

HORSE RIDING

VISITOR INFORMATION SHEET

INTRODUCTION

Forestry Plantations Queensland Pty Ltd (FPQ) is one of Australia's largest privately owned timber plantation companies, managing approximately 345,000 hectares (ha) of land including 210,000 ha of hardwood and softwood plantations located throughout Queensland. The majority of these lands can be found on State plantation forest which is managed by FPQ under a 99 year Plantation Licence granted by the Queensland Government.

State plantations forests comprising the Licence Area, are commercial forests and are primarily managed for the commercial growing, harvesting and protection of FPQ's plantation timber assets. The extensive network of existing roads throughout these forests not only serves a practical purpose, allowing for timber harvesting and fire management, but also provides recreational opportunities for horse riders.

WHERE TO RIDE

There are few purpose built trails within the State plantation forests, but bicycle riding can be undertaken along the existing forest roads. Care should be taken as these roads are open to vehicle use including harvesting machinery and logging trucks.

FPQ may close roads periodically for operational purposes (e.g. harvesting and establishment of plantations) or during periods of adverse weather conditions. Entry into areas closed for any reason is prohibited.

Use of the Bicentennial National Trail and the Noosa Trail Network, which cross the Plantation Licence area, are subject to permit requirement.

PERMITS

Individual riders do not generally need a permit to ride within the State plantation forests. Commercial activities, organised group activities (involving 15 or more participants) and competitive events (including endurance rides, races, trials and exhibition) will however require a permit.

Commercial, group and competitive event permit application forms can be found on the FPQ website at www.fpq.net.au.



Photo courtesy of Far-A-Way Riders Association.

CARE AND SAFETY IN THE FOREST

To ensure safe riding with minimal impact, please observe the following:

- Ride only on formed management roads. Do not take shortcuts or form new trails
- Obey all regulatory notices and signs and respect road closures.
- Obtain a permit before conducting a group ride, competitive events or commercial activities.
- Don't mark trees or place any navigational marks or other signs in the area, unless authorised under a permit
- Prepare for the unexpected. Logging trucks, harvest machinery and other traffic use the roads.

Additional care and safety requirements for horses

- Only allow horses to cross natural watercourses at designated crossing points on the trail to protect the watercourse.
- Don't allow horses to enter or remain in natural watercourses. Do not wash horses in natural watercourses.
- Ensure horses are under control or securely tethered at all times. Horses must be controlled so that they do not annoy or place another person in danger, or cause damage to the area
- Remove all litter brought into the area by the rider



Do I need a permit and what permit do I need?

