



Jon Stanhope MLA
CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
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MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

01/11

4 January 2011

NEW TRAIL ON TRIAL FOR HORSE RIDERS IN THE PINNACLE

A new equestrian trail has been formalised within the Pinnacle Nature Reserve providing an interesting loop trail for horse riders, Chief Minister and Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Jon Stanhope, said today.

Over the past few months, the Department of Territory and Municipal Services has reviewed equestrian access on the Pinnacle Nature Reserve in consultation with the ACT Equestrian Association and the Friends of the Pinnacle ParkCare Group.

“In the past, horse riding in the Pinnacle Nature Reserve has only been permitted along the Bicentennial National Trail,” Mr Stanhope said.

“The ACT Government recognises the need within the Hawker area for equestrian trails, particularly loop trails.

“In an effort to provide increased access for horse riders in the area, a formalised equestrian trail will be provided within the Pinnacle Nature Reserve using the formed trail that runs along the southern perimeter of the reserve.”

The new trail will link to the current Bicentennial National Trail near Dungowan Street in Hawker and near Springvale Drive in Weetangera providing an interesting loop for riders. It circumnavigates a large portion of the Pinnacle Nature Reserve taking riders through regenerating woodland habitat and providing great views to the Molonglo Valley and beyond.

New access points will be installed and signs erected to direct riders along the new equestrian trail as well as to discourage off-trail use.

“The new loop trail will be maintained to minimise the environmental impact on the Reserve, so it is important equestrians do not stray off the marked trails,” Mr Stanhope said.

“The new signage will outline that the trail should not be used by horse riders during wet conditions as horses may leave significant hoof prints and as a result damage the trail surface. This could then increase the possibility of erosion on the trail in the future.”

The ACT Government will review the success of the new equestrian trail after 12 months.

Statement Ends

Media Contact: Kanchan Dutt

6205 8500

0401 563 532

kanchan.dutt@act.gov.au

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Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433