Sunshine Coast Council

Sunshine Coast
Recreation Trail Plan 2012

Recreation Trail Reference Group

The Recreation Trail Reference Group was established to provide input and guidance into the development of this *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*. Membership of the group was voluntary.

The group consisted of representatives from the following organisations:

Bushrangers Mountain Bike Club

Department of Communities Child Safety and Disability Services

Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

Department of Transport and Main Roads

FPQ Forestry Plantations Queensland

Noosa Biosphere Environment Board representative

Qld Conference and Camping Centre

Regional Development Australia

Sunshine Coast Area Trail Endurance Riders

Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club

Tourism Queensland.

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Foreword

Recreation trails are for stepping outside, stretching the legs and exploring the great outdoors whether it be on foot, mountain bike or horse. They provide access to many treasures hidden within the natural environment such as waterfalls, bubbling creeks, spectacular view points, places where koalas live, rainforests, wildflowers, mangroves and more.

Sunshine Coast recreation trails are often found in areas of scenic beauty such as along the coastline, over mountain peaks, adjacent to rivers and through forests. They are known to provide significant health, social, environmental, heritage, educational and recreational benefits to the whole community.

Trails also have a significant economic benefit for the region in the growing eco-tourism industry. Many recreation trails on the Coast are managed by Sunshine Coast Council. Trails are also managed by the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (DNPRS&R), Forestry Plantations Queensland (FPQ) and Seqwater.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* has been developed to plan for an equitable supply and diverse range of high quality walking, mountain bike riding and horse riding trails in urban and rural areas on the Coast by the Sunshine Coast Council.

Urban recreation trails are often short pathways within the urban park network and on road reserves. For example, the planned coastal pathway will be a 90 kilometres pathway for people to access at many points along the coastline. Rural trails are generally longer and are located within environment reserves, national parks or forest plantations on the Coast.

Trails for motorised activities are addressed within Sunshine Coast Council's Difficult to Locate Sports Study. Trails for cyclists are incorporated into the *Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan 2011-2031*. Water based recreation activities, including canoe trails, is another area for future recreational planning on the Coast.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* has been developed in partnership with other land managers associated with the Coast's recreation trails and aims to facilitate further trail development across the region.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* forms part of Council's vision for the Sunshine Coast *to be Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green and diverse*.

Executive summary

The Sunshine Coast provides a range of trails for the enjoyment of locals and visitors. The landscape of the Sunshine Coast is a significant contributor to the diversity of trails from hinterland ranges, beaches, volcanic plugs, heathland, pine plantations, rivers and creek systems, rainforest and eucalypt forests.

Walking is the most popular physical activity for people in Australia and Queensland.

The significant economic, environmental, cultural heritage, recreational, social, educational and health benefits recreation trails provide for the community are recognised by Council.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is developed to fulfil an action of the *Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011*.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*:

- considers pathways provided for the primary purpose of recreational activities such as walking, horse riding and mountain bike riding
- reviews existing legislation and local policy to identify impacts on trail development
- analyses the current and future level of supply, distribution, range and diversity of existing signed recreation trails and the quality of Council managed trails within the Sunshine Coast

- examines the key issues relating to recreation trail provision for walkers, mountain bike riders and horse riders within both an urban and non urban environment
- seeks to improve equity in the supply of trails across the region and access to urban trails by activating the open space network for improved health benefits
- attempts to address the complexity of multiple tenure by recommending strong partnerships and collaboration to enable seamless and improved connectivity.

Pedestrian and bicycle pathways which exist primarily to expedite modes of movement are addressed in the *Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan 2011-2031*. In some instances recreation trails may share these same corridors.

During development of *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* a comprehensive consultation process was undertaken. The feedback assisted in identifying key issues, critical matters, new trails, and informed the trail development priorities.

The overarching vision of *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is to:

> Ensure a variety of trails are available for residents and visitors so they may safely enjoy the Sunshine Coast landscape on mountain bike, horse back or by walking.

Strategic outcomes and principles are identified in *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* to achieve the following vision:

- **Robust Economy**
  The trail network supports the emerging eco-tourism industry.

- **Ecologically Sustainability**
  The biodiversity values of the areas through which the trails traverse are protected.

- **Innovation and Creativity**
  The recreation experience of the trail user is enriched by the integration and celebration of artistic and thematic expression.

- **Health and Wellbeing**
  Our community has good access to a variety of well located and designed recreation trails that encourage a wide range of people to participate actively.

- **Social Cohesion**
  Trails link people to the cultural, environmental and geographical landscape through which the trail passes and provide opportunity for people to come together.

- **Accessibility and Connectedness**
  Trails link people and places safely, are affordable and accessible to all members of the community.

- **Managing Growth**
  A diversity of trails cater for the rapidly growing Sunshine Coast population and increasing visitor numbers.

- **Great Governance**
  Strong partnerships and alliances within Council, the State Government, community and the private sector achieve high quality trails.

A critical component of *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is the network blueprint. The blueprint provides guidance for the upgrade, planning and development of both existing and new trails for the community.

The linear nature of trails requires strategic partnerships and advocacy with key land managers who manage their land for primary purposes such as conservation, timber production and water storage.

While access to these properties often provides a vital link or enhanced experience to trail users it is imperative that these activities are undertaken in a respective and cooperative manner with regard to trail users safety, environmental impacts and the land owners' business operations.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* promotes strong partnerships with other land managers such as DNPRS&R, FPQ and Seqwater.

A focus of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is the upgrade of existing trails to improve capacity, safety, and provision to ensure all residents have access to local tracks.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is a long term planning document that will guide trail development for the next ten to twenty years. A review of *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is proposed to be undertaken every five years.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Sunshine Coast has a unique natural environment with climatic conditions conducive to the use of recreation trails for walking, mountain bike riding and horse riding. A carefully planned and developed network of recreation trails provides an opportunity for the Sunshine Coast to become a hub for recreation trail users not only within Queensland but also within Australia.

