



Responsible horse riding on beaches & foreshores

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

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

Safe and responsible riding

If you are considering taking a horse onto a beach you will need to ensure you do so safely and responsibly;

- Investigate the beach and familiarise yourself with parking, access and beach conditions. Use only formalised access ways.
- Avoid beaches that are designated as dog off leash areas.
- Stay well away from shorebird nesting areas. The Threatened Shorebird Recovery program prohibits horse and dog access to 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.
- Respect other beach users by walking the horse onto and off the beach. Some beach

users may have a fear reaction to large animals.

- Move well away from beach users who are fearful
- Stay well away from flagged swimming areas.
- Ride only in 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 manure and dispose of responsibly.
- Do not damage any vegetation on any foreshore area.
- 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>
- NSW forests provide ideal opportunities for horse riding,
<https://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/visiting>

Photo courtesy of Chris Grounds
Hooded Plover – endangered shorebird
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