



Anglesea Heath

Horse Riding Position Paper

Parks Victoria proposes to maintain opportunities for horse riding in the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath) where this activity can be undertaken sensitively and sustainably. Community feedback on this proposal is invited.

Summary

Parks Victoria supports horse riding in the Great Otway National Park, with riders able to use and enjoy the public road network.

Protecting the many significant values of the Anglesea Heath is necessary if horse riding is to be sustained. Parks Victoria has reviewed current uses across the Anglesea Heath to understand how horse riding can continue to be supported while minimising disturbance to natural and cultural values.

This paper outlines the current issues, requirements and future opportunities for horse riding in the Anglesea Heath.

Context

Parks Victoria's strategy, **Shaping Our Future**, recognises the importance of conserving parks while providing opportunities for all people to enjoy these special places. Parks are great locations for a wide range of activities, including horse riding, where these activities can be enjoyed while ensuring that the natural and cultural values of parks are protected for the future.

The **Great Otway National Park Management Plan** identifies the need to provide opportunities for enjoyable and diverse nature-based horse riding experiences, including horse riding, where this is sustainable and compatible with the protection of other park values, and where the impact on other park users is minimised.

Horse riding objectives

The **Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework** was informed by extensive community consultation. The direction determined for the Great Otway National Park area (incorporating the Anglesea Heath) was to prioritise the protection of flora and fauna, with complementary active recreation where this would not detract from the main land use of conservation. This has informed Parks Victoria's approach.

The following objectives have been developed to manage the integration of the Anglesea Heath into the Great Otway National Park:

1. Support horse riding on the legal road and track network i.e. open roads and tracks that vehicles can access
2. Maintain access to management vehicle only tracks for horse riding in the parcel of land bounded by Forest, Portreath and Gundry's roads
3. Maintain horse riding on existing tracks within Gherang Gherang Bushland Reserve
4. Provide information and educational signage to guide horse riders using the area.

What we are seeing

Horse riding is a popular visitor experience in and around the Anglesea Heath, particularly in Gherang Gherang Bushland Reserve and the parcel of Great Otway National Park located on the eastern side of Forest Road. Unfortunately we are seeing environmental impacts caused by off-track riding that is occurring illegally. These impacts include the degradation and erosion of soils, destruction of native vegetation, loss of habitat and weed dispersal.

What is proposed and why

Horse riding will continue to be permitted on open roads and tracks in the Anglesea Heath. Some changes to the road and track network are proposed following a review of the network by Parks Victoria. These changes will affect several groups of users in the Anglesea Heath, including horse riders. Additional information is provided on the attached map as well as in the Trail Biking and Four Wheel Driving Position Paper.

There is no proposed change to access at the Gherang Gherang Bushland Reserve and within the block of Great Otway National Park bounded by, Portreath and Gundry's roads, where horse riding is permitted on management vehicle only tracks.

To better guide where and how horse riding is undertaken, Parks Victoria will work with riders to review the information and educational signage in the Anglesea Heath and on adjacent land managed by Parks Victoria.

What do you think?

- What aspects of Anglesea Heath are attractive to horse riders?
- In terms of access for horse riding, what do you think of the proposed changes to the legal and open road and track network in the Anglesea Heath?
- Should additional information and signage be provided to guide horse riders on the appropriate access and use of the Gherang Gherang Bushland Reserve and the National Park area bounded by Forest, Portreath and Gundry's roads?
- Are there additional areas where horse riding activities would be suitable and sustainable i.e. without compromising other park values?

Have your say on the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath)

Parks Victoria is interested in your thoughts. You can contribute by:

- Visiting the Parks Victoria stand at Anglesea Riverbank Market on Saturday 12 January (5:30-8pm)
- Attending a drop-in session on Wednesday 16 January (5-7:30pm) or Saturday 2 February (11-1:30pm) at Anglesea Hall - 1A McMillan Street, Anglesea
- Completing a survey at engage.vic.gov.au or
- Emailing your comments to Angleseaheath@parks.vic.gov.au

For more information go to www.engage.vic.gov.au