Well connected communities is a strategic outcome of the *Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011* and is underpinned by the principle:

Pathways, trails and corridors link people, places and biodiversity. Open space is the 'green frame' of our built urban form, edging our rivers and foreshores and connecting our community. Vibrant community hubs are connected and linked to our homes. Movement of people and fauna is comfortable and safe.

The purpose of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is to fulfil action 5.1.2 of the *Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011*:

- 5.1.2 Ensure planning provides for walking, mountain bike riding and horse riding in different trail settings (urban and non urban).

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* seeks to:

- provide a guide for the future provision, embellishment and management of a recreation trail network on the Sunshine Coast catering to non-motorised recreational pursuits including walking, mountain bike riding and horse riding
- inform Council's planning, including the planning scheme, strategic documents, funding allocations and operational activities
- guide Council and community decision making with respect to trail development for the next 10 years
- ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to the planning and allocation of resources for trail development
- provide a framework to work collaboratively with other land managers.

1.2 Demand

Sufficient evidence demonstrates there is strong demand for recreation trail infrastructure to be provided to Sunshine Coast residents and visitors.

> The results of the Sunshine Coast on-line questionnaire undertaken during development of the *Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-2026* revealed that multi-use trails in natural areas and walk/cycle paths are the most important element of all sport and recreation infrastructure followed by sports fields. The questionnaire also found that the provision of multi-use trails in natural areas is currently below the Sunshine Coast community expectations.

Figure 1 shows the top ten physical activities undertaken at least once by Australians during the 12 months prior to the 2009 Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey[1]. Walking had the highest participation at 36.1 percent which excluded the 5 percent who went bushwalking.

Figure 1: 2009 Exercise, recreation and sport survey top ten physical activities [2]
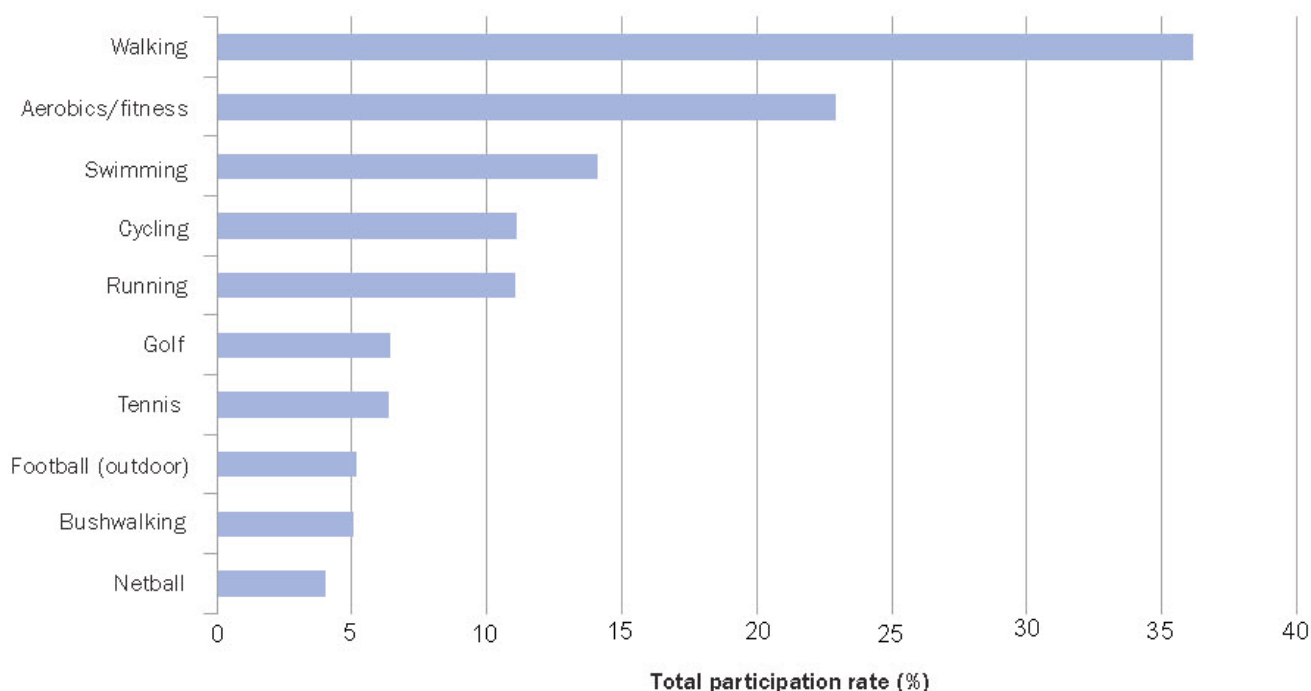
1&2 *Australian Sports Commission, Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey Annual Report*, Australian Sports Commission 2009.

The survey also showed that the participation rate for walking:

- is higher for females (46 percent) than males (26.1 percent)
- is the highest form of participation across all age groups with the exception of the 15 to 34 age group
- peaked at 55 to 64 years (52 percent), declining slightly among those aged 65 years and older (45.5 percent).

Such results are not surprising as the 2001 South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Demand Survey identified that walking / nature study had the highest frequency of participation in South East Queensland with people walking on average up to 70 times each per year i.e. more than once per week.

In 2004 54 percent of Queensland residents participated in trail-based activities including walking for exercise, cycling (including BMX and mountain bikes), bushwalking and horse riding. In comparison 14.8 percent, 14.2 percent, 10.1 percent and 6.9 percent participated in swimming, aerobics/fitness, football and soccer respectively[3].

