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Horse Trail Riding

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Australian

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Adventure Activity

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Good Practice Guide

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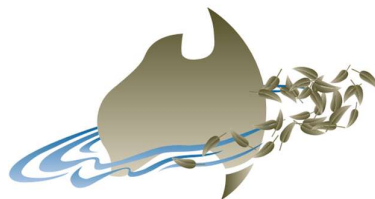
Guidance for routine and advanced horse trail riding.

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Representing the
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17 **Traditional Owner Acknowledgement**

18 We acknowledge the *Traditional Owners* of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection
19 to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and
20 present.

21

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29 Australian Adventure Activity Standard and the Good Practice Guides are a guide only. *Activity providers*
30 and any other person accessing the documentation should consider the need to obtain any appropriate
31 professional advice relevant to their own circumstances, including the specific adventure activities and
32 needs of the *dependent participants*.

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38 and currency of the content and use their own skill and care with respect to their use of the information.

39 The Australian Adventure Activity Standard and Good Practice Guides do not replace any statutory
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43 and ratifying the documents:

- 44
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 - are not liable for any loss resulting from an action taken or reliance made on any information or
- 45 material contained within the Australian Adventure Activity Standard, Good Practice Guides and
- 46 associated documents.
- 47

48 **Version details**

Version	Date	Details
1.0	23 Sept 2019	Version one release.
2.0	2026	

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51 Foreword

52

53 "When I experience dadirri, I am made whole again. I can sit on the riverbank or walk through the trees;
54 even if someone close to me has passed away, I can find my peace in this silent awareness. There is no
55 need of words. A big part of dadirri is listening."

56 **Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM**

57

58 The Australian Adventure Activity Standard and Good Practice Guides are designed to ensure effective,
59 responsible, sustainable and safe delivery of adventure activities to *dependent participants*. They can help
60 people across the outdoor sector to develop appropriately managed adventure activities which enhance
61 individuals and our communities, while protecting the environment and culturally significant places. In
62 doing this, these documents can help ensure that people will continue to enjoy the benefits of adventure
63 activities well into the future.

64 Best wishes for all your adventures.

65 **The Australian Adventure Activity Standard Steering Committee**

66 **Outdoor Council of Australia**

Creation

The Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) and accompanying Good Practice Guides (GPGs) were developed through a national project and launched in 2019. They drew together, and built upon, the various state and territory-specific adventure activity standards that had previously operated across Australia, replacing a fragmented set of arrangements with a single, nationally consistent voluntary framework. The original development drew on the input of a wide range of outdoor and adventure activity experts with extensive experience, supported by expert advisory groups and informed by open consultation across *activity providers*, education authorities and other stakeholders.

The Steering Committee gratefully acknowledges the members of the various focus groups, industry consultation, working groups and expert advisors for their work and contributions, and thanks the State and Territory Governments for funding the original development.

The AAAS and GPGs are now maintained by the Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA). They are subject to comprehensive review at least every five years, with targeted reviews undertaken in response to serious incidents, fatalities, relevant court decisions, or material changes in regulation or practice. Reviews are overseen by the Steering Committee and conducted in accordance with the AAAS Review and Update Methodology — a pragmatic, mixed-methods process combining legislative and regulatory analysis, currency checking of cited standards and instruments, stakeholder consultation, data-informed *risk assessment*, and structured expert input through the Expert Advisory Group, followed by open public consultation before endorsement.

The first comprehensive review under this methodology was undertaken in 2025–26. The review was facilitated, and the Standard and Good Practice Guides drafted, by The OREAS Group Dr David Marsden for and on behalf of the Outdoor Council of Australia. The Outdoor Council of Australia gratefully acknowledges the contributions of all who took part in the review:

- Dr David Marsden (PhD), Lead Consultant (The OREAS GROUP)
- Lori Modde, Project Sponsor (OCA Chair)
- the members of the AAAS Steering Committee, who provided governance, direction and endorsement of the reviewed documents;

Lori Modde, OCA Chair, Outdoors NSW, ACT

David Marsden, Lead Consultant, The OREAS Group

Andrew Atfield, Tasmania Government

Andrew Knight, Outdoors Victoria

Dom Courtney, Outdoors Queensland

Jodie Freund, South Australian Government

Katie Brown, Outdoors WA

Mitchell Hardy, NT Government

Neil Le Febvre, Outdoors WA

- the members of the Expert Advisory Groups, who contributed specialist knowledge and reviewed drafts across the Core and activity Good Practice Guides; and
- the *activity providers*, education authorities, peak bodies and individuals who contributed through public consultation, focus groups, and submissions.

Further details of the creation and review of the AAAS and GPGs can be found at www.australianaas.org.au, where updates are also published.

Funders

The Steering Committee gratefully acknowledges and thanks the State and Territory Governments for funding the original development and 2026 review.

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Preface

About these documents

The Australian Adventure Activity Standard (AAAS) and related Good Practice Guides (GPGs) are an industry good-practice framework for safe and responsible planning and delivery of outdoor adventure activities with *dependent participants*.

The AAAS and related GPGs provide guidance on responsible activity delivery, including safety and respect for the environment, cultural heritage and other users. They are not a full legal compliance framework.

Activity *providers* are encouraged to obtain independent professional and legal advice in relation to their obligations and duties in delivering adventure activities and should reference the relevant laws to the area in which they intend to undertake the adventure activity.

Dependent Participants

A *dependent participant* is a person who is owed a *duty of care* by the *activity provider* and who wholly or partially on the provider's systems, processes and operational practices for the support, supervision, guidance or instruction needed to take part in an activity. In most cases this means a participant who reasonably relies on the provider for their safety. The degree of dependence may vary over the course of an activity.

Considerations for determining whether a person is a *dependent participant* may include, but are not limited to:

- whether the organisation is providing a service or product to the person
- whether the organisation owes the person a *duty of care* in the circumstances
- whether the person reasonably relies on the provider for the support, supervision, guidance or instruction needed to participate safely.

Considerations for determining the **level of dependence** may include, but are not limited to:

- the foreseeable level of competence of the participant in the activity, and the degree of reliance this creates on the provider's work system, including reliance on *activity leaders*
- the foreseeable level of self-reliance of the participant to reasonably manage their own safety
- the variation, or possible variation, in the degree of dependence or self-reliance throughout the activity
- the individual context, nature and circumstances of the activity
- the relevant circumstances and particular facts relating to the responsibilities assumed by the provider.

Does the Standard and Good Practice Guides apply to me?

The Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS) and associated Good Practice Guides (GPGs) are primarily designed to support activity *providers* conducting lead or supported adventure activities involving *dependent participants* with the aim of delivering safe, responsible and well-managed experiences. Each *provider* must determine, based on their specific circumstances, whether the participants they work with are dependent and/or their level of dependency on the provider's systems and operations. Providers should use the AAAS and relevant GPGs to ensure that the activities they lead are planned and delivered in accordance with the Standard.

Australian *providers* operating internationally can use the AAAS and GPGs as a benchmark for safe practice, while complying with the laws and relevant standards of the jurisdiction in which the activity is conducted. Legal advice should be obtained where activities cross jurisdictions.

176 *Activity providers* include outdoor education and adventure businesses, schools, universities, TAFEs, camps,
177 clubs and organised “meet-up” groups, youth organisations, not-for-profits, and community-based
178 organisations that deliver adventure activities to *dependent participants*. An individual may also be an
179 *activity provider* where they hold the ultimate legal *duty of care* to participants. “The Standard” and the
180 GPGs apply to a provider as a “whole organisation” rather than to “specific roles” within it.

181 Some providers may have their own standards or guidelines appropriate to their *duty of care*. These should
182 be reviewed periodically to ensure current *duty of care* expectations are met, and “the Standard” and the
183 GPGs may assist with such reviews.

184 Are they legally binding?

185 The AAAS and GPGs are not legal requirements. However, they may refer to specific laws and regulations
186 which may be legally binding on *activity providers*. Some *land managers* and other organisations may
187 require compliance. This may be as a condition of obtaining a licence, permit or other permission, or some
188 other condition (e.g. a contract).

189 Under Australian common law and relevant legislation, *providers* have a legal *duty of care* towards
190 *dependent participants* in some circumstances. In broad terms, the legal duty requires *providers* to take
191 reasonable care that their actions and omissions do not cause reasonably foreseeable injury to *dependent*
192 *participants*.

193 It is important to be aware that adventure activities in Australia operate within a complex legal landscape.
194 *Activity providers* must understand the obligations that apply to them and seek independent professional
195 and legal advice where any obligation is unclear.

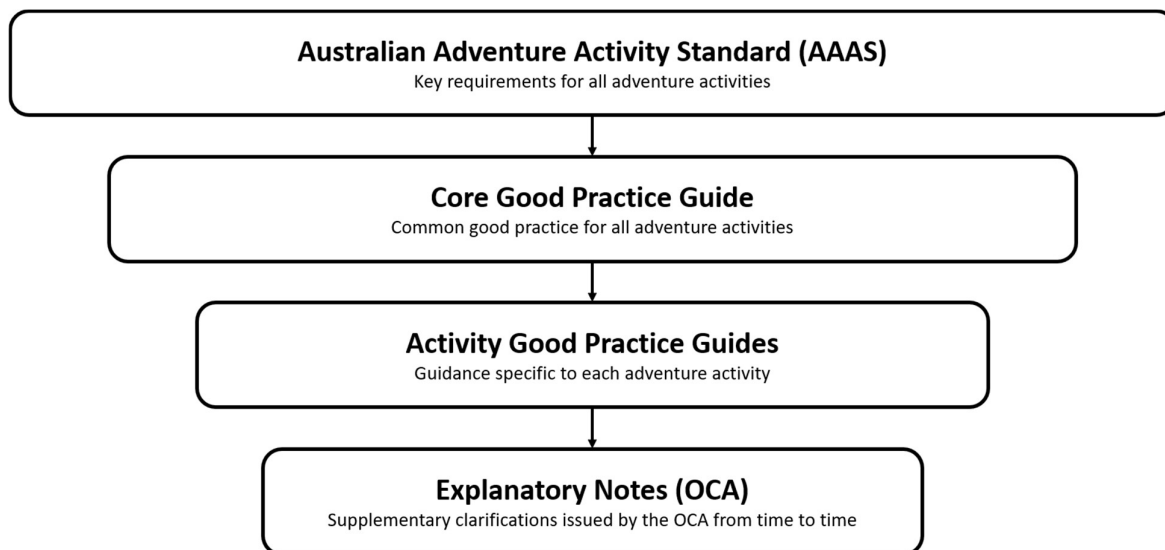
196 The following obligations include, but are not limited to, those set out in detail in Appendix A — Principal
197 legal obligations, grouped by the function each obligation performs:

- 198 • Work health and safety — the foundational legal duty for the majority of providers, including the
199 primary *duty of care*, officers' due-diligence duty, consultation, safe systems of work, and
200 notifiable-incident reporting.
- 201 • *Duty of care*, negligence and consumer protection — the common law *duty of care*, the Civil
202 Liability Act (or equivalent) of each state and territory, and the Australian Consumer Law.
- 203 • Protection of children and vulnerable persons — Working with Children and Working with
204 Vulnerable People schemes, Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Schemes.
- 205 • Transport of participants — land, water and air — heavy vehicle, road transport, domestic
206 commercial vessel, recreational marine and civil aviation obligations.
- 207 • Land access, environment and cultural heritage — park, Crown land and reserve licensing, the
208 EPBC Act, Aboriginal cultural heritage law(s) and/or regulation(s), and biosecurity duties.
- 209 • Information privacy, equity and employment — the Privacy Act and Australian Privacy Principles,
210 anti-discrimination law(s) and/or regulation(s), and the Fair Work Act and relevant award.
- 211 • Substances, food and licensed items — medicines and poisons, food safety, liquor and tobacco,
212 and firearms obligations.
- 213 • Activity-specific licensing — fisheries and recreational fishing licensing, and animal welfare duties.

