



# THE A.C.T. EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

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ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

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Submission re the Namadgi National Park Plan of Management Draft of Oct 2007

This Association wishes to support the recently issued draft Plan of Management. We consider it a comprehensive and balanced document covering the many aspects required in the Park's management. Points of particular interest to us concern:

### **Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) Route**

Re 8.7.6 (p.131) Horse riders particularly welcome the re-routing of the BNT from Mt Clear campground via Long Flat and Burnt Hill Fire Trails to the Boboyan Rd and from there on the new Grassy Creek Fire Trail to a point on the ACT/NSW border where access through private property has been arranged giving access to the Shannons Flat Rd at Bradleys Creek. From there wider road verges enable safer travelling to Yaouk.

What is of concern to us is the proposal made in Committee witness statements (Transcript 13 May 2008 p.23) that a trail parallel to the Boboyan Rd would suffice, rather than permitting use of the Grassy Creek Fire Trail. This proposal would seem to admit that there is danger to BNT travellers, and motorists unexpectedly meeting such travellers on the curves and bends of the Boboyan Rd. But it makes no allowance that there is similar danger on the Shannons Flat Rd from the ACT/NSW border for a distance of approximately 12 kms to Bradleys Creek. As mentioned, from Bradleys Creek the verges of Shannons Flat Rd to Yaouk are relatively wide. Hence we urge the importance of the use of Grassy Creek Fire Trail from Boboyan Rd to the ACT/NSW border. Then by going through the route on private property negotiated by the BNT Coordinator users reach Shannons Flat Rd.

The proposal to have a trail parallel to the Boboyan Rd would also appear to mean some disruption to Park habitat and additional expense.

**Access to bogs on Grassy Creek Fire Trail.** Concern expressed by the witness (Transcript 13 May p.23,25) is mistaken as the route to be followed is on a re-aligned Grassy Creek fire trail well away from bogs.

We note that the use of and impacts on the Grassy Creek Fire Trail are to be monitored. The system of locked gates through which access is obtained by notifying rangers and being informed of a padlock code should enable relatively easy counting of horse rider numbers. What is not so clear is how successfully monitoring will separate out horse rider impacts from impacts of other users.

We welcome the opportunity to make input to the upgrading of camping facilities at Mt Clear Pound campground. (38.17 p. 125 and 39.39 p.133)

### **Weed Spread by Horse Riders**

We are pleased to note the broad approach to management of pest plants in the October 2007 draft Plan of Management (p.68ff). We are pleased to note that park users generally will be educated about the potential for weeds to spread in many ways. What could be added is that nature itself contributes as wind, water runoff, and the natural inhabitants (e.g. ants, birds and other animals) spread weed seed. However we are concerned that evidence given by witnesses in the Committee hearings is very misleading on the nature of weed spread by horses and have written about this separately to Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning and Environment members.

We note that requirements for the type of horse feed used by horse riders before and during riding in the Park has been spelt out clearly at one point in the Draft Plan. (39.32 p.132) The reference to horse feed in 13.4 p. 69 should use the same wording as used in 39.32 or refer to the statement in 39.32 p.132.

Beth Stone  
Secretary  
ACT Equestrian Association Inc.  
10 June 2008