These figures were similar to the 2008 figures for Queensland where the data highlights that participation in outdoor recreational, non competitive activities contribute to more than half of all participation in physical activity in Queensland[4].

Additionally, the *Sunshine Coast Hinterland Nature-based Tourism Plan* prepared for Tourism Queensland and Tourism Sunshine Coast identifies that participation in nature based tourism activities including bushwalking by visitors to Queensland is increasing.

From the evidence available relating to current trends and an ongoing increasing population growth on the Sunshine Coast, an increased demand on the existing trail network is anticipated.

1.3 Scope

The *Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011* describes that Recreation Trails:

> … are provided for the primary purpose of recreational activities such as walking, horse riding and mountain bike riding. Recreation trails often traverse through a range of land tenures. These places have a different intent to the pedestrian and bicycle networks co-located with roads infrastructure, which exists primarily to expedite modes of movement.

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[3] *Australian Sports Commission, Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey Annual Report*, Australian Sports Commission 2004.
[4] *Australian Sports Commission, Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey Annual Report*, Australian Sports Commission 2009.

The scope of this *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* focuses on recreation trails that are:

- local, Sunshine Coast wide and regional trails, both signed and unsigned, that cater for non motorised recreation pursuits such as:
  - walking – leisurely strolls, strenuous treks in urban and rural environments and geocaching/orienteering activities
  - mountain bike riding – beginner, cross country, downhill and technical
  - horse riding – 'weekend' casual riders, endurance riders, long distance riders (A definition for each user group activity is included in *Appendix 1: User Group Activities Defined*).
- within the geographic area defined by Sunshine Coast Council local government boundaries
- within the existing urban and non urban areas and future urban growth areas
- primarily on Council managed land, however *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* does provide guidance for trail development where multiple tenures are encountered.
  - To ensure *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* assesses the full extent of trails available on the Sunshine Coast and to avoid duplication of provision, all trails including those not owned or managed by Council (e.g. trails within national parks and plantation forests) have been reviewed in the overall analysis.

Further, recreation trails:

- can be differentiated from other pathways and cycle ways on the basis of their trip purpose, amenity (e.g. adjacent to water or located within a natural setting), surface treatment (often natural) and the infrastructure which accompanies them
- have strong linkages with the natural environment and open space including places with high scenic amenity and cultural heritage values
- cater for non-competitive outdoor recreation activities (e.g. bushwalking and mountain bike riding)
- provide infrastructure for formally organised outdoor sports and competitive events such as orienteering, rogaining, cross country running, endurance mountain bike racing, downhill mountain bike racing and endurance horse riding
- often share pathways with the Active Transport Network, so planning of these networks should be undertaken collaboratively.

1.4 Methodology

To guide and inform the development of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*, a Recreation Trail Reference Group was established consisting of a range of community, Queensland Government, private sector and Sunshine Coast Council stakeholders to ensure input was obtained from not only those who use the trails, but also those who build, maintain, manage and promote the trails.

Development of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* followed a number of progressive stages as outlined below.

Stage 1: Determine existing situation

a) Background research and context.
b) Identify and map all existing signed and unsigned trails on both Sunshine Coast Council controlled and other managed land.
c) Identify which trails are able to cater for the various user groups (e.g. horse riders, walkers and mountain bike riders).

Stage 2: Identify opportunities and constraints

a) Identify trails proposed in former Sunshine Coast Council planning trail documents.
b) A comprehensive series of thirteen community workshops were conducted to identify the community's preferences for proposed trails and prioritisation criteria.
c) Meetings with land managers, key trail user groups, Councillors and staff workshops.

Stage 3: Analysis

a) Establish a Desired Standard of Service.
b) Assess potential of unsigned trails to meet criteria.
c) Assess community proposed trails against criteria.
d) Gap analysis – Assess improvements needed to the supply, diversity and range, and quality of identified trail
e) Prioritise and map proposed trails and opportunities.

Stage 4: Consultation and adoption

a) Refine and finalise background study to support findings.
b) Compile draft plan.
c) Council endorsement for consultation
d) Community and land manager consultation
e) Finalise plan and adoption by Sunshine Coast Council.

1.5 Benefits of trails

The benefits of trails to the Sunshine Coast community are significant. Trails assist to make our neighbourhoods a desirable, healthy place to live by providing physical access through our natural areas. Research from Australia, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and New Zealand acknowledges that trails provide a range of significant recreational, health, economical, environmental, cultural heritage, social and educational benefits to the community. A summary of benefits is outlined below.

Economic

- Support local business services.
- Can attract new residents/businesses to an area.
- Enhance property values.
- Encourage leisure tourism, eco-tourism and nature-based tourism and support outdoor recreation activities provided by commercial tourism enterprises.
- Provide a significant economic benefit to the community.

Research indicates that users spend between $1.77 and $54.89/visit depending on where they come from and how long they are on the trail.[5]

The Riesling Trail (a 35 kilometres shared used rail trail in South Australia) injects $1.08 million per year into the Clare region.[6]

Research at the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail in north eastern Victoria (one of the better known rail trails) found the average expenditure per person per day was approx $258.[7]

[5]Mike Halliburton Associates – *Nambour to Coolum Trail Draft Feasibility Study (Dec 2010)*.
[6]Department of Infrastructure and Planning – *Draft SEQ Active Trails Implementation Guideline 1 (June 2010)*.
[7]*Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (2009) SEQ Active Trail Management Systems*.

Environment and cultural heritage

- Enable an appreciation and awareness of our natural and cultural heritage.
- Provide incentives to preserve heritage, scenic and landscape values.
- Contribute to the improvement of the environment.
- Acknowledge indigenous people of the region and may even follow their footsteps.
- Provide the opportunity for flora and fauna corridors to be shared with cultural heritage and recreational users.