214 Appendix A is an orientation only and is not exhaustive. It does not constitute legal advice, and the relevant
215 law(s) and/or regulation(s) of the jurisdiction(s) of operation must in each case be determined and
216 complied with.

217 Structure of the Standard and Good Practice Guides

218 The guidance for adventure activities comprises several related documents. For any activity, the AAAS (the
219 Standard), the Core GPG, the relevant activity GPG, and any applicable Explanatory Notes issued by the
220 Outdoor Council of Australia, from time to time, should be consulted.



221

222 *Figure 1.1: Structure of the Standard and Good Practice Guides*

223 The documents present cumulatively more specific information. Providers should determine how they use
224 the AAAS and GPGs based on their context and need, and are encouraged to draw on them when
225 developing and reviewing their standard operating procedures. Activity providers are encouraged to obtain
226 independent professional and legal advice on their obligations and to reference the laws relevant to the
227 area in which they operate.

228 Interpretation of the Standard and Good Practice Guides

229 The following words and phrases are used in all documents and have specific meanings:

230 **Must:** used where a provision is mandatory, if the provider is to operate fully in accordance with AAAS or
231 GPGs. (This is equivalent to the keyword “shall” used in other voluntary standards e.g. Standards Australia,
232 other International Standards Organisations (ISOs) etc.)

233 **Should:** used where a provision is recommended, not mandatory. It indicates that the provider needs to
234 consider their specific situation and decide for themselves whether it applies or is relevant. A “should”
235 statement describes good practice. Departure from a “should” statement does not of itself establish a
236 breach of duty — a provider may meet its obligations by other means appropriate to its context — but
237 providers should be able to explain the basis for a different approach.

238 **Can/cannot:** indicates a possibility and capability.

239 **May/need not:** indicates a permission or existence of an option.

240 **But are/is not limited to:** used to indicate that a list is not definitive and additional items may need to be
241 considered depending on the context.

242 The following formatting is used throughout:

243 Defined words are in italics. They are defined in the Glossary.

244 Examples are in smaller italic 9-point font.

245 In document references are underlined. References are to section heading titles.

246 External web or Australian AAS & GPG document links are dotted underline italic.

247 1 Introduction

248 1.1 Horse trail riding overview

249 A *horse trail ride* involves organised recreational horseback riding where *dependent participants* are led as
250 a group, outside of small enclosed areas and through varying environments.

251 *Horse trail rides* include:

- 252 • short *routine rides* in tracked areas
- 253 • longer rides in untracked or remote areas including multi day rides
- 254 • rides where riders provide their own mounts.

255 This Good Practice Guide (GPG) identifies specific section headings that separate requirements for:

- 256 • *Routine rides* (see [Glossary](#))
- 257 • *Advanced rides* (see [Glossary](#)).

258 Where a section heading does not mention either *Routine* or *Advanced rides*, it applies to both types of
259 rides.

260 1.1.1 Exclusions

261 This GPG does not cover riding lessons and competitive events.

262 1.1.2 Related activities

263 Where camping is involved refer to the separate activity GPG for Camping.

264 2 Management of Risk

265 *Risk management* in outdoor and adventure settings is highly context-specific. In natural environments
266 there is an almost infinite range of combinations of participants, purpose, weather and local conditions,
267 and every provider differs in structure, size, philosophy and operating environment. *Risk management*
268 therefore cannot be a 'tick-the-box' exercise or a 'one size fits all' approach; risk systems should be flexible,
269 adaptive and highly responsive to the circumstances of each activity, drawing on recognised frameworks
270 such as AS ISO 31000:2018 and AS ISO 4980:2023.

271 The section guides providers to build a risk system that fits their own structure and operating environment
272 rather than copying another organisation's. A volunteer-led club might apply it as a lightweight but
273 documented plan with strong dynamic assessment in the field; a commercial operator might use it to
274 underpin a formal, audited *risk management* system. In every case it directs the provider to make risk
275 thinking flexible, adaptive and responsive to the actual circumstances of each activity.

276

277 2.1 Management of risk

278 See *Core GPG (2 Management of Risk)*.

279 2.1.1 Risk management plan

280 The *risk management plan* must address but is not limited to:

- 281 • individual horse behaviours
- 282 • interactions between people and horses
- 283 • interactions between the environment and horses

- 284 • interactions between horses.
- 285 • people interactions and behaviours
- 286 • general equipment, including PPE and saddlery
- 287 • environmental conditions and hazards.

288 Further detail is provided in the following sections of this document.

289 The *risk management plan* should also address any other relevant items identified in the Core GPG and this
290 activity GPG.

291 2.2 Context Matters

292 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

293 2.3 Risk management framework and process

294 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

295 2.4 Dynamic risk assessment

296 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

297 2.5 Incident reporting

298 *See Core GPG (Management of Risk).*

299 3 Planning

300
301 Sound planning is what turns intent into safe and consistent delivery. Clear management and approval
302 processes help a provider manage risk, with the people responsible for approving processes, plans and
303 procedures varying according to the organisation's context. Good planning considers the purpose of the
304 activity, the people involved, group size, the cultural and environmental values of the place, and what to do
305 when conditions change or things go wrong.

306 Here the guidance helps a provider translate intent into a repeatable, defensible process. Approval roles
307 can be scaled to context — a single coordinator in a small operation, or a tiered sign-off structure in a larger
308 one. The material can shape activity-plan templates, prompt early engagement with *Traditional Owners*
309 and *land managers*, and ensure emergency planning and field documentation are in place and reviewed
310 before participants arrive.

311 3.1 Management and approval of activities

312 *See Core GPG (Planning).*

313 3.2 Activity plans

314 Also refer Core GPG.

315

316 See Core GPG (Planning) for the general requirements and further detail.

317 3.2.1 Routine Horse Trail Riding activity plans

318 Planning considerations should include but are not limited to:

- 319 • safety of riders at all times
- 320 • safety of horse and rider combination
- 321 • an appropriate contingency plan for a horse and rider who prove to pose an unduly high risk to
- 322 themselves, others and/or horses
- 323 • how to maintain the welfare of the horses at all times
- 324 • providing progressive and sequential skill development
- 325 • the expected trail conditions
- 326 • route and terrain specific hazards and risks
- 327 • environmental impact and biosecurity (e.g. spread of weeds and invasive species).
- 328 • an appropriate communication device suitable for the planned location
- 329 • a first aid kit suitable for the activity
- 330 • a horse first aid kit.

331 The activity plan should address but is not limited to:

- 332 • if a horse becomes lame
- 333 • if a horse becomes loose
- 334 • if a horse becomes loose and is disrupting other horses
- 335 • if a loose horse heads home
- 336 • management of the group (e.g. dismounting) when it needs to wait while an incident is addressed
- 337 • if weather conditions impact horse behaviour
- 338 • if a rider wants to return home immediately and not continue the ride
- 339 • if the location/weather impacts the ability to continue the ride
- 340 • if an uninjured rider does not want to get back on the horse after a fall
- 341 • if a rider cannot physically get back on the horse without a mounting block
- 342 • if a foreseeable emergency occurs (also see section [3.2 Emergency management planning](#))
- 343 • general activity logistics.

344 3.2.2 Advanced Horse Trail Riding activity plans

345 The advanced horse trail riding activity plan should address but is not limited to items listed for routine trail
346 rides above.

347 Additional advanced horse trail riding planning considerations should include but are not limited to:

- 348 • the need for a support vehicle(s) or pack horses
- 349 • the required navigation skills & equipment
- 350 • the suitability of maps for navigation
- 351 • the access available to the start and finish locations and throughout the activity
- 352 • how to manage horse interactions when horses owned by participants are added to the group.
- 353 • wilderness first aid management equipment, including emergency shelter, an emergency sleeping
- 354 bag and an insulating ground mat for shock management.

355 3.3 Group size

356 See Core GPG (Planning). Group size for this activity is addressed under Participants in this guide.

357 3.4 Cultural, environmental and historical values

358 See Core GPG (Planning).

359 3.5 Emergency management planning

360 Also refer Core GPG.

361 See *Core GPG (Planning)* for the general requirements and further detail.

362 3.5.1 Horse Trail Riding emergency management planning

363 A *non-participating contact* must be used as part of the emergency management plan for all horse trail
364 riding activities.

365 The emergency management plan must address but is not limited to:

- 366 • access by emergency services
- 367 • the rider is injured and cannot continue
- 368 • a rider falls
- 369 • an appropriate wait time after a person has fallen before being assessed as “uninjured” and
370 allowed to remount
- 371 • a horse is injured
- 372 • a horse dislodges rider
- 373 • a horse is out of control of its rider
- 374 • a loose horse heads home and other horses follow
- 375 • a horse behaves dangerously and/or exhibits vices
- 376 • a horse tries to roll
- 377 • a horse has a fall or is stuck
- 378 • confirmed ability to contact emergency services from the planned trail area, including verification
379 of communications coverage prior to departure
- 380 • any other relevant items identified in the Core GPG – Emergency Management Plan.

381 3.6 Activity leader required documentation

382 See *Core GPG (Planning)*.

383 4 Diversity, equity and inclusion

384 Adventure *activities* are delivered by, and for, people of diverse identities, abilities, cultures, life
385 experiences and circumstances. Recognising that diversity, and providing equitable opportunities for safe
386 and meaningful participation, is fundamental to safe and effective practice.

387 In practice this section guides providers to design activities that include rather than exclude, applying
388 across interactions between leaders, participants and others encountered during an activity. A provider can
389 use it to review enrolment and communication practices for barriers, build cultural and psychological safety
390 into leader briefings, and ensure complaint and review mechanisms are visible and accessible. It is intended
391 to be read alongside the Participants and Responsibilities sections rather than in isolation.

