

Horses on beaches and foreshores

Shoalhaven City Council doesn't promote riding horses on beaches because of the potential for conflict with other beach users, damage to access ways and environmental damage.

Sand dunes and lake foreshores are sensitive and valuable areas and often home to protected plants and animals. Please ensure that you and your horse do not damage any vegetation.

Please note that NSW forests provide ideal opportunities for horse riding,

<http://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/visiting/activities/horse-riding>

If you are considering taking a horse onto a beach you will need to think about the following points;

- Before use, investigate the beach and familiarise yourself with parking, access and beach conditions. Use only formal access ways.
- Avoid beaches that are designated as dog off leash areas
- Respect other beach users by walking the horse onto and off the beach. Some beach users may have a fear reaction to large animals
- If any beach user objects to the horse being on the beach, dismount and walk the horse off the beach immediately
- Many Shoalhaven beaches adjoin National Parks and not all parks offer horse riding trails. Check the National Parks website for park-specific information
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/default.aspx>
- The Threatened Shorebird Recovery program prohibits horse and dog access into shorebird nesting areas. Nesting areas are identified with signs and protective fencing. The nesting season is September to March. Any beach may contain active shorebird nesting areas.
- Only use the tidal area of the beach at low speed and at low tide
- Swim your horse only in very calm sea conditions (preferably with supervision) and only if both the rider and the horse are familiar with this activity
- Collect the horse's droppings
- Beaches known to be used for horse riding in Shoalhaven are
Seven Mile Beach: Parking in Staples Street (Shoalhaven Heads), walk through past golf course clubhouse to beach access. Used by horse trainers.
Narrawallee Beach: access via north or south end. Used by Mollymook Pony Club.
Cudmirrah Beach: access via Koolyn Drive Cudmirrah.
Kioloa Beach: access via boat ramp.
Please note that Cudmirrah and Kioloa Beaches are known shorebird nesting sites, so please avoid these beaches during nesting season - September to March.