Recreation

- Provide excellent recreational opportunities for families, mountain bike riders, historical enthusiasts, horse riders, environmentalists, walkers, cross country runners and bird watchers.
- Encourage people to go outside and recreate in nature which is good for the body, mind and soul (see health benefits below).
- Cater to both non-competitive outdoor recreation and outdoor competitive sports.
- Provide places for people to walk their dogs.

Social

- Provide opportunity for social interaction.
- Are utilised for walking, mountain bike riding, horse riding and by environmental/nature clubs who coordinate opportunities for social interaction in a natural environment.
- Encourage pride in community – connect people and places.
- Facilitate social bonding – interaction between diverse community members.

Health and wellbeing

- Encourage people to participate actively in outdoor recreation activities and improve health. Research has shown the positive health outcomes include:
  - stress reduction
  - improved self esteem
  - an increased sense of exhilaration
  - enhanced physical capacity
  - enhanced aerobic, cardiovascular and muscular fitness
  - improved functioning of the immune system
  - enhanced environmental awareness
  - reduced likelihood to suffer from lifestyle related diseases.

About $75 million annually can be saved in 'health dollars' if an extra 10 percent of the South East Queensland population becomes more physically active. Because trails can provide hope of a healthier community and relief from increasing medical costs, they should be seen as an essential component of the health care system, and warrant funding accordingly.

Education

- Provide educational opportunities via interpretation of places or things of interest along the trail whether it be environmental, historical, artistic or cultural related and by signage, hard copy or web based.
- Offer opportunities for organised learning that takes place in the outdoors e.g. journey based experiences in which students participate in a variety of adventure challenges, scientific research and discovery.

2 Legislative and policy framework

2.1 International, National and State Legislation

There are a number of international, national and state legislation that need to be considered when planning and developing trails. They include:

- *UNESCO, RAMSAR*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Queensland Local Government Act 2009*
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- *Land Act 1994*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Forestry Act 1959*
- *Water Act 2000*
- *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988.*

A detailed review of legislation is contained in *Appendix 2: Summary of Review of Relevant Legislation and Policies for Trail Planning and Development*.

2.2 Queensland Government Policy

Relevant Queensland Policy to trail development includes:

- *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009 – 2031*
- *Toward Q2 2008 – Tomorrows Queensland*
- *South East Queensland Active Trails Strategy 2007*
- *South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2010.*

The *South East Queensland Active Trails Strategy 2007* identifies nine new regional trails of which three have been, or are currently being, developed, namely the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Maroochy River Canoe Trail and the Boonah to Ipswich Trail.

The proposed North Coast Mountain Bike Touring Trail, a 200 kilometres trail extending from Brisbane to Yandina, is also contained in the *South East Queensland Active Trails Strategy 2007*.

A detailed review of each of the aforementioned policy directions is contained in *Appendix 2: Summary of Review of Relevant Legislation and Policies for Trail Planning and Development*.

2.3 Sunshine Coast Council Context

The Sunshine Coast Regional Council Corporate Plan 2009-2014 vision is for the Sunshine Coast to be 'Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse'. In support of this vision the Corporate Plan identifies emerging priorities for the next five years.

Underpinning the Council's vision is the endorsed policy framework (refer to *Figure 2: Council's Endorsed Policy Framework*).

Within Council's endorsed policy framework a number of endorsed strategies and plans identify specific actions relating to trail development. These are outlined below.

Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011

Action 5.1.2 provides policy directions relating to recreation trail development and identification of key trails within each of the 44 localities of interest.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* fulfils this action.

Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020

The strategy seeks to:

- manage natural lands to retain the regional character, providing environmental, economic and lifestyle benefits, define local communities and distinguish the Sunshine Coast from other regions
- Section 5.5 under Biodiversity Partnerships and Community Engagement Strategies and Actions includes the following action: Investigate developing a 'Biodiversity Interpretative Trail Network'.

Sunshine Coast Economic Development Strategy 2010-2014

Section 10 outlines the Strategy Action Plan with the Business Develop Focus Area for the development of a strong rural sector including the action to Establish rural tourism trails around the Hinterland.

Sunshine Coast Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011-2021

Section 3.2.2 recognises constructed water bodies and associated infrastructure can provide a range of social values including recreational opportunities such as walking and viewing wildlife.

The Natural Waterways Strategic Outcome 14 is to develop internal and/or adopt external guidelines to inform the delivery of Council's capital works and maintenance program in and adjacent to waterways to reduce environmental impacts and improve fish passage.

These codes of practice will need to be applied to the development of any recreation trails along waterways and the coastal foreshore.

Sunshine Coast Sport and Recreation Plan 2011-2026

Section 5.13 includes recommendations specific to each locality with four relating to trail development, that is:

- Locality 14 – Advocate to DNPRS&R for ongoing access to and development of mountain bike trails in Forestry Plantations in Beerburrum
- Locality 20 – Advocate for ongoing access to and upgrade of trails on Seqwater land, Ewen Maddock Dam for mountain biking, horse riding and walking, as per draft Recreation Trails Plan
- Locality 29 – Liaise with DNPRS&R to support efforts to involve stakeholders in upgrading and developing mountain bike trails in Parklands Conservation Park and develop safe linkages to Parklands Conservation Park from Nambour
- Locality 41 – Liaise with DNPRS&R to ensure ongoing access to Tewantin National Park for mountain biking and continue to maintain the Noosa Trail Network to ensure ongoing suitability for competitive events.

Sunshine Coast Social Infrastructure Strategy 2011

Section 5 of the strategic directions supports the development of social infrastructure and management which encourages participation and enhances creativity, activity, healthy lifestyles and community wellbeing.