392 The recommendations in this section apply alongside, and inform the application of, the subsequent
393 sections of the Core, including without limitation 5 Participants, 5.3 *Vulnerable participants*, 5.5 Privacy of
394 information, 4.3 Cultural safety, 4.4 Psychological safety and dignity, and 8 Responsibilities and roles. Those
395 sections continue to apply in their own terms; where requirements overlap, the more onerous applies.

396 4.1 Diversity of participants and leaders

397 See *Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion)*.

398 4.2 Inclusive practice

399 See *Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion)*.

400 4.3 Cultural safety

401 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

402 4.4 Psychological safety and dignity

403 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

404 4.5 Information, communication and consent

405 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

406 4.6 Leader competence

407 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

408 4.7 Concerns, complaints and review

409 *See Core GPG (Diversity, equity and inclusion).*

410 5 Participants

411 Every activity depends on the people taking part, and on the information and support they receive before
412 and during it. Pre-activity information and communication help potential participants, parents or legal
413 guardians and client organisations make an informed decision about taking part, and continue through
414 consent, acknowledgement of risk, and the care of those who may be vulnerable. Supporting participants
415 well — from first enquiry to supervision in the field — is central to safe and respectful practice.

416 Its purpose is to help a provider ensure people know what they are signing up for and are appropriately
417 supported once they arrive. Pre-activity information can be adapted to the audience and activity,
418 participation restrictions set defensibly, and additional safeguards put in place for *vulnerable participants*
419 and minors. The supervision guidance lets a provider calibrate direct versus *indirect supervision* to the
420 activity, environment and group.

421 5.1 Pre-activity communication

422 Also refer Core GPG.

423 *See Core GPG (Participants) for the general requirements and further detail.*

424 5.1.1 Information provided pre-activity

425 Providers need to determine if they can suitably manage the risks involved when catering for specific
426 participant needs (e.g. providing activities for participants living with a disability).

427 Pre-activity information provided to participants should include but is not limited to:

- 428 • appropriate clothing and footwear required
- 429 • what information participants need to advise the provider prior to the activity including any
430 relevant health conditions or if living with a disability.
- 431 • participant height, weight, age and relevant prior riding experience to inform horse allocation and
432 *risk assessment*
- 433 • relevant medical conditions, current medications and any recent injuries.
- 434 • communication needs, including where participants do not have English as a first language or have
435 hearing or speech impairments. Consideration must be given to how safety briefings, route
436 instructions and emergency commands will be reliably understood by every participant. Where
437 required, an interpreter or designated communication assistant should be incorporated into the
438 group structure.

439 5.2 Participant restrictions

440 Also refer Core GPG.

441 5.2.1 Routine Horse Trail Riding participant restrictions

442 A risk-based assessment that includes the rider and horse combination must be completed for relevant
443 health, medical or personal condition(s).

444 A participant may not be able to participate in an activity, for the safety of themselves, the provider, other
445 participants or others.

446 Reasons may include but are not limited to, the participant:

- 447 • is unable to control their horse
- 448 • weighs greater than the weight that can safely be carried by the available *suitable horses*
- 449 • has a personal condition where the risks associated in undertaking the activity cannot be suitably
450 managed (also refer: Core GPG – sections Participant Restrictions and Health & Wellbeing and
451 below section 4.3.2 Participants living with a disability.)

452 5.2.2 Advanced Horse Trail Riding participant restrictions

453 Reasons may include but are not limited to, the participant:

- 454 • has a restriction listed in the above section 4.2.1 Routine ride participant restriction
- 455 • is riding their own horse which is unsuitable (refer section 6.1 Horse suitability).

456 5.3 Participation restrictions

457 See *Core GPG (Participants)*.

458 5.4 Vulnerable participants

459 See *Core GPG (5 Vulnerable participants)*.

460 5.4.1 Medical conditions, medications and pregnancy

461 A risk-based assessment that includes the rider and horse combination must be completed for relevant
462 health, medical or personal condition(s) regardless of disability status. Conditions and circumstances to be
463 considered include but are not limited to:

- 464 • acute or recent injuries (e.g. dislocations, fractures, soft-tissue injuries) since the participant booked
- 465 • medications that may impair balance, attention or judgement
- 466 • pregnancy
- 467 • open wounds and recent surgery
- 468 • acute or chronic back conditions including herniated disc.

469 If the participant is unable to operate a road vehicle for the same reason, they should not undertake horse
470 trail riding.

471 5.4.2 Horse Trail Riding with participants living with a disability

472 People living with a disability may require Trail Guides with additional recognised qualifications, knowledge
473 and skills. Specialist training is available specifically for those responsible for overseeing riding undertaken
474 by people with a disability.

475 Only trail guides who hold the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) qualification should provide trail
476 rides for people who are living with a type of disability that might impact on their ability to effectively
477 control a horse.

478 Reasons a participant living with a disability may not be able to participate in an activity may include but
479 are not limited to, the participant:

480 • is unable to use their hands or legs
481 • cannot maintain their balance
482 • has a condition that makes the length of ride unsuitable due but not limited to:
483 ○ the attention span required by the participant
484 ○ physical conditions where pain is a factor
485 ○ intellectual or sensory disability.

486 A risk based assessment that includes the rider and horse combination must be completed for relevant
487 health, medical or personal condition(s).

488 Health, medical or personal conditions where the risks cannot be suitably managed include but are not
489 limited to:

490 • severe osteoporosis
491 • uncontrolled seizures
492 • open pressure sores
493 • open wounds
494 • unstable spine, including subluxation of cervical spine
495 • Atlanto-Axial dislocation or significant subluxation in Down Syndrome
496 • advanced multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy
497 • acute herniated disc.

498 Considerations for providing trail rides for participants living with a disability include but are not limited to:

499 • the horses are suitable (also refer section 6.1 Horse suitability)
500 • the *activity leaders* have the appropriate competencies for managing the risks involved (also refer
501 Leadership sections 7.2 Competencies & 7.3 Recognition of competence)
502 • there is an appropriate number of *activity leaders* to provide *direct supervision* where required for
503 individual participants
504 • possible restrictions as per above section 4.2 Participant restrictions.

505 Possible additional *risk management* strategies may include but are not limited to:

506 • trail guides leading the participant's horse
507 • having a 'side-walker' assigned to individual participants if the terrain makes this possible.

508 Where the risks of a trail ride are unacceptable or are unable to be appropriately managed, consideration
509 of a modified version of the activity - such as riding in an enclosed area - may assist in addressing the
510 concerns.

511

5.5 Group size

Also, refer to considerations for determining group size in Core GPG sections: Leadership – Group size and Environment – Land owner and/or manager requirements.

The recommend maximum group size should not exceed 20 horses i.e. total horses carrying participants, guides and pack horses not to exceed 20.

See Core GPG (Participants) for the general requirements and further detail.

5.6 Supervision and management during the activity

In determining the supervision ratio, consideration must be given to the:

- experience, ability, needs and age of the participants
- considerations listed in section 4.3 Participants living with a disability – and any known special needs
- experience, ability, history, behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies of the horses
- nature of the activities and weather conditions
- terrain
- the considerations for determining supervision requirements in Core GPG – Activity Leader to participant ratios.

Supervision provided must allow adequate supervision of all participants and the ability to rapidly, and adequately, respond to emergency situations.

On any trail ride there should be 2 trail guide(s) and/or assistant trial guide(s) with current first aid qualifications.

There must not be more that 6 participants per trail guide.

The recommended supervision requirements that should be used on routine and *advanced rides* are:

Table 5.1: Supervision and management during the activity

Participants	Supervision
1-6	1 trail guide & 1 assistant trail guide
7-12	2 trail guides & 1 assistant trail guide
13-17	3 trail guides
participants under age of 10	refer text below

It is recommended good practice that the assistant trail guide should be used in a role which allows trail guides maximum flexibility in supervision of participants. For example, the assistant trail guide rides the front horse to set the pace and route advised by the trail guides, allowing all the trail guides freedom to move throughout the group to provide supervision as needed.

Participants younger than 10 years of age, unless competent horse riders and in control of a *suitable horse*, must be on a lead rope controlled by a trail guide. This trail guide must not be counted in the ratios for the purposes of the whole group's supervision.

Where participants involved in advanced *horse trail rides* are inexperienced in *interacting* with horses, the minimum supervision must be 2 trail guides.

See Core GPG (Participants) for the general requirements and further detail.

5.7 Activity instruction

5.7.1 Routine Horse Trail Ride activity instruction

Information provided to participants should include but is not limited to:

- 549 • how to correctly fit and adjust approved helmets
- 550 • the requirement to wear helmets at all times while riding
- 551 • appropriate methods for securing hair and jewellery for personal safety
- 552 • usage of saddle bags provided to carry personal equipment and medications
- 553 • risks related to the behaviour of horses, including but not limited to:
 - 554 ○ they are independent, decision-making animals
 - 555 ○ their flight instinct
 - 556 ○ the possible behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies of individual horses
- 557 • behaviour requirements for riders, including but not limited to:
 - 558 ○ individual and group responsibilities
 - 559 ○ no shouting, running or throwing things
 - 560 ○ no walking up behind or standing behind horses
 - 561 ○ no standing immediately in front of horses
 - 562 ○ when on foot, to stand near the horse's shoulder
 - 563 ○ unless participant skill level has been assessed previously as experienced, no mounting
 - 564 ○ without assistance
 - 565 ○ not to chew gum when riding
- 566 • agreed methods of communication within the group (e.g. signals and calls)
- 567 • requirements regarding the order of the ride including:
 - 568 ○ no passing the front guide
 - 569 ○ staying in front of the back guide
 - 570 ○ the distance between horses
 - 571 ○ keeping in a line
 - 572 ○ the speed is to be determined by the trail guide
- 573 • requirements when crossing roads
- 574 • requirements when encountering vehicles
- 575 • requirements when encountering pedestrians
- 576 • following instructions from trail guides and assistant trail guides.

577 5.7.2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride activity instruction

578 In addition to the information in the *routine ride* section, extra information provided may include but is not
 579 limited to:

- 580 • any relevant requirements to reduce environmental impact and/or stop the spread of weeds or
- 581 invasive species
- 582 • recommendations on the type of food, the amount of food and water required
- 583 • use of a buddy system, if appropriate
- 584 • expected terrain, hazards and emergency procedures.

585 5.8 Activity management

586 A trail guide should be familiar with the activity location and/or trail network.

587 Participants should be able to easily identify trail guides.

588 The rider and horse combination should be allocated based on the assessed ability of the rider and
 589 suitability of the horse.

590 All trail ride activities should be provided at a level suitable for the abilities of the least experienced rider
 591 involved.

