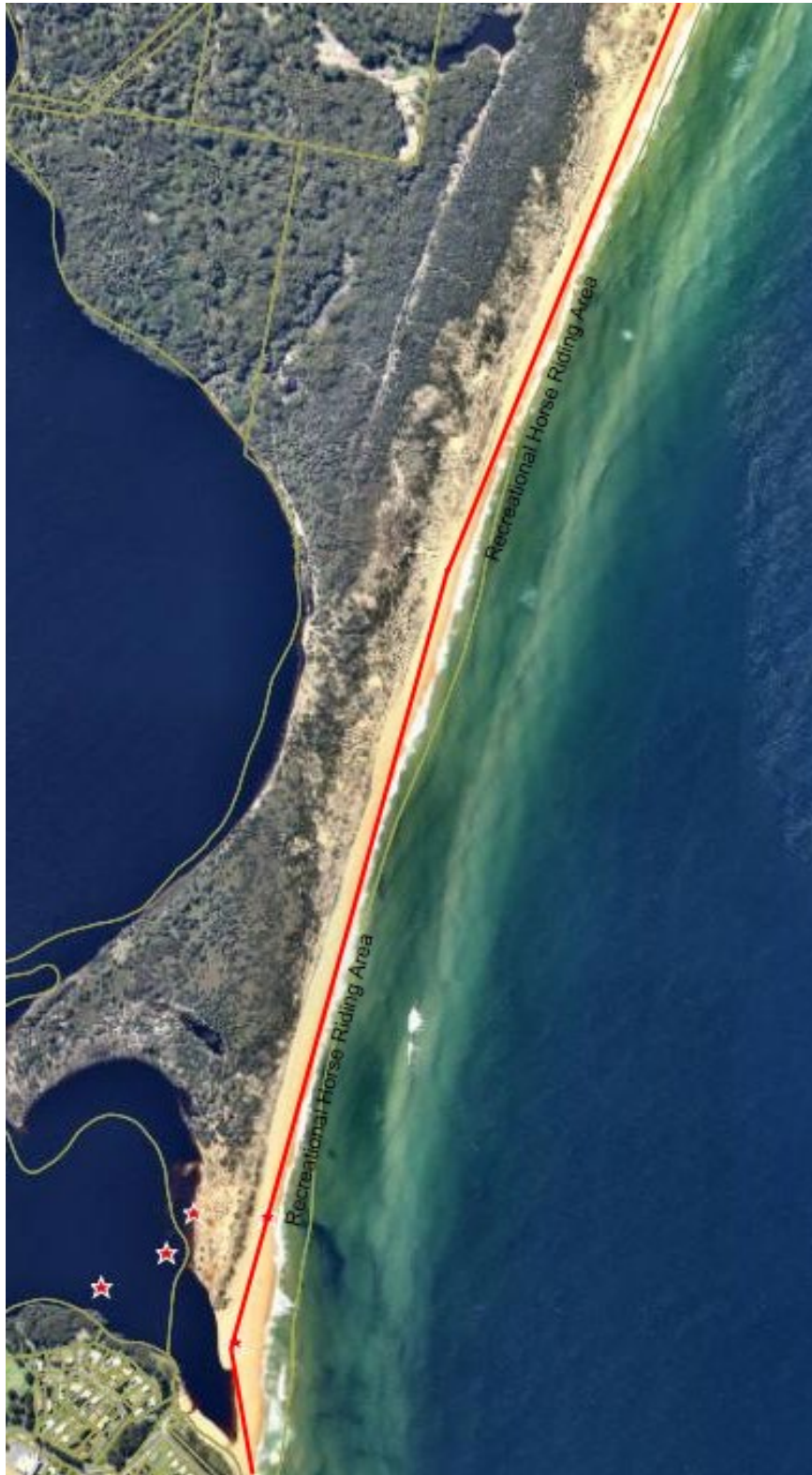
Long Beach recreational horse-riding area from Square Head to the end of Sandy Place

Appendix 1: aerial photos of recreational horse-riding areas



Bengello Beach Broulee, between the sandpit and Moruya airfield windsock

Appendix 1: aerial photos of recreational horse-riding areas



Bingie Beach from National Park to Coila Lake

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North Nungudga Beach, with access by road only and not along Handkerchief Beach