Figure 2: Council's endorsed policy framework

Community Plan

Corporate Plan 2009-2014

Innovation and creativity | Managing growth

Robust economy	Health and wellbeing	Social cohesion	Accessibility and connectedness	Ecological sustainability	Great governance
Productivity	*People*	*People*	*People*	*Planet*	

Sustainable Transport | Affordable Living | Social Infrastructure | Social Planning Framework | Cultural | Open Space

Open Space Strategy 2011

Sport and Active Recreation | Recreation Trail | Recreation Park

Sunshine Coast Sustainable Transport Strategy 2011-2031

Section 5.2 outlines a policy direction to inform, educate and encourage residents and visitors to take up walking and cycling for transport and recreation.

Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan 2011-2031

Section 7.2 indicates that mountain bike cycling routes are unsealed with technical challenges used exclusively by mountain bikers or shared with bushwalkers and horse riders and are more appropriately handled in the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*. The relationship between recreation trails and the cycling network is addressed in the *Sunshine Coast Active Transport Plan 2011-2031* and encourages collaborative planning.

Section 7.6 supports the ongoing development of the coastal pathway.

Local Laws

Local Laws guide private and commercial activities on Council managed land, for example dog off leash areas and hire facilities.

2.4 Other Sunshine Coast planning documents

Sunshine Coast Tourism Opportunity Plan 2009-2017

The Sunshine Coast Tourism Opportunity Plan 2009-2017, currently being reviewed, is the principal planning document for tourism investment and infrastructure prepared by Tourism Queensland and Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd, the regional tourism organisation for the Sunshine Coast.

The Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012 strongly identifies the need to develop 'Green Infrastructure' as visitor projections indicate an increase in the market demand for access to our natural assets including those pursuing outdoor/ nature/recreational activities.

Sunshine Coast Hinterland Nature Based Tourism Plan 2009 prepared for Tourism Queensland and Tourism Sunshine Coast by Inspiring Place Pty Ltd and Horizon 3 proposed nature-based experiences on the Sunshine Coast, and advocates for trail development, based on a precinct approach, that is:

- Glass House Mountains Family Adventure Precinct
- Blackall Range Lifestyle Adventure Precinct
- Mary Valley Soft Adventure Precinct
- Conondale National Park Nature-based Tourism Precinct.

3 Key issues and community input

3.1 Key issues

There are a number of key issues associated with trail development on the Sunshine Coast. These issues are outlined in this section.

Multiple tenure

- Due to the linear nature of trails they invariably traverse multiple tenures which can be complex due to the differing:
  - primary management intent of the land tenures. For example, the primary purpose of National Parks and State Forest Estates (managed by DNPRS&R and FPQ) is conservation and commercial timber harvesting respectively with recreation activities being permitted providing they do not compromise the primary purpose
  - levels of service, maintenance and safety audit procedures
  - infrastructure standards and requirements, particularly those relating to signage for each organisation
  - trail standards and definitions by managing authorities.
- Planning for trails is undertaken at different times and varying priorities within each organisation.
- Often key linkages traverse private property raising issues of liability, safety and ability to connect between public open space areas.
- Opposition to trails in specific areas, such as conservation estates, along unconstructed roads and adjacent to rivers and streams.

Management

- The organisational structure of State Government, private land managers and Council impact upon the ability to implement trail development plans and manage multiple tenure trails.

- Access to trails by users, particularly commercial and large groups, varies considerably across the multiple tenures with different permits required from respective land managers. Further, the conditions for each permit vary between land managers.

- There are difficulties securing land and managing trails that transverse multiple tenure and addressing private land owners' concerns.

- In shared corridors a focus on active transport outcomes can be detrimental to the recreation trail function.

- Utilisation of informal road reserves for recreation trails can be restricted by adjoining land owners.

Trail usage

- User group conflict may exist due to the multi-use nature of trails and different expectations of each user group.

- There is limited information relating to the current level of usage of Council managed recreation trails. This affects the level of investment and prioritisation.

- Equitable access to recreation trails within close proximity to place of residence.

- Illegal usage of trails by trail bike riders and other motorised vehicles.

- Loss of recreation opportunities that may arise from corporatisation, privatisation and sale of public lands previously held by the State[9].

- Investment in trails often does not reflect the trends of the varied user groups e.g. mountain biking.

[9]*QORF Active Trails – A Strategy for Regional Trails in South East Queensland 2007.*

3.2 Community input

Through the comprehensive consultation process conducted to inform the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* a range of needs, ideas, concerns and suggestions were expressed by residents and are summarised below.

Trail development/supply

- More communities need to be connected via trails.
- Along the rivers and creeks, and around dams, the trails have missing links or are low-lying so are unusable for long periods, and are in need of upgrading.
- The coastal path is still not continuous.
- Mountain bike riders and walkers indicated they would like single use tracks to be available.
- A total of approximately 912 kilometres of new trails was proposed. A map of all the existing signed, unsigned and proposed trails identified during the community consultation was developed. (Refer *Regional Map 1: Community Input*).
- The social, personal and economic returns from long distance mountain bike trails needs to be recognised.
- Lack of adequate provision of beginner/novice cross country mountain bike trails.
- Inequity of funding allocated to trail development with large amounts spent on developing the Great Walks which cater to one user group only.
- Ongoing access to FPQ, DNPRS&R and Seqwater land for recreational purposes is required.
- Trails could be specifically dedicated to interpreting both European and Aboriginal history and cultural heritage.

Infrastructure

- Trail head infrastructure such as signage and car/float parking is required to facilitate utilisation of the many trails located in the Sunshine Coast's plantation forests and national parks.
- All user groups indicated more signage is required.
- Limited camping and dump facilities in the hinterland for use by trail users were noted.