592 5.8.1 Routine Horse Trail Ride activity management

593 Horses should be in a secure, hazard-free area, and held for inexperienced riders when they mount.

594 Prior to commencing the ride, a check must occur to ensure:

- 595 • each participant has a helmet that is correctly fitted
- 596 • the stirrup length and stirrup fit to shoe size is appropriate
- 597 A practical assessment of all participant's riding skills must be undertake prior to the departure of the ride.
- 598 All riders must demonstrate they can:
- 599 • hold and use the reins to control their horse including to stop and turn it
- 600 • demonstrate correct positioning of their feet in their stirrup and an ability to apply pressure for
- 601 forward motion
- 602 • understand and comply with instructions.
- 603 Riding on roads or other traffic areas should be avoided where possible.
- 604 Where a routine trail ride does ride on roads, this should be in single file where possible.
- 605 5.8.2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride activity management
- 606 Procedures should be used to reduce the potential of participants becoming separated or lost.
- 607 An assessment of all participants' riding skills must be undertaken prior to departure.
- 608 Assessment of participants' riding skills may include but is not limited to:
- 609 • the ability of the rider to control their horse when moving away from and towards the group at
- 610 walk, trot and canter.
- 611 Where participants on advanced trail rides are assessed as inexperienced or beginner riders:
- 612 • the suitability of allowing the participant to undertake the activity should be considered
- 613 • the management of the activity should reflect their needs
- 614 • consideration should be given to increasing the number of trail guides to ensure participants are
- 615 appropriately supervised.
- 616 Where a participant uses a horse that they have supplied, additional procedures should be used to reduce
- 617 the possibility of any unacceptable risks from:
- 618 • dangerous horse behaviours between unsocialized horses
- 619 • the participants horse's behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies.
- 620 Additional procedures to consider may include but are not limited to:
- 621 • not allowing horses that show aggression to other horses to participate or
- 622 • keeping horses that show aggression to other horses separate at all times.
- 623 All riders should be made aware of the particular horses that show aggression to other horses.
- 624 A reliable means of identifying horses that are inclined to kick out should be used (e.g. ribbon in the horse's
- 625 tail).
- 626 Inexperienced riders and their horses must be kept separated from horses that show aggression to other
- 627 horses at all times.

628 5.9 Horse management

629 5.9.1 Routine Horse Trail Ride horse management

630 Appropriate management of the health and safety of horses must include but is not limited to:

- 631 • the horses are fed and watered prior to use
- 632 • the horses are groomed properly including hoof care
- 633 • their equipment fits horse and rider and is suitable for the activity

- 634 • horses are not used if lame or sick
- 635 • each horse's fitness and condition is appropriate for ride
- 636 • the rider's size is appropriate for their horse and the expectations of the ride
- 637 • horses are not stressed by rider behaviour
- 638 • horses are not stressed by other horses (e.g. being bullied)
- 639 • horses are washed down at the end of the ride if they have sweated profusely
- 640 • horses' water intake is appropriate to avoid colic.

641 5.9.2 Advanced Horse Trail Ride horse management

642 Appropriate management of the health and safety of horses for *advanced rides* must include but is not
643 limited to:

- 644 • as listed in section 5.9.1 Routine horse trail ride horse management above
- 645 • monitoring for signs of rubbing equipment and muscular problems
- 646 • the preparations made for any changes in diet to be used before or on the ride to avoid colic and
- 647 the spread of weeds
- 648 • provided with adequate food and water, rest stops and shelter.

649 5.10 Health and wellbeing

650 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

651 5.11 Privacy of information

652 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

653 5.12 Activity leader to participants ratios

654 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

655 5.13 Activity briefing

656 *See Core GPG (Participants).*

657 6 Environment

658 Environmental conditions can directly affect the safety of an activity, and everyone involved shares
659 responsibility for protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the places they visit. Weather, fire, water,
660 terrain, wildlife and the requirements of *land owners* and managers all shape what can be done safely and
661 respectfully. Providers must actively identify, reduce and manage both the risks the environment poses and
662 the impact an activity has upon it.

663 For providers, the guidance encourages planning around the localised, in-situ conditions at the specific time
664 and place of an activity, rather than relying on general assumptions. The trigger-point approach can set
665 clear go/no-go and modification thresholds, fire and severe-weather planning can be aligned with the
666 relevant guidance material, and *land manager* requirements confirmed. Activity-specific detail is expected
667 to come from the relevant activity GPG, with this section providing the common baseline.

668

669 6.1 Environment related planning

670 Also refer Core GPG.

671 6.1.1 Environment considerations

672 Specific environment considerations must include:

- 673 • track or trail features (e.g. water crossings, bridges etc.)
- 674 • other users (e.g. mountain bikers, walkers, horse riders, vehicles)
- 675 • climate or weather (refer sections below 5.1.4 Severe weather and 5.2 Bushfire, prescribed fire
- 676 and fire danger)
- 677 • the type of flora expected (e.g. impeding progress, ability to cut or scratch etc.)
- 678 • the type of fauna expected (refer section 5.4 wildlife safety below).

679 Track or trail features that must be considered are:

- 680 • the condition of the track or trail (e.g. after wet weather)
- 681 • the gradient
- 682 • the surface
- 683 • the width
- 684 • the obstacles to be negotiated
- 685 • the expected level of competence needed to negotiate the trail's features
- 686 • the expected level of fitness of horse and rider needed to negotiate the trail's features.
- 687 • a trail pre-check, where practicable, to identify recent obstacles or changes (e.g. fallen timber,
- 688 washouts, wasp nests) — particularly on the provider's own property.

689 6.1.2 Traveling on roads & paths

690 Any applicable road legislation or regulation must be complied with.

691 Appropriate *risk management* procedures must be implemented when using roads or vehicle tracks.

692 When riding on roads or vehicle tracks, procedures must be in place to:

- 693 • make riders aware that horses are considered vehicles
- 694 • keep to the left and obey all traffic rules and regulations.
- 695 • cross roads in a manner suitably controlled by the *activity leaders*
- 696 • ride in single file at all times when on roads
- 697 • require trail guides to wear high-visibility vests or helmet covers, particularly in low-light
- 698 conditions
- 699 • plan rides to avoid riding on roads in low-light conditions where possible, and to carry high-
- 700 visibility apparel for use if low light becomes unavoidable.

701 Also refer section 5.8 Activity management.

702 6.1.3 Weather Information

703 Refer Appendix V Weather information.

704 6.1.4 Severe weather triggers

705 Also refer Core GPG.

706 *Trigger points* must be based on the relevant Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings and actual weather

707 conditions.

708 The *risk management plan* and emergency management plan should include guidance on relevant *trigger*

709 *points* and associated actions for:

- 710 • *severe weather* warnings
- 711 • thunderstorm warnings
- 712 • coastal waters wind warnings
- 713 • tropical cyclone advice: watch and warning
- 714 • extreme cold temperature
- 715 • extreme hot temperatures.

716 Actions for relevant weather may include but are not limited to:

- 717 • cancellation
- 718 • modification and/or evacuation to a safe location
- 719 • avoiding locations affected by tides or surf
- 720 • avoiding areas and river crossings that have the potential for *flash flooding*
- 721 • preparations to avoid the risks associated with blizzards
- 722 • moving to areas that are protected from strong winds
- 723 • managing risks of flying or falling items during strong winds
- 724 • moving to areas that are protected from hail
- 725 • preparations to avoid the risks associated with lightning.

726 6.2 Bushfire, prescribed fire and fire danger

727 *See Core GPG (6 Bushfires/fire danger).*

728 6.3 Water and river crossings

729 The safety of bridge crossings must be reviewed prior to use as a crossing point.

730 Considerations for the safety of bridge crossings include but are not limited to:

- 731 • has appropriate guard rails if deemed necessary
- 732 • provides safe footing including having no missing pieces or significant holes in the crossing surface
- 733 • the design is appropriate for a horse to cross.

734 When assessing the suitability of a potential creek/river crossing, considerations should include but are not
735 limited to:

- 736 • if there is debris floating or flowing in the current, as this can indicate the risk of being hit and/or
737 swept away by debris
- 738 • how clear the water is and if the base of the crossing can be seen, as this can help determine the
739 depth of crossing and its base
- 740 • the depth of the crossing, as this can indicate the amount of water and force needed to be
741 overcome to avoid being washed away
- 742 • the speed of the water, as this can indicate the volume of water and force needed to be overcome
743 to avoid being washed away
- 744 • where the water flows, as the flow may wash people into dangerous or deadly situations (e.g. into
745 trees in the water that act as strainers, into narrow rock crevices)
- 746 • the base of the crossing (e.g. pebbles, sand, small rocks or large rocks), as moving water can move the
747 base increasing the danger of foot entrapment and/or reducing the likelihood of maintaining
748 stable footing during the crossing
- 749 • crossing downstream of unusable bridges and causeways.
- 750 • the swimming ability of each participant, particularly where the crossing is over horse-knee depth
751 or has flowing water
- 752 • the demonstrated capability of each horse to manage the crossing (some horses cannot swim and
753 may panic in deep water)
- 754 • the appropriateness of the crossing for the least-experienced rider in the group, given that
755 beginner riders are more likely to fall during a crossing.

756 6.3.1 Flooding

757 The crossing of swollen creeks, rivers, flooded bridges or fords, or the entry of floodwaters should be
758 avoided.

759 Areas likely to experience *flash flooding* should be avoided during *severe weather* or thunderstorms.

760 The suitability of water for drinking for human consumption during and after flooding should be assessed.

761 6.4 Environmental conditions, safety and impact management

762 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

763 6.5 Bushfires, prescribed fire and fire danger

764 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

765 6.6 Tree safety

766 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

767 6.7 Drinking water safety

768 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

769 6.8 Food safety

770 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

771 6.9 Wildlife safety

772 Procedures should be in place to minimise the risks associated with wildlife that may be encountered.

773 The types of wildlife that may need to be considered include but are not limited to:

- 774 • birds
- 775 • crocodiles
- 776 • European wasps
- 777 • kangaroos
- 778 • pigs
- 779 • rabbits
- 780 • snakes
- 781 • ticks
- 782 • wild dogs
- 783 • wombats.

784 *See Core GPG (Environment) for the general requirements and further detail.*

785 6.10 Environmental sustainability procedures

786 *See Core GPG (6 Env. sustainability (App L)).*

787 6.10.1 Routine Horse Trail Rides - Environmental sustainability procedures

788 **Horse Trail Ride - Travel on durable surfaces**

789 The *procedures* may include but are not limited to:

- 790 • identify and avoid disturbing unstable, erosion prone or excessively rain affected terrain
- 791 • using appropriate and safe bridges wherever possible to avoid impact on water quality, ecosystems and erosion
- 792
- 793 • using firm, stony water crossings where no bridges are available, to minimise the impact on water
- 794 quality, ecosystems and erosion
- 795 • using existing tracks, pathways or roads to avoid damage to vegetation.

