Horse Riding on Council Land Policy – Lake Bonney

Keywords: Riding, Horse, Recreation

Strategic Plan:	Fostering a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming Community: *1.2 Actively recognise the history and connections of the First Nations people and their connection to country through cultural and social programs.* *Strengthening Community Health, Wellbeing and Social Connections:* *2.3Re-affirm partnerships with recreational clubs and organisations and promote the benefits associated with active participation.*
Classification:	*Environment and Regulatory Services*
First Issued/Approved:	*March 2016*
Review Frequency:	*Every 4 years*
Last Reviewed:	*September 2026*
Next Review Due:	*September 2030*
Responsible Officer(s):	*General Manager Infrastructure, Environment and Regulatory Services* *Manager Environment & Regulatory Services* *Community Safety Officer*
Council File Reference:	*Council Policies (P)*
Applicable Legislation:	*Local Government Act 1999* *Crown Land Management Act 2009*
Relevant Policies:	*Council By-law 3 – Local Government Land*
Related Procedures:	*Nil*
Delegations:	*Berri Barmera Delegations Register*

1. Purpose

Berri Barmera Council has been granted joint care and control of Crown Land around Lake Bonney. Portions of this area have historically been utilised for horse riding.

2. Definitions

Council	Berri Barmera Council
Local Government Land	as per the meaning in the *Local Government Act 1999 Chapter 11*
By-Law	as per the meaning in the *Local Government Act 1999 Chapter 12*
Authorised Officers	a person appointed as an authorised person under *Chapter 12, Part 3 of the Local Government Act 1999*

Apex Park	located on the northern outskirts of Barmera on Queen Elizabeth Drive
RMMAC	River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation

3. Principles

Council's By Law No. 3 – Local Government Land states under clause 10.1 that no person should send, drive, lead, ride or take any animal or permit any animal to be sent, driven, lead, ridden or taken on any land to which the Council has resolved this subclause applies. The undertaking of horse riding at Lake Bonney is a non-permitted use under this clause.

The provision of this Policy facilitates lawful horse riding on Council land at Lake Bonney in areas and locations designated for that purpose, while maintaining shores in a clean and safe condition for all users.

4. Policy Statement

Horse riding – Lake Bonney

Lake Bonney offers horse enthusiasts a unique opportunity to ride and swim horses in a safe and attractive environment. It is important however that horse owners are aware of the need to contribute to the protection of the Lake and environs and ensure their activities do not adversely impact upon the environment or other users of Lake Bonney.

Recreational horse riding on Council land is only permitted to be exercised within the area of Lake Bonney described in this policy.

Horse riding is permitted only within Apex Park and the designated riding area identified in this policy. Horse riding is prohibited in all other areas of Lake Bonney under the joint care and control of Council and RMMAC.

Persons riding horses on Council land do so at their own risk and are responsible for the conduct and control of their horses at all times.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the rider being directed to leave the area and may result in enforcement action under applicable legislation or Council By-laws.

VERSION CONTROL

The electronic version of this policy stored on the website is the controlled version.
Printed copies are considered uncontrolled.

Before using a printed copy, verify that is the current version.

Date	List of amendments
Adopted 19 September 2023	Minor amendments
Adopted 27 October 2026	Minor Amendments

5. Permit

This page is your permit to ride at Lake Bonney.

All conditions of this permit must be met. You need to carry this permit with you at all times whilst riding at Lake Bonney in the permitted area. You may be required to present this permit to a Council Officer upon request. An electronic version of the permit is acceptable.



Please keep our lake shores and access areas beautiful, clean, and safe by following the conditions of this policy.

Please be advised that the areas covered by this policy are shared spaces, please respect the rights of all other users of Lake Bonney as the sections of shoreline identified in this policy are also available to the wider public for various activities including camping, boating, walking dogs and exercising.

Conditions

- Access to Lake Bonney can be gained from Apex Park as sign posted.
- Riders must only use the section of Lake shoreline on the Permit Map and as signposted.
- Horse floats must be parked in designated areas within Apex Park
- No horses to encroach into fenced off areas or areas signposted for conservation purposes.
- 24 hour access to Lake Bonney is permitted in accordance with the above conditions.
- Generally, horses should be ridden at a safe speed at all times and in a manner that does not endanger the safety of any person in the area.
- Horse riders should not unduly interfere with the peace, comfort, or convenience of other users of the foreshore.
- Horses should be ridden at walking pace within 50m of all other users of Lake Bonney and its environs.
- **All manure and rubbish must be collected and taken with you and NOT** placed on land adjacent Apex Park or any other area of Lake Bonney and surrounds without specific permission of Council.
- Horses are excluded from all sections of walking/cycling tracks adjacent Lake Bonney unless otherwise signposted.


Apex Park
Garrard Street
Barmera