- Trails for passive recreation could be provided with interpretative signage identifying the flora and fauna which may be sighted along the way.
- Artworks should be limited to urban settings in areas under Council's control.

User group conflict

- Concern was raised over potential conflict between user groups.
- Requests were received for walkers, bird watchers, historical enthusiasts and environmentalists to be separated from mountain bike riders and bicycle tourists. Conversely mountain bike riders requested access to some of the longer distance walking tracks which in their opinion are underutilised.
- Signage should clearly identify tracks which are intended for multi-use and those which are intended for passive recreation.
- Currently on DNPRS&R managed estate signage delineates trails to be used by walkers and horse riders, however there appears to be limited signage for mountain bike riders.
- A balance between the level of usage on trails by commercial entities, large groups promoting eco-tourism and/or nature based tourism, and individual users is required.

Environment

- The need to protect areas of high environmental value from human impact was identified.

Funding

- Expressed need for adequate funding to ensure the continued operation and maintenance of the trail network.

Information

- Information identifying where existing trails are located needs to be available with the most popular suggestion being a website containing all information about recreation trails on the Sunshine Coast including maps.
- Users would like to have hard copy maps of trails available.
- Mountain bike riders would like to be able to download GPS maps into their mobile GPS units and mobile phones.

Priorities identified

During the community consultation, participants were asked to consider the factors that should inform Council's prioritisation regarding future trail development. The communities' order of priority is detailed below:

- create circuit trails
- link trails to form a local network which can be connected to a broader regional network
- fill in missing links on existing trails and those with incomplete circuits
- improve existing trails by adding short trails that branch off the main trail
- create linear trails between townships and key destinations
- plan trails and circuits that are multi-use and encourage respectful shared use
- provide a diverse range of recreation trails in terms of locations, surroundings, difficulty, terrain, distances, circuits, single tracks, double tracks, etc
- ensure trails have a minimal environmental impact and design trails to attract visitors who prefer low impact recreational activities such as walking, bird watching, orienteering, etc.

- improve safety – this is particularly relevant to pedestrians and cyclists who are forced to travel on the road, allowing trail users to get off the roads and away from motor vehicles
- improve the quality of existing high-use trails and in high demand trail areas provide additional trails to relieve pressure on existing trails
- create more access points to trails to improve overall accessibility and consider proximity to public transport
- improve supporting facilities on existing major trails e.g. toilets, drinking water, shelters, seats, barbeques, parking and camping areas
- provide single-use trails for those activities where it is unsafe to share with other user groups e.g. downhill mountain bike riding
- focus on trails that have historic or cultural significance to enrich and diversify the recreational experience
- develop trails that are easy and fast to establish so the community can benefit as soon as possible
- invest in trails (existing and new) that have the most tourism value and scenic amenity to benefit the local economy.

3.3 How we plan for recreation trails

For the purpose of planning, Council identified 44 'Localities of Interest' on the Sunshine Coast. The location of each locality within the Sunshine Coast is shown on *Regional Map 2:* Localities of Interest and a list of the 44 localities is contained within *Appendix 4: Recreation Trail Network Blueprint (Detailed)*. These 44 localities of interest have been used for planning the recreation trails.

On the Sunshine Coast there are both **unsigned** and **signed** trails available for use.

Unsigned trails are those that are not identified by signage. They provide a significant contribution to the overall outdoor recreation opportunities available to the local community. Upgrading unsigned trails can be cost and resource effective in terms of new trail development.

Signed trails are those where directional signage, a trail head sign or both are provided. Examples of directional and trail head signage are shown below.

Directional Signage

Trail Head Signage

The key elements used in the assessment and planning for recreation trails on the Sunshine Coast include:

- **Trail supply** – is considered across all tenures, signed trails only
- **Range and diversity** – is considered across all tenures, signed trails only
- **Quality** – is considered across Council managed signed trails only

Trail supply – across all tenures (signed)

Trails contribute to the vitality of a community and thus it is desirable there is both an adequate provision and equitable distribution of trails.

It is important when undertaking an assessment of trail supply that all trails across all tenures are considered to avoid duplication of provision. At the current time there is no industry recognised method to evaluate trail supply. This Plan has used the following indicator to assess trail supply:

> Localities with less than 1 kilometre of accessible trails per 1000 people to be considered as priority areas for future trail provision.

Range and diversity – across all tenures (signed)

It is important to plan an adequate range and diversity of developed trails to:

- accommodate each user group and the subgroups within that user group
- meet the needs of those using the trails
- provide a variety of experiences for trail users.

Range and diversity is able to be assessed for each user type using the following elements:

- Catchment
- Category
- Level of difficulty
- Trail capacity.

Catchment relates to whether the trail has a local, Sunshine Coast wide or regional catchment where:

- local trails attract users from within the locality or the locality adjacent
- Sunshine Coast wide trails attract users from within the Sunshine Coast
- regional trails attract users from within and beyond the Sunshine Coast.

The catchment, in combination with usage levels, may determine the quality and standard of trail construction and maintenance service level.

Category relates to whether the length of a trail is short, medium or long. The length used to determine the category for each user group is outlined below in *Table 1: Lengths used to determine category by user group*.

These lengths are based on an estimated progress rate of 3 to 4 kilometres per hour for walking, 8 to 15 kilometres per hour for mountain bikes and 6 to 8 kilometres per hour for horse riders.[10]

Level of Difficulty is different for each user group.