796 **Horse Trail Ride - Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors**

797 The *procedures* may include but are not limited to:

- 798 • only allowing horses to eat weed-free feed at least 48 hrs prior to entering bushland areas (e.g.
799 eating clean chaff, pellets and cracked, rolled or steamed grains and avoiding meadow hay)
800 • cleaning horse hoofs prior to entry to avoid transporting weeds or invasive species
801 • advising *land managers* or owners where weeds and invasive species have been identified
802 • planned actions for trail *activity leaders* and participants to appropriately manage interactions
803 between horses and the general public.

804 6.10.2 Advanced Horse Trail Rides - Environmental sustainability procedures

805 The procedures may include but are not limited to those listed in section Routine horse trail ride
806 sustainability procedures above and:

807 **Advanced Horse Trail Ride - Travel and camp on durable surfaces**

808 The *procedures* may include but are not limited to:

- 809 • always camp horses a suitable distance away from watercourses
810 • avoid allowing horses to denude vegetation
811 • check with *land managers* regarding the use of nightlines and ensure that portable yards, if used,
812 are relocated each night
813 • use tree protectors on nightlines to prevent trees from being damaged
814 • incorporate stops in each nightline to prevent horses from becoming entangled around trees
815 • place nightlines and arrange camps so that it is not possible for horses to walk on people or
816 equipment
817 • where possible, make nightlines 15 metres or more in length to reduce concentrated impacts.

818 **Advanced Horse Trail Ride – Dispose of waste properly**

819 *Procedures* may include but are not limited to:

- 820 • using collapsible buckets, and/or a pump and hose, to water and wash horses
821 • wash horses a suitable distance away from watercourses
822 • dispose of, or widely disperse manure from overnight campsites.

823 6.11 Land owner and/or manager requirements

824 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

825 6.12 Water environments

826 *See Core GPG (Environment).*

827 7 Equipment, horses and logistics

828 7.1 Horse suitability

829 Procedures must be in place to rigorously assess horses for their suitability before being used for trail rides,
830 with assessments conducted by a *competent person* and documented in writing.

831 Procedures must be in place to assess horses for their suitability for trail rides on an ongoing basis,
832 including reassessment after any incident, period of spell, change in behaviour or near miss, and at least
833 annually.

834 When assessing their suitability, horses must be categorised as being suitable for different levels of riders
835 and for routine trail rides and/or advanced trail rides.

836 Procedures must be in place to ensure any relevant horse behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies are made known
837 to the relevant people interacting with or riding the horse.

838 Providers should maintain documented records for each horse used in trail riding, including:

- 839 • an initial written suitability assessment categorising the horse for routine and/or *advanced rides*
- 840 and for rider experience level
- 841 • a workload log identifying which horse was ridden by which participant on which ride
- 842 • an incident log capturing any concerning behaviour, near miss or incident involving the horse.

843 Assessments should be reviewed at least annually, and after any incident, near miss, return from a spell or

844 material change in behaviour.

845 Trail guide horses should be suitable for the level of the lowest-level rider in the group, so that a guide

846 horse can be substituted for a participant's horse if necessary. Ideally, all trail guide horses should suit the

847 level of riders, with at least one always suitable for substitution.

848 Training of green or unfamiliar horses should not occur on commercial trail rides with *dependent*

849 *participants*.

850 Horses must not be used for trail rides where their behaviour includes bucking, kicking, stumbling, shying,

851 aggression to other horses, bolting, over-reaction or over-responsiveness.

852 7.1.1 Routine trail rides horse suitability

853 Where a horse is supplied by the provider, considerations as to its suitability for the rider should include

854 but are not limited to:

- 855 • its size
- 856 • being desensitized to the environment
- 857 • being socialized with other horses
- 858 • suitably tested for behaviour and responses to different types of rider behaviour
- 859 • behaviour does not present an unacceptable risk
- 860 • fitness and ability to work effectively on the trail ride
- 861 • relevant horse behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies are known.

862 7.1.2 Advanced trail rides horse suitability

863 Where a horse is supplied by the provider for an advanced trail ride, considerations as to its suitability for

864 the rider should include but are not limited to:

- 865 • the level of competence of the rider to safely handle the horse's behaviour
- 866 • those 'considerations as to their suitability' listed in section 6.1.1 Routine trail rides horse
- 867 suitability.

868 Where a horse is supplied by the participant for an advanced trail ride, considerations as to their suitability

869 must include but are not limited to:

- 870 • that the participant is able to appropriately control the horse
- 871 • the horse's behaviour is not aggressive towards people or other horses
- 872 • its fitness & health
- 873 • its hoof condition is suitable for the terrain and length of ride
- 874 • tack is well fitted, suitable and safe
- 875 • relevant horse behaviour and/or idiosyncrasies are known
- 876 • it is appropriately vaccinated where deemed necessary.
- 877 • a written pre-arrival self-assessment of the horse completed by the owner, covering behaviour,
- 878 fitness, hoof condition, vaccination status and any known idiosyncrasies
- 879 • written acknowledgement signed by the owner accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the
- 880 self-assessment
- 881 • application of Horse Safety Australia or equivalent guidance on disqualifying characteristics,
- 882 including but not limited to stallions and horses under four years of age.

883 Procedures must be in place to verify, on arrival, the suitability of any horse supplied by a participant.
884 Verification must address the same considerations listed for advanced trail ride horse suitability.
885 Yarding horses not already familiar with each other must be avoided to prevent conflicts and injuries.

886 7.2 Equipment requirements

887 7.2.1 Safety equipment

888 Helmets used must be approved horse riding helmets compliant with the relevant Australian Standard or
889 equivalent.

890 It is recommended that a compliant helmet should be worn while horse riding.

891 Additional personal protective equipment that may be considered includes:

- 892 • gloves
- 893 • eye protection.

894 Additional equipment that should be considered includes:

- 895 • high visibility vests or helmet covers to enable easy identification of trail guides.

896 7.2.2 Clothing

897 Procedures must be in place to ensure appropriate clothing for the expected and foreseeable weather
898 conditions is available.

899 The minimum clothing requirements must be:

- 900 • short-sleeved shirt covering the shoulders
- 901 • full-length trousers.

902 Considerations for determining appropriate clothing include but are not limited to offering protection from:

- 903 • physical injuries
- 904 • weather
- 905 • distress to the rider (e.g. grazes, sunburn, rubbing etc.).

906 Clothing must be secured (buttoned, zipped or otherwise fastened) while riding to prevent flapping that may
907 unsettle horses.

908 7.2.3 Footwear

909 Footwear must fully enclose the foot and be suitable for the activity.

910 Procedures must be in place to ensure appropriate footwear is worn at all times while riding and
911 interacting with horses.

912 Considerations for determining appropriate footwear include but are not limited to:

- 913 • having heels which deter the foot from slipping through the stirrup, and allows for uninhibited
914 removal of the foot from the stirrup iron
- 915 • providing appropriate protection to the top of the foot in the event of a horse stepping on the foot
- 916 • for advanced trail rides having a sole that prevents slipping in the event of a dismount on steep
917 slippery ground.

918 Where it is uncertain that *dependent participants* will have appropriate footwear, stirrups used must be of
919 a design that prevents footwear jamming and/or will dismantle if a fall occurs during which the footwear
920 becomes jammed.

921 7.2.4 Personal items

922 Personal items (e.g. bags, mobile phones, cameras, loose jewellery, raincoats, jumpers) must be carried in a way
923 that will minimise the likelihood of them being dropped, becoming entangled, distracting the rider or
924 causing injury.

925 Raincoats, jumpers and other loose-fitting items must be secured to prevent flapping or dragging from the
926 horse.

927 7.3 Use of safety equipment

928 7.3.1 Horse trail ride participant equipment

929 A compliant helmet must be worn by all participants on all *horse trail rides*, regardless of experience level,
930 age or ride classification. This requirement reflects Workplace Health and Safety obligations to use available
931 personal protective equipment as a reasonably practicable control measure, and aligns with the Horse
932 Safety Australia position that all participants in commercial trail riding must wear a properly fitting,
933 secured, compliant helmet.

934 Providers should consider whether trail guides, assistant trail guides and other staff are also required to
935 wear helmets under the provider's Workplace Health and Safety obligations.

936 7.4 Tack requirements

937 Saddlery must be a good fit for the horse.

938 Saddlery must consist of:

- 939 • saddles securely attached to the horse in a manner that keeps the saddle properly and securely in
940 place and this may require the use of cruppers and breastplates
- 941 • saddles secured by at least two points of attachment (e.g. double-buckle girth, girth and surcingle) or
942 by a double-wrapped latigo made with appropriate material that provides sufficient friction to
943 prevent slippage
- 944 • where a stock saddle with a girth and a surcingle is used and the surcingle is attached in such a
945 manner that it blocks the release of a stirrup leather in an emergency, then either additional
946 equipment must be fitted to the stirrup to ensure a rider will not be trapped by their foot in a fall,
947 or a suitable safety stirrup must be used.

948 Considerations regarding the saddlery used include but are not limited to:

- 949 • the lack of support bareback pads provides when used by new riders
- 950 • use of straps to hold saddle cloths in place
- 951 • use of bitless bridles where there is evidence that the horse has been educated with this
952 equipment and is totally in control using this system.

953 All horses should have halters and ropes either fitted or available, to enable them to be tied up at rest stops
954 or in an emergency.

955 Considerations for equipment requirements are listed in [Appendix T](#) and [Appendix U](#) Equipment lists.

956 7.5 Use of tack

957 A pre-activity equipment safety inspection must be completed.

958 All tack must be:

- 959 • in good repair
- 960 • correctly fitted.

961 The type of saddle used by inexperienced riders must be either a stock, western or hybrid saddle.

962 The safety inspection must include but is not limited to:

- 963 • fit and condition of tack,
- 964 • tack is appropriate for the rider.

965 Participants must be instructed on the use of tack.

966 Girths/cinches must be checked before commencement of ride.

967 Girths/cinches should be checked again after the horse(s) have warmed up and then periodically as
968 required thereafter.

969 The location of the saddle cloths should be periodically checked by visual inspection throughout the ride.

970 7.6 Support vehicles

971 *See Core GPG (7 Transport).*

972 8 Responsibilities and roles

973 This section sets out the responsibilities and roles of persons involved in the planning and delivery of *horse*
974 *trail ride* activities under this guide. It should be read in conjunction with the Core Good Practice Guide
975 (Core GPG), which establishes the generic framework applying to all outdoor activities.

976 8.1 Responsibilities and roles framework

977 See Core GPG Section 8.1 — the responsibilities and roles framework, including the three-tier structure of
978 Leader, *Assistant Leader* and *Support person*, applies without modification to *horse trail ride* activities
979 delivered under this guide.

