**Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riders Association Inc.**

****Euri Gold Farms Ride-17th and 18th August

**INFORMATION & SAFETY DOCUMENT**

Welcome

Whitsunday Regional Endurance Riders Association Inc. welcomes you to our scenic series of trails through Euri Gold Farms.

We would like to thank everyone for their support in making this ride safe by adhering to the rules and guidelines as set out by AERA. We acknowledge that this is a sport with a high risk and we propose to minimise those risks by supporting safe practices in every aspect of this event. The guidelines we ask you to follow are for the safety of all participants, crew members and family members, volunteers, spectators, along with all the people in the local community who are supportive of our events.

As we are new to hosting endurance events, and would like to encourage continuous improvement, any constructive feedback on how we can improve for the future would be most welcome.

**HORSE CONTAINMENT**

QERA recommends that horse yards are made of metal construction and fixed to a solid object such as the side of a horse float or truck. Electric yards must have a minimum two (2) strands of tape (not string) with the top tape to be 1.2 to 1.4 metres off the ground and the fence must be energised at all times the horse is contained.

**RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

All activities conducted under the auspice of AERA are supported by insurance with AON. We aim to conduct this ride without the need to call upon this insurance and so Ride Organisers and all participants and volunteers have the responsibility in meeting our Duty of Care. This means that we identify risks, given that any horse sport is considered high risk, assess that risk and aim to reduce it. Many of the rules set down by AERA are aimed at managing and minimising risk. We have identified some of the areas of risk and ask that all participants support us in making this a safe event for all competitors, officials and volunteers, support crew, spectators and our horses.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Endurance events are family events and so everyone is urged to conduct themselves with respect to all participants. This means we should all be aware of camp noise, language, safe behaviours particularly round horses and acceptance of the requests from all officials and volunteers.

***This ride is being held on a working farm and our farm hosts have advised that no dogs are to be allowed onto the property. We would really appreciate your assistance with this.***

**YOUR SAFETY**

Riders are required to wear a safety helmet at all times while mounted and suitable footwear is recommended for anyone handling horses – definitely NO THONGS in the vetting area and we would prefer that anyone entering the vetting area wears at least enclosed shoes please. At checkpoints, please wait until your number has been called back before proceeding and your ride number should be visible at all times.

Please follow any direction for entry to and from the ride base, vetting areas and around the ride base area as they have been designated to support access, free flow of horses and also for safety purposes and, as a courtesy please have your horse under control at all times. The ride base is on a farm however neighbouring landowners will be notified and advertising has been done to help make the local public aware that there is a horse event in progress in the area.

**RIDE ETIQUETTE**

If you need to pass a rider on course, clearly inform them of your intention and only pass when you receive acknowledgement and when safe to do so.

Whilst riding along road verges please ride on the left hand side of the carriageway in the direction you are heading and signal drivers in plenty of time using hand signals should you require them to slow or stop.

Always stop, listen and look before crossing any roads and at intersections. Signage has been placed to inform motorists of your presence however it is ultimately the riders’ responsibility to ensure that the passage is clear before proceeding.

Due to the nature of the finish line, this course does not allow for a gallop finish.

**CAMP FIRES**

These must be in an enclosed container and there are no open fires permitted.

**DOGS**

**NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE PROPERTY.** Again, we ask that you please respect the wishes of our farm hosts and make arrangements to leave your dogs at home.

**MANURE & HAY**

Please rake your horsey manure and any leftover hay into piles prior to your departure.

**RUBBISH**

Please dispose of all rubbish in the bins provided. There will be a number of bins available or alternatively please take it home with you. It is our aim to leave our ride camp as beautiful after our event as it was when we arrived and trust you will help in meeting this goal.

**FLORA & FAUNA, FARMING**

Snakes: September to December is traditional snake breeding so please be aware that there are higher than normal amounts of these on the move at these times. If you come across a snake simply try to move away and try not to aggravate them as they can get cranky and attack, though this is very rare. In the unlikely event that you or your horse is bitten, please contact Peter Graham as soon as possible for assistance.

As we are based on a working farm, please be aware of any farm vehicles as there is the possibility of interaction with them whilst on the course. Please be aware of them and give them the right of way. If your horse is unsure or concerned around these moving objects we strongly recommend you dismount until the machinery has passed.

**HENDRA**

Before attending an endurance event all horses MUST have completed a Health Declaration which requires members to take their horse’s temperature for three (3) days prior to each event. It is the responsibility of all members to ensure that they do not take unwell horses to an endurance event. Horses with elevated temperatures must not attend any ride. Any competitors arriving with a Health Declaration will be reassessed on arrival.