Walkers are divided into three classes as highlighted in *Table 2: Level of difficulty for walking*:

Table 1: Lengths used to determine category by user group

Trail category and maximum time	Typical trail lengths (kilometres)*		
	Walk	Mountain bike	Horse riding
Short (< 1.5hr)	< 5 kilometres	< 15 kilometres	< 10 kilometres
Medium (< 4.2hr)	5 – 15 kilometres	15 – 50 kilometres	10 – 30 kilometres
Long (< 7hr)	15 – 25 kilometres	50 – 80 kilometres	30 – 50 kilometres

* Achievable distances may be shorter under more difficult track surface, weather or terrain conditions. Source: The SEQ Regional Trails Strategy (2007)

[10]The Development of a Strategy Trail Assessment Methodology, Technical Report No 3 to the SEQ Regional Trails Strategy prepared by the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Inc for the Queensland Government and the Council of Mayors (SEQ) January 2007.

Table 2: Level of difficulty for walking

Trail Class	Relevant Features	Examples
Class 1	Large number of trail users Relatively easy/low levels of challenge Heavily modified trail Substantial infrastructure and information	Buderim Forest Park – boardwalk Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve Noosa Spit Trail Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Ben Bennet Park, Caloundra
Class 2	Fewer/relatively infrequent encounters with other trail users Moderate level of challenge Well-defined trail Lesser levels of infrastructure and information	Foote Sanctuary, Buderim Mountain Creek Recreation Trail Buderim Palmwoods Tramway
Class 3	Few contacts with others Relatively demanding experience Limited surface modification Limited information provision	Noosa Trail Network Mt Ninderry QPWS Great Walks

For mountain bike riders the International Mountain Biking Association Trail Difficulty Rating System is utilised (refer to *Figure 3: International Mountain Biking Association Trail Difficulty Rating System*).

For horse riders three classifications are utilised:

Easy	flat, no obstacles
Moderate	moderate slope, minor obstacles
Difficult	steep slope, major obstacles

Trail Capacity relates to the provision of single, shared and multi-use trails where:

Single	Only one user group is permitted on the trail
Shared	Only two user groups are permitted on the trail
Multi	All three user groups are permitted on the trail

Figure 3: International Mountain Biking Association Trail Difficulty Rating System
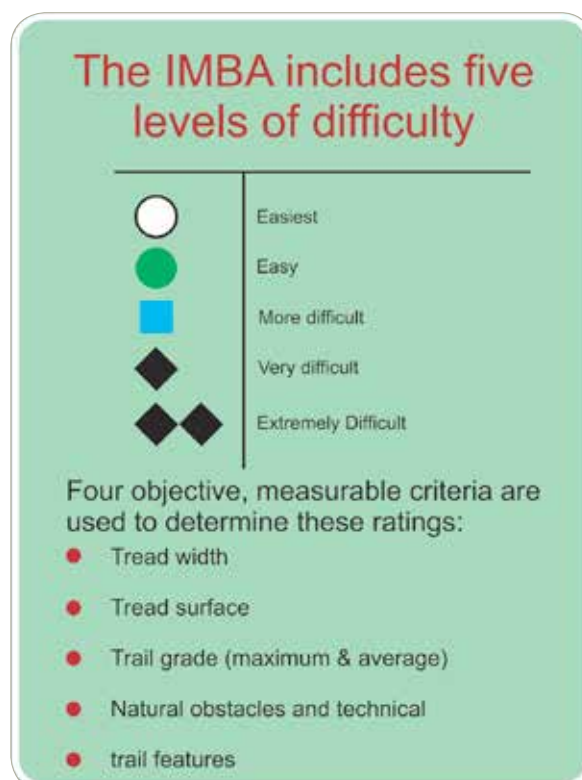
Quality – Council managed (signed)

The components that contribute to a quality trail include:

- good trail alignment
- appropriate length
- trail surface to be appropriate to the land use and user type
- the provision of supporting infrastructure such as trail signage, interpretative signage, carparking, seating and picnic facilities.

These elements are included within the endorsed Desired Standard of Service for recreation trails – refer to *Appendix 5: Recreation Trails Desired Standard of Service.*

3.4 Current performance

The current performance of recreation trails on the Sunshine Coast has been assessed based on the key elements: supply, range and diversity, and quality. Analysis of quality has only been undertaken upon land where Council has management control. Full details of Council's current performance is provided at *Appendix 3: Current performance analysis*. Below is a brief summary of findings.

Trail supply – across all tenures (signed)

There are hundreds of kilometres of unsigned trails within the region's State forests and natural areas including fire trails within Council environment reserves. Many of the existing unsigned trails, excluding those in plantation forests, are shown on *Regional Map 1: Community Input*.

There are approximately 569 kilometres of existing signed trails across the Sunshine Coast which are shown on *Regional Map 3: Existing Trails by User Type*. Although not signed the approximate 56 kilometres of walkable beach (subject to tides etc excluding Noosa North Shore) has been considered in the assessment of existing trails due to its popularity as a trail by walkers. The supply of existing signed trails, in combination with the walkable sections of beach, equates to an average of approximately 1.8 kilometres of signed trails per 1000 people across the Sunshine Coast.

Of the 569 kilometres of signed trails approximately 146 kilometres are located on land under Council and approximately 299 kilometres are located on land under the control of the DNPRS&R, refer to *Table 3: Trail Supply by Land Manager*. A list of the existing signed trails managed by Council, DNPRS&R, FPQ and Seqwater is provided in *Table 3: Trail Supply by Land Manager*.

Overall trail supply throughout the region is not considered as having an equitable distribution, with no signed trails within 9 of the 44 localities namely:

Locality 1   Beerwah

Locality 12   Doonan – Weyba Downs – Verrierdale

Locality 13   Eumundi – Eerwah Vale – North Arm – Bridges

Locality 21   Little Mountain – Caloundra West – Meridian Plains – Bells Creek

Locality 29   Nambour – Burnside and District

Locality 33   Peachester – Cromahurst – Booroobin – Wootha

Locality 34   Pelican Waters

Locality 36   Peregian Springs

Locality 42   Woombye.