980 8.2 Naming conventions

981 See Core GPG Section 8.2. This guide uses the following activity-specific titles in place of the generic Core
982 GPG role terms:

983 Trail guide — equivalent to Leader in the Core GPG.
984 Assistant trail guide — equivalent to *Assistant Leader* in the Core GPG.
985 *Support person* — the Core GPG term is used unchanged (see Core GPG Section 8.4.3).

986 8.3 Provider responsibilities to prepare and support leaders

987 See Core GPG Section 8.3 — the provider responsibilities to prepare and support leaders apply without
988 modification to *horse trail ride* activities delivered under this guide.

989 The provider should make available to leaders information regarding horse history — including health,
990 behaviour and temperament — alongside rider suitability assessment to inform horse-rider matching
991 decisions.

992 8.4 Leader responsibilities and role descriptions

993 See Core GPG Section 8.4 — the leader responsibilities and role descriptions, including the role descriptions
994 for Leader (8.4.1), *Assistant Leader* (8.4.2) and *Support person* (8.4.3), and the leader fitness for work
995 requirements (8.4.4), apply without modification to *horse trail ride* activities delivered under this guide.

996 8.4.1 Leader — operational responsibility in the field

997 The Leader carries operational responsibility in the field for the activity and all participants, working within
998 the provider's system and direction; see Section 8.4.1 of the Core GPG for the full role description.

999	8.4.2 Assistant Leader — delegated responsibility
1000	The <i>Assistant Leader</i> supports the Leader and carries delegated operational responsibility for defined
1001	elements or participant groups, operating under the Leader's direction; see Section 8.4.2 of the Core GPG
1002	for the full role description.
1003	8.4.3 Support person
1004	The <i>Support person</i> is a non-technical role that assists <i>activity leaders</i> in managing participants and does
1005	not carry the technical responsibilities of a Leader or <i>Assistant Leader</i> ; see Section 8.4.3 of the Core GPG for
1006	the full role description.
1007	8.4.4 Leader fitness for work
1008	Leaders must be physically and mentally fit for work; providers must take reasonable steps to manage risks
1009	arising from alcohol, medication, other substances and fatigue; see Section 8.4.4 of the Core GPG.
1010	8.4.4.1 Physical and psychosocial fitness
1011	The provider must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that each person assigned to a Leader or
1012	<i>Assistant Leader</i> role is physically and psychosocially capable of the demands of the activity — including the
1013	physical demands of leading <i>horse trail rides</i> across varied terrain and multi-day ride durations; see Section
1014	8.4.4.1 of the Core GPG.
1015	8.4.4.2 Alcohol, medication and other substances
1016	Alcohol and other substance consumption should be discouraged during or immediately before an activity
1017	where it could impair a leader's performance; see Section 8.4.4.1 of the Core GPG.
1018	8.4.4.3 Fatigue
1019	Physical and mental fatigue creates significant risk; providers must implement reasonable controls
1020	including appropriate scheduling, role allocation and self-assessment procedures; see Section 8.4.4.2 of the
1021	Core GPG.
1022	8.5 Leader readiness and capability
1023	See Core GPG Section 8.5 — the leader readiness and capability requirements, including the leadership KSE
1024	principle (8.5.1), the KSE framework (8.5.2), first-aid requirements (8.5.3), knowledge and skill acquisition
1025	(8.5.4), verification (8.5.5), currency (8.5.6) and records (8.5.7), apply without modification to <i>horse trail</i>
1026	<i>ride</i> activities delivered under this guide.
1027	The detailed knowledge, skill and experience required of a Leader (trail guide) is set out in Appendix M of
1028	this guide, and of an <i>Assistant Leader</i> (assistant trail guide) in Appendix N.
1029	8.5.1 Leadership knowledge, skill and experience
1030	The provider must ensure each person in a Leader or <i>Assistant Leader</i> role holds integrated knowledge, skill
1031	and experience across the nine domains of the Outdoor Leader KSE Framework appropriate to the activity
1032	and context; see Section 8.5.1 of the Core GPG.
1033	8.5.2 Provider responsibilities under the Outdoor Leader KSE Framework
1034	Providers must verify the capability of every person assigned to a Leader or <i>Assistant Leader</i> role across the
1035	nine domains of the AAAS Outdoor Leader KSE Framework, scaled to the activity variant, setting and
1036	participant group; see Section 8.5.2 of the Core GPG.
1037	8.5.3 First aid
1038	Leaders must hold a current first-aid qualification appropriate to the activity, environment and applicable
1039	work health and safety law(s) and/or regulation(s); see Section 8.5.3 of the Core GPG.

1040 8.5.4 Knowledge and skill acquisition

1041 Knowledge, skill and experience may be developed through, but is not limited to, formal qualifications,
1042 industry training, provider-based programs or a combination; see Section 8.5.4 of the Core GPG.

1043 8.5.5 Verification

1044 For each person in a Leader or *Assistant Leader* role, the provider must verify knowledge, skill, experience
1045 and currency in context before the person carries the role; see Section 8.5.5 of the Core GPG.

1046 8.5.6 Currency

1047 Knowledge, skill and experience must be current. The provider must determine the minimum currency and
1048 recency requirements for each Leader and *Assistant Leader* role and verify these before each activity; see
1049 Section 8.5.6 of the Core GPG.

1050 8.5.7 Verification and Currency Records

1051 Providers must maintain records of how verification was conducted — including the basis, method, date
1052 and person responsible — for each person in a Leader or *Assistant Leader* role; see Section 8.5.7 of the
1053 Core GPG.

1054

Glossary

- 1055
- 1056 AAAS: Australian Adventure Activity Standard – See Introduction for details.
- 1057 *Advanced rides*: trail rides which are of longer duration including overnight or multi-day, operate at a
1058 greater distance away from an established base of operation, may travel in untracked or remote areas, may
1059 include horses provided by participants and may use pack horses or support vehicles to carry equipment
1060 and supplies. Participants generally have greater knowledge and skills in interacting with horses than an
1061 inexperienced rider.
- 1062 *Camping*: the use of a temporary site for overnight camping.
- 1063 *Competent person*: in relation to a duty for which competence is required, a person who has acquired
1064 through training, qualification or experience the knowledge and skills to carry out the task (model WHS
1065 Regulations r 5; mirrored in OHS Regulations 2017 (Vic) r 5).
- 1066 *Equine*: refers to horses and any activities involving interacting with horses when riding, handling or caring
1067 for them.
- 1068 *Flash flooding*: is flooding in a localised area with a rapid onset, usually as the result of relatively short
1069 intense bursts of rainfall.
- 1070 GPGs: Good Practice Guide(s) – See Introduction for details.
- 1071 *Handling*: any activity involving *interacting* with a horse where the participant is not riding. Includes such
1072 things as catching, leading, holding, grooming, tacking up, un-tacking and providing health care.
- 1073 *Horse*: refers to horse, mule, donkey and other equines.
- 1074 *Horse trail ride*: organised recreational horseback riding where *dependent participants* are led as a group,
1075 outside of small enclosed areas and through varying environments.
- 1076 *Interact/interacting*: is when a person is near a *horse* and can include being in close proximity, such as when
1077 *handling*, loading, riding or entering a paddock or place where horses are kept.
- 1078 *Inexperienced*: where a rider or handler has no, or minimal knowledge or skill gained from *interacting* with
1079 horses. (All persons interacting with horses must initially be considered inexperienced until a full
1080 assessment of their abilities has been conducted.)
- 1081 *Routine rides*: *Horse trail rides* which are of short duration (1-2 hours), following set tracks that are close to
1082 an established base of operation and use horses provided by the operators. Participants are generally
1083 *inexperienced riders*.
- 1084 *Suitable horse*: a *horse* that matches the task expected of it and the *competence* of the person required to
1085 *interact* with it.
- 1086 *Tack*: a piece of equipment or accessory used on a *horse* and includes such items as saddles, stirrups,
1087 bridles, halters, reins, lead ropes, bits and harnesses.
- 1088 Also refer terms and definitions from Core GPG.
- 1089

1090 Acronyms

1091 The following acronyms are used in this Good Practice Guide.

1092 AAAS: Australian Adventure Activity Standard

1093 GPG: Good Practice Guide

1094 ISO: International Organization for Standardization

1095 OCA: Outdoor Council of Australia

1096 PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

1097 RDA: Riding for the Disabled Association

1098 WHS: Work Health and Safety

1099

1100

1101 Appendices

1102 Appendix A Principal legal obligations

1103 *See Core GPG (Appendix A).*

1104 Appendix B Management of Risk

1105 *See Core GPG (Appendix B).*

1106 Appendix C Summary of AS ISO 31000 – risk management

1107 *See Core GPG (Appendix C).*

1108 Appendix D Risk management process

1109 *See Core GPG (Appendix D).*

1110 Appendix E Risk analysis information

1111 *See Core GPG (Appendix E).*

1112 Appendix F Risk management plan template examples

1113 *See Core GPG (Appendix F).*

1114 Appendix G Dynamic risk assessment process

1115 *See Core GPG (Appendix G).*

1116 Appendix H Benefit–Risk Assessment

1117 *See Core GPG (Appendix H).*

1118 Appendix I Emergency management planning framework

1119 *See Core GPG (Appendix I).*

1120 Appendix J Health & wellbeing considerations for risk management

1121 *See Core GPG (Appendix J).*

1122 Appendix K Privacy of information

1123 *See Core GPG (Appendix K).*

1124 Appendix L Environmental sustainability procedures

1125 *See Core GPG (Appendix L).*

1126 Appendix M First aid and medication considerations

1127 *See Core GPG (Appendix M).*

1128 Appendix N Knowledge, skill and experience — Leader

1129 Each knowledge, skill and experience requirement in this appendix is to be applied by the provider within
1130 the context of the planned horse trail ride activity — including the activity variant, setting, participant
1131 group and operational context. Providers must scale the requirements of this appendix to the scope and
1132 complexity of their program.

1133 Activity scope and leader requirements

1134 This GPG covers two primary activity types — routine horse trail rides and advanced horse trail rides —
1135 which differ significantly in terrain complexity, participant capability required, horse management demands
1136 and the technical requirements of the Leader role.

1137 Routine horse trail rides are typically conducted on managed, low-gradient trails close to assistance, with
1138 horses supplied by the provider, participants who can be assessed and brought to a stop and turn.

1139 Advanced horse trail rides extend across more technically demanding or remote terrain, may include
1140 participant-supplied horses, may include trot and canter, and require a Leader whose technical and
1141 personal riding capability matches the demands of the most demanding ride type they lead.

1142 The table below identifies the primary activity variants and their implications for the technical
1143 requirements of the Leader role.

1144 Table M.1: Activity variants and operating settings — horse trail riding

1145 Activity variant | Setting and characteristics

1146 Routine trail ride | Managed, low-gradient trails; provider-supplied horses; participants assessed for basic
1147 walk-trot control; close to assistance; single-day.

1148 Advanced trail ride | Technical or remote terrain; walk, trot and canter; may include participant-supplied
1149 horses; extended distance or multi-day.

