



12 Mar 2014

To; The Chief Executive Officer,  
Cassowary Coast Council,  
INNISFAIL 4860  
via email  
[ceo@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:ceo@ccrc.qld.gov.au)  
[mayor@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mayor@ccrc.qld.gov.au)  
[bryce.macdonald@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:bryce.macdonald@ccrc.qld.gov.au)  
[glenn.raleigh@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:glenn.raleigh@ccrc.qld.gov.au)  
[mark.nolan@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mark.nolan@ccrc.qld.gov.au)  
[alister.pike@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:alister.pike@ccrc.qld.gov.au)  
[ian.rule@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:ian.rule@ccrc.qld.gov.au)  
[kylie.farinelli@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:kylie.farinelli@ccrc.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

In regard to the following agenda item for CCRC general meeting on 13th March,

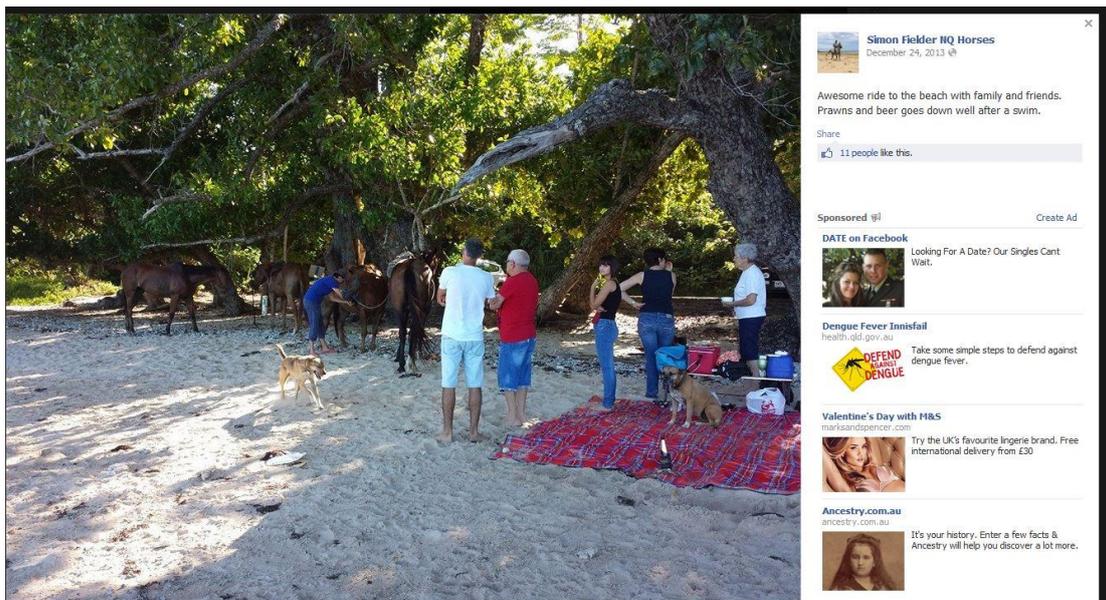
**9. NOTICE OF MOTION**  
**9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - ACCESS FOR RECREATIONAL HORSE RIDING**  
**ACTIVITIES ON BEACHES AND COMMON AREAS**

Mission Beach Cassowaries Inc would like the following comments noted.

There is a considerable amount of money being spent on consultants who are currently working on recommendations for a Mission Beach Foreshore Management Plan. It seems this would be the appropriate planning mechanism developed with public consultation to decide beach usage.

Horses on beaches at Mission Beach has until recently been occasional, of relative low impact and confined mostly to short visits for the animals to be exercised and cool off in the water.

We notice this activity is escalating to general and frequent use of beaches and dune areas with disregard to current laws including unrestrained dogs on a designated 'no dog' beach. (See following photos). Horse dung has also been reported on the Cutten Brothers Walk.



The Mission Beach community has put in great efforts to rehabilitate foreshore vegetation and manage weeds on the dune area along the whole of the Mission Beach front since it was highly impacted by two high category cyclones. The work is

ongoing, a long way from being completed. It is disappointing and an insult to that effort, to see it being trampled.

Mission Beach is known and presented as a beautiful and natural tourist destination with the rarity of rainforest growing down to the sea. This vegetation is not only a threatened ecosystem, it harbours and supports many migratory and threatened bird species. The importance of the beach front vegetation is further supported by the recently completed mapping of littoral rainforest showing Mission Beach has significant representation of this critically endangered ecosystem. ([See littoral rainforest technical report here](#))

It is well documented the damage that heavy, hard hoofed animals, such as horses, do to sensitive natural environments. One such report [Affects of Horse Riding on National Parks and other Natural Ecosystems in Australia: Implications for management](#) gives examples of the negative impacts. None of the studies have been carried out in the high rainfall area of the Wet Tropics. It can be assumed the impact would be much higher.

We believe the broad brush motion being presented is not compatible with a passive, nature-based tourism focus that has been promoted for the Mission Beach area.

We strongly oppose any changes to the local bylaws which might allow horse riding activities on beaches in the Cassowary Coast.

We bring to your attention, and fully support, the original CCRC recommendations following an application for horse riding activities on Mission Beach in 2010 (following) and suggest, *the overriding need to protect foreshore vegetation*, be added to the reasons for refusal of this motion.

Recommendation:

“That:

1. Council advise DERM that it would not support the granting of a Conduct of a Tourist Program Permit for the operation of horse riding tours on Mission Beach for the following reasons;

- the bathing reserve presents a physical barrier to the progression of horse tours along Mission Beach;
- it is considered the proposed activity at any level of operation would have an unquantified but adverse impact on the amenity values of the surrounding village of Mission Beach;
- it is considered that the proposed activity at any level of operation would have an unquantified but adverse impact on the safety of other users of Mission Beach.

Yours Sincerely



Liz Gallie  
President,  
Mission Beach Cassowaries Inc  
0414 402315  
(07) 4068 7315  
missionbeachcassowaries@gmail.com  
www.missionbeachcassowaries.com