A further 10 localities have a trail supply less than the adequate provision (1 kilometre of accessible trail per 1000 people). A list of these localities is provided in *Appendix 3: Current Performance*.

There are 8 localities that meet the provision but have less than the regions average of 1.8 kilometres per 1000 people.

Seventeen localities exceed the region's average.

In summary 25 (56 percent) of the 44 localities have an adequate provision of trails. An improved distribution of supply is required.

A full list of all signed walking trails can be found in *Appendix 3: Current Performance* – Tables 1 and 2.

There is an existing approved State horse trail network able to be accessed by all user types within South East Queensland traversing multiple tenure. Those trails located within the region are shown on *Regional Map 5: Trail Network Blueprint.*

Table 3: Trail supply by land manager

Land Manager	Trail Length (km)	Example Trails
DNPRS&R	299	Great walks, Mapleton Falls, Glass House Mountains walks, Tewantin mountain bike tracks
FPQ	53	Booloumba Hiking Trail, Glass House and Wildhorse Mountain lookouts, Noosa Trail, Little Yabba Circuit
Seqwater	14	Ewen Maddock Dam
Council	146	Refer to *Appendix 3*: *Current Performance* – Table 3 for a list of Council signed trails
Council (beach)	56	Sunshine Beach – Coolum Beach, Yaroomba Beach – Pincushion Island, Bribie Island Beach
Authorised Freehold	1	Noosa Trail Network

Range and diversity – across all tenures (signed)

Regional Maps 3 and 4 show the distribution of trails by catchment, category and user group type throughout the region. An analysis of range and diversity indicates that there:

- is an adequate number of walking trails at a regional and Sunshine Coast wide level
- is a limited number of local trails for all user groups in all localities
- is a limited number of Sunshine Coast wide trails for mountain bike and horse riders
- are few long trails for mountain bike touring and endurance, long distance horse riders
- is a lack of advanced trail options for mountain bike riders
- are no single use only trails for horse riders.

Refer to *Appendix 3: Current Performance* for the detailed analysis.

Quality – Council managed (signed)

A review of the quality of Council's existing signed trails indicates:

- **Signage**
  - The standard, quality and style of trail head signage varies considerably across the Sunshine Coast.
  - Trail heads can be difficult to locate within a locality due to the limited wayfinding signage provided.
  - Directional signage, with few exceptions, is varied.
- **Construction standard**
  - Infrastructure provided is good quality.
  - The surface for each trail varies from sealed to natural and on most trails is in relatively good condition.
  - The signed sections of the Coastal Pathway vary in standard.

4 Strategic directions

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is an integral component of Council's policy framework. Council's vision is to be *Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse*.

This section provides the strategic directions of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* by:

- articulating the long term vision for recreation trails on the Sunshine Coast
- detailing the desired outcomes and principles that we strive to achieve
- providing the policy direction to inform decision making.

4.1 Our vision

The overarching vision of the Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012 is to:

> Ensure a variety of trails are available for residents and visitors so they may safely enjoy the Sunshine Coast landscape on mountain bike, horse or by walking.

4.2 Council policy direction

The *Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011* policy direction for recreation trails is to:

- encourage outdoor recreation trails for non-motorised uses (pedestrian, cycle and horses)
- encourage trails that support a range of skills, abilities and experiences from the remote to within the built environment
- strengthen linkages between community facilities, activity centres and locations of interest
- endeavour to activate and physically link existing open space to increase participation and activity

- upgrade existing recreation trails with appropriate signage and facilities
- commence investigation of local recreation trails to service localities where a shortfall is identified.

4.3 Strategic outcomes

Council will strive to achieve the vision for recreation trails and to support its Corporate Plan by adhering to the strategic outcomes and principles listed in *Table 4: Strategic Outcomes and Principles* below. Strategic actions to facilitate achievement of each outcome is provided in *Section 5: Strategic Actions*.

Table 4: Strategic outcomes and principles

Outcome	Principle
Robust Economy	Recreation trails support the emerging eco-tourism industry and attract visitors seeking affordable and enjoyable recreation trails. Trails are a sound financial investment for our community.
Ecological Sustainability	The biodiversity values of the areas through which the trails traverse are protected and the public are informed about these values. 'Tread lightly' principles.
Health and Wellbeing	Our community has good access to a variety of well located recreation trails that encourage a wide range of people to participate actively in outdoor recreation activities for their improved health, wellbeing and education.
Social Cohesion	A successful and valued trail network builds a community sense of identity and pride. Trails link people to the cultural, environmental and geographical landscape through which the trail passes and increase trail users' knowledge of these elements. In some areas, trails follow traditional indigenous pathways and are imbued with cultural heritage.
Accessibility and Connectedness	Trails link people and places safely, are affordable and accessible to all members of the community.
Managing Growth	A diversity of walking, mountain bike riding and horse riding (incorporating both multi and single use) trails cater for the rapidly growing Sunshine Coast population and its increasing visitor numbers. Trails are attractive and desirable to users.
Great Governance	Strong partnerships and alliances within Council, the Queensland Government, community organisations and the private sector achieve high quality trails. Ongoing community engagement and participation in trail planning and management foster ownership by the community.

5 Strategic actions

To achieve the vision, outcomes and policy directions of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*, a number of strategies and actions are proposed together with a blueprint for the physical network planning.

The **Network Blueprint** outlines the proposed physical network.

The strategic actions respond to existing issues and direct future priorities in the planning, development and management.

5.1 How the actions work

Priority

The timing of actions is based on priority and achievability.

Priorities are subject to annual budget allocation.

Short term	within 5 years
Medium term	within 5–10 years
Long term	beyond 