1150 Multi-day trail ride | Extended remote terrain; horse welfare and campsite management; self-sufficiency
1151 requirements; biosecurity obligations.

1152 In addition to the primary ride type, the operational setting — terrain complexity, remoteness, horse
1153 source and participant experience — significantly affects the technical requirements of the Leader role.

1154 The program planning matrix (leader-matching tool), which scales leader requirements by the operational
1155 context — provided in Appendix O — must be applied when determining the Leader required for a specific
1156 horse trail ride program.

1157 Safety and risk management

1158 the Leader identifies and manages hazards specific to horse trail ride activities, including horse flight
1159 response, fall-from-horse risk, environmental spook triggers and terrain hazards.

1160 Knowledge

1161 The Leader understands the horse-specific hazard profile for trail ride activities, including the mechanisms
1162 of horse flight response, the circumstances most likely to cause rider falls, and the environmental and
1163 weather conditions that affect horse behaviour and participant safety.

1164 This should include, but is not limited to: the horse's flight instinct and primary triggers including sudden
1165 movement, unexpected noise, wildlife encounters, lightning and storm events and inter-horse aggression;
1166 fall-from-horse risk circumstances including loss of control, horse spooking, stumbling or bucking and
1167 participant error; head injury risk for mounted riders and the mandatory helmet requirement at all times
1168 while mounted; environmental hazards specific to horse trail rides including boggy or steep terrain, road
1169 traffic encounters and wildlife spook triggers; weather effects on horse behaviour including storm noise

1170 and lightning as primary spook triggers, heat stress in horses during sustained effort and cold-weather
1171 management; and pre-ride assessment of individual horse history and known behavioural characteristics.

1172 **Skills**

1173 The Leader applies horse hazard management skills throughout trail ride delivery, including pre-ride horse
1174 assessment, dynamic risk assessment during the ride and response to rider falls.

1175 This should include, but is not limited to: conducting pre-ride horse health, soundness and tack assessment
1176 including checking for lameness, illness and equipment fit; applying dynamic risk assessment during the
1177 ride by monitoring horse behaviour, terrain conditions and participant riding stability; managing a horse
1178 displaying dangerous behaviour including procedures for spooking, bolting and inter-horse aggression; and
1179 responding to a rider fall including providing or directing first aid, managing the riderless horse and
1180 implementing the emergency response procedure.

1181 **Experience recommended**

1182 The Leader has operated in horse trail ride settings across a range of hazard events and conditions.

1183 This should include but is not limited to: managing horse-specific hazard events in real conditions under a
1184 provider safety system; responding to participant falls, spooking events and medical incidents during trail
1185 ride activities; and assessing horses for fitness and soundness before rides and making go/no-go decisions
1186 about individual horses.

1187 **Technical activity leadership**

1188 This domain covers the technical knowledge, skill and experience specific to horse trail rides, including
1189 horsemanship, horse-rider matching, tack management and ride delivery.

1190 **Knowledge**

1191 The Leader understands the horse behaviour, horse-rider matching criteria, tack requirements and
1192 participant assessment processes applicable to both routine and advanced trail ride variants.

1193 This should include, but is not limited to: horse behaviour and communication including the flight response,
1194 herd dynamics, signs of stress or discomfort and the behavioural idiosyncrasies of individual horses; horse-
1195 rider matching criteria including rider weight, height and riding experience relative to horse size, strength,
1196 age and temperament; pre-ride horse preparation including grooming, hoof care, tack fitting and the
1197 requirement that horses are fed and watered before use; helmet fitting for horse riding including approved
1198 standards, correct fit and the requirement for helmets to be worn at all times while mounted; participant
1199 assessment for routine rides confirming demonstrated capability including the ability to stop, turn and
1200 maintain position; participant assessment for advanced rides including full assessment of walk, trot and
1201 canter control; ride order management including positioning of the Leader and Assistant Leader; and
1202 management of participant-supplied horses including additional procedures for inter-horse aggression and
1203 unsocialised horses.

1204 **Skills**

1205 The Leader applies horsemanship, horse-rider matching, tack checking and participant assessment skills
1206 across the ride types used in the program.

1207 This should include, but is not limited to: matching participants to horses based on rider ability, weight and
1208 horse temperament before each ride; fitting and checking tack including saddle, bridle, girth and stirrups
1209 before each ride; conducting pre-ride participant assessment and adjusting the ride plan to the capability of
1210 the least experienced rider; managing ride order and group spacing throughout the ride; and managing
1211 participant-supplied horses including pre-ride behaviour assessment and integration into the ride group.

1212 **Experience recommended**

1213 The Leader has led participant groups on routine and advanced trail rides and managed horse-rider
1214 matching across a range of participant ability levels.

1215 This should include but is not limited to: matching riders to horses across a range of ability levels and horse
1216 types; leading participant groups on routine and advanced trail rides in the relevant terrain types; and
1217 managing participant-supplied horses in a group trail ride setting.

1218 Leadership and group management

1219 This domain covers group management challenges specific to horse trail rides, including the direction of
1220 assistant trail guides and management of special circumstances during the ride.

1221 Knowledge

1222 The Leader understands the role and limitations of the Assistant Leader, the group spacing and pacing
1223 protocols that apply to horse trail rides, and the management procedures for special circumstances.

1224 This should include, but is not limited to: the role and limitations of the Assistant Leader in a horse trail ride
1225 context including the tasks that can and cannot be delegated; group spacing and pacing protocols including
1226 minimum safe distances between horses, the risk of inter-horse aggression at close range and management
1227 of a group riding at different natural paces; and management of special circumstances including procedures
1228 for a spooked horse, a separated participant, a lost trail, an unmanageable horse and the coordination
1229 required between the Leader and Assistant Leader.

1230 Skills

1231 The Leader applies direction, positioning and special circumstances management skills throughout trail ride
1232 delivery.

1233 This should include, but is not limited to: directing and positioning the Assistant Leader throughout the ride
1234 and during special circumstances; managing group spacing and pacing and adjusting in response to terrain,
1235 horse behaviour and participant capability; and implementing special circumstances procedures including
1236 managing a spooked horse, coordinating with the Assistant Leader and communicating with participants.

1237 Experience recommended

1238 The Leader has led and directed assistant trail guides and managed group incidents during trail rides.

1239 This should include but is not limited to: leading and directing assistant trail guides across a range of terrain
1240 and participant profiles; and managing special circumstances during trail rides including spooked horses
1241 and separated participants.

1242 Decision-making and judgement

1243 This domain covers decision-making requirements specific to horse trail rides, including go/no-go criteria
1244 for individual horses, terrain conditions and participant competence.

1245 Knowledge

1246 The Leader understands the specific go/no-go criteria for horses, environmental conditions and participant
1247 competence that apply to trail ride decision-making.

1248 This should include, but is not limited to: go/no-go criteria for individual horses including lameness, sickness
1249 and unsoundness indicators and the procedure for managing a horse that becomes unfit during the ride;
1250 go/no-go criteria for environmental conditions including lightning and storm events as mandatory stop
1251 triggers, saturated ground, flooded crossings and unstable surfaces requiring route modification; and
1252 participant competence thresholds including criteria for stopping or modifying the ride when participant
1253 riding capability does not meet the demands of the terrain or horse behaviour.

1254 Skills

1255 The Leader applies go/no-go assessment and decision-making skills for horses, terrain and participant
1256 competence throughout trail ride delivery.

1257 This should include, but is not limited to: assessing horses against go/no-go criteria before and during the
1258 ride and implementing removal procedures for horses that become unfit; monitoring terrain and weather
1259 conditions against go/no-go criteria and making and communicating ride modification or cancellation
1260 decisions; and assessing participant competence during the ride and modifying the activity when capability
1261 does not match terrain or horse demands.

1262 **Experience recommended**

1263 The Leader has made go/no-go decisions about horses, environmental conditions and participant
1264 competence in trail ride settings.

1265 This should include but is not limited to: making go/no-go decisions about individual horses before and
1266 during trail rides; making ride modification or cancellation decisions in response to environmental
1267 conditions and participant capability; and managing route modifications in response to changed terrain or
1268 weather during trail rides.

1269 Planning and program management

1270 This domain covers planning requirements specific to horse trail rides that extend beyond the generic
1271 planning framework in the Core.

1272 **Knowledge**

1273 The Leader understands the trail familiarity requirements, horse-specific emergency procedures and multi-
1274 day planning requirements for horse trail rides.

1275 This should include, but is not limited to: trail familiarity requirements including the requirement for the
1276 Leader to hold current personal knowledge of the specific trail including terrain features, potential spook
1277 triggers, road crossings and access limitations; emergency management procedures specific to horse trail
1278 rides including riderless horse management, horse extraction from terrain and veterinary emergency
1279 contacts; and multi-day ride planning requirements including horse welfare, feed and water management
1280 across extended rides, campsite selection for horses and veterinary emergency contacts.

1281 **Skills**

1282 The Leader applies trail assessment and emergency planning skills to horse trail ride preparation.

1283 This should include, but is not limited to: conducting pre-activity assessment of the planned trail including
1284 confirmation of current trail conditions, identification of spook triggers and assessment of terrain
1285 suitability; and planning and implementing emergency procedures for horse-related incidents including
1286 riderless horse management and rider evacuation from terrain.

1287 **Experience recommended**

1288 The Leader has planned trail rides including pre-ride site assessment and emergency planning for horse-
1289 related incidents.

1290 This should include but is not limited to: planning trail rides with pre-ride site assessment of trail conditions
1291 and emergency planning; and implementing emergency procedures for horse-related incidents including
1292 rider falls in terrain.

1293 Environment and place-based knowledge

1294 This domain covers the terrain and environmental knowledge specific to horse trail ride environments.

1295 **Knowledge**

- 1296 The Leader understands the terrain assessment criteria, water crossing management requirements, wildlife
1297 spook triggers and road crossing management applicable to the environments in which they operate.
- 1298 This should include, but is not limited to: terrain assessment for horse trail rides including footing quality
1299 (firm, boggy, rocky, sandy, wet), gradient and the effect of each terrain type on horse and rider safety;
1300 water crossings including assessment criteria for safe horse crossing, the risk of horses refusing or panicking
1301 and management procedures; wildlife and potential spook triggers in the specific environments used; and
1302 road crossings and traffic management for horse groups including legal requirements and practical
1303 management.
- 1304 **Skills**
- 1305 The Leader applies terrain assessment, water crossing management and spook trigger management skills
1306 throughout trail ride delivery.
- 1307 This should include, but is not limited to: assessing terrain suitability before and during the ride including
1308 footing, gradient and water crossing conditions; managing road crossings safely with a horse group
1309 including traffic management procedures; and identifying and managing environmental spook triggers
1310 before and during the ride.
- 1311 **Experience recommended**
- 1312 The Leader has operated in diverse terrain across multiple seasons and managed road crossings and spook
1313 events during trail rides.
- 1314 This should include but is not limited to: operating across diverse terrain types across multiple seasons and
1315 conditions including varied footing, gradient and water crossing requirements; and managing road
1316 crossings and wildlife-related spook events during trail rides.
- 1317 **Communication and interpersonal skills**
- 1318 Not modified for horse trail riding — the requirements of Core GPG Appendix M (domain M.7) apply in full.
- 1319 **Self-management and professional practice**
- 1320 Not modified for horse trail riding — the requirements of Core GPG Appendix M (domain M.8) apply in full.
- 1321 **Outdoor living, activity and travel skills**
- 1322 This domain covers the field skills specific to horse trail rides, including multi-day horse and rider
1323 management and biosecurity practice.
- 1324 **Knowledge**
- 1325 The Leader understands the multi-day horse welfare, rider nutrition and biosecurity requirements for
1326 extended trail rides.
- 1327 This should include, but is not limited to: personal riding capability required of the Leader including
1328 independent control of the guide's own horse at walk, trot and canter across the terrain types
1329 encountered; multi-day horse management requirements including feed, water and grazing management,
1330 overnight horse welfare monitoring, saddle-fit assessment across extended rides and monitoring for
1331 muscular problems and colic risk; rider welfare on extended trail rides including rider nutrition, hydration,
1332 fatigue management and the physical demands of multi-day riding; and weed and invasive species
1333 biosecurity management including weed-free feed requirements, hoof and equipment cleaning between
1334 sites and compliance with land manager biosecurity requirements.
- 1335 **Skills**
- 1336 The Leader applies multi-day horse and rider management and biosecurity skills in extended trail ride
1337 settings.

1338 This should include, but is not limited to: managing horses and riders across multi-day programs including
1339 feed, water, grooming and welfare monitoring; implementing weed and invasive species biosecurity
1340 protocols before, during and after rides on sensitive land; and maintaining the Leader's own riding fitness,
1341 horse-handling competence and outdoor travel skills at the level required by the most demanding ride
1342 type.

1343 **Experience recommended**

1344 The Leader has planned and delivered multi-day horse trail rides and implemented biosecurity protocols in
1345 horse trail ride settings.

1346 This should include but is not limited to: planning and delivering multi-day horse trail rides with horse
1347 welfare and rider logistics management; implementing weed biosecurity protocols in horse trail ride
1348 settings; and personally completing multi-day horse trail rides as a rider in conditions equivalent to those of
1349 the most demanding ride the Leader will lead.

1350 Appendix O Knowledge, skill and experience — Assistant Leader

1351 This appendix sets out the knowledge, skill and experience expected of an Assistant Leader (assistant trail
1352 guide) for horse trail ride activities. The Assistant Leader operates under the direction of the Leader and
1353 carries delegated operational responsibility for defined tasks or participant subgroups. The requirements in
1354 this appendix are to be read in conjunction with Appendix M and the Core GPG.

1355 Safety and risk management

1356 As for Safety and risk management — applied at the level of the delegated tasks. The Assistant Leader must
1357 be able to recognise primary horse flight and safety hazards, follow the Leader's safety procedures and
1358 alert the Leader promptly to any participant or horse safety concern in their assigned area.

1359 Technical activity leadership

1360 As for Technical activity leadership — applied to the specific tasks delegated by the Leader. The Assistant
1361 Leader must be able to ride competently in the assigned position, assist with horse equipment checks
1362 under the Leader's direction and monitor participants in their section of the group.

1363 Leadership and group management

1364 As for Leadership and group management — applied to the sub-group or position assigned by the Leader.
1365 The Assistant Leader rides in the position assigned by the Leader, monitors group spacing in their section
1366 and communicates participant or horse concerns to the Leader throughout the ride.

1367 Decision-making and judgement

1368 As for Decision-making and judgement — limited to the scope of decisions delegated by the Leader. The
1369 Assistant Leader must recognise developing hazards, communicate these immediately to the Leader and
1370 make immediate safety decisions within the scope of their assigned role, including halting their section in
1371 response to a developing incident.

1372 Planning and program management

1373 As for Planning and program management — limited to supporting the Leader's plans. The Assistant Leader
1374 must be familiar with the planned trail, their assigned position and role during the ride and the emergency
1375 procedures applicable to their position.

1376 Environment and place-based knowledge
1377 As for Environment and place-based knowledge — sufficient for the assigned position. The Assistant Leader
1378 must have sufficient terrain and environmental knowledge to ride safely in their assigned position,
1379 recognise spook triggers in the environment and relay relevant information to the Leader.

1380 Communication and interpersonal skills
1381 As for Communication and interpersonal skills — applied to their assigned role. The Assistant Leader must
1382 communicate promptly with the Leader about any participant or horse concern and maintain appropriate
1383 communication with participants in their section throughout the ride.

1384 Self-management and professional practice
1385 As for Self-management and professional practice — applied to the Assistant Leader role. The Assistant
1386 Leader must self-assess fitness for work, maintain riding currency appropriate to the ride type they are
1387 assigned to and operate within the professional and ethical boundaries of the role.

1388 Outdoor living, activity and travel skills
1389 As for Outdoor living, activity and travel skills — applied to the delegated tasks. For multi-day rides, the
1390 Assistant Leader must be able to manage their own horse and equipment and follow the Leader's direction
1391 for horse welfare and biosecurity tasks throughout the ride.

1392 Appendix P Recognition of competence: pathways to verification
1393 See Core GPG Appendix P. The recognition-of-competence pathways — formal qualifications and training,
1394 provider-based assessment and prior learning — apply without modification to horse trail riding activities.

1395 Appendix Q Indicative experience bands and evidence expectations
1396 See Core GPG Appendix Q. The indicative experience bands and evidence expectations support the
1397 provider's verification of leader experience for horse trail riding activities.

1398 Appendix R Australian Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings
1399 and trigger points
1400 *See Core GPG (Appendix R).*

1401 Appendix S Program planning matrix: leader-matching tool
1402 See Core GPG Appendix O. The program planning matrix (leader-matching tool) applies without
1403 modification to horse trail riding activities.

1404 Appendix T Routine Horse Trail Ride equipment
1405 The equipment required, and the appropriate “type” of equipment used is dependent on the specific
1406 context of the activity.

1407 Equipment used for routine horse trail riding may include but is not limited to:

1408 Spare horse equipment
1409 Spare equipment may include but is not limited to:

- 1410 • reins
- 1411 • stirrup leather
- 1412 • lead rope
- 1413 • halter

1414 • baling twine/hay string.

1415 Horse first aid

1416 A horse first aid kit should include but is not limited to:

- 1417 • hoof pick
- 1418 • suitable bandages
- 1419 • head collar and rope.
- 1420 • foil/space blanket.

1421 Emergency and rescue

1422 Emergency equipment includes but is not limited to:

- 1423 • an appropriate communication device (*see Core GPG - Equipment/communication equipment*)
- 1424 • first aid kit (*see Core GPG - Equipment/first aid equipment and medication*) in waterproof storage
- 1425 • documentation (*see Core GPG - Emergency management planning/activity leader required documentation*)
- 1426 • a waterproof method of storing and carrying documentation and communications equipment.
- 1427 • a sharp knife suitable for cutting rope, halter or saddlery in an emergency.
- 1428 • a sharp knife suitable for cutting rope, halter or saddlery in an emergency.

1429 Trail guides

1430 Trail guides equipment may include but is not limited to that listed for participants.

1431 Participants

1432 Trail guides equipment may include but is not limited to:

- 1433 • appropriate clothing
- 1434 • appropriate footwear
- 1435 • appropriate personal protective equipment
- 1436 • personal medications
- 1437 • sunglasses
- 1438 • prescription glasses.

1439

1440 Appendix U Advanced Horse Trail Ride equipment

1441 The equipment required, and the appropriate “type” of equipment used is dependent on the specific
1442 context of the activity.

1443 Equipment used for advanced horse trail riding may include but is not limited to equipment listed for
1444 Appendix T Routine horse trail rides and:

1445 Spare horse equipment

1446 Advanced trail rides spare additional equipment may include but is not limited to:

- 1447 • spare girth
- 1448 • spare breastplate(s)
- 1449 • zip ties (various sizes).

1450 Horse first aid

1451 An advanced trail ride horse first aid kit should also include but is not limited to:

- 1452 • antiseptic
- 1453 • petroleum jelly.
- 1454 • Bute (phenylbutazone) painkiller, where lawfully held under appropriate veterinary direction
- 1455 • aspirin (Aspro or equivalent) for colic management.

1456 Emergency and rescue

1457 Advanced trail rides additional emergency equipment includes but is not limited to:

- 1458 • emergency shelter where appropriate for the context
- 1459 • emergency equipment to keep a patient warm (e.g. space blanket).

1460 Trail guides

1461 Advanced trail rides additional trail guides equipment may include but is not limited to:

- 1462 • relevant maps and navigation information
- 1463 • a waterproof method of storing and carrying maps and navigation information
- 1464 • compass and/or other navigation aids (e.g. GPS)
- 1465 • head torch and spare batteries
- 1466 • plus items listed for participants.

1467 Participant

1468 Advanced trail rides additional participant equipment may include but is not limited to:

- 1469 • sunscreen
- 1470 • water container
- 1471 • food or snacks.

1472 Group

1473 Advanced trail rides additional group equipment may include but is not limited to:

- 1474 • trowel for toileting
- 1475 • toilet paper
- 1476 • hand sanitiser
- 1477 • water purification system
- 1478 • food for duration plus spare
- 1479 • rubbish bags
- 1480 • sunscreen
- 1481 • insect repellent.

1482

1483 Other equipment

1484 Advanced trail rides other additional equipment may include but is not limited to:

- 1485 • saddle bags for personal items
- 1486 • equipment to clean footwear and other equipment that may carry soil-borne pathogens (e.g. phytophthora), including a spray bottle of a suitable disinfectant (e.g. methylated spirits) for
- 1487 application to footwear and horse hoofs before and after entering at-risk areas.
- 1488
- 1489 • horse feed for overnight trail rides
- 1490 • buckets for watering horses
- 1491 • nightlines
- 1492 • nosebags for feed
- 1493 • grooming equipment
- 1494 • collapsible rake
- 1495 • sharp knife
- 1496 • euthanasia kit for overnight rides which do not have access to a quick response from veterinary
- 1497 assistance
- 1498 • hole punch
- 1499 • basic farrier kit.

1500 Additional equipment used for overnight or extended duration horse trail riding refer [camping Good](#)
1501 [Practice Guide](#).

1502

1503 Appendix V Weather information

1504 *See the Core GPG.*

1505 Appendix W Related information

1506 *See the Core GPG.*

1507 Appendix X Horse Trail Classification System

1508 *See the Core GPG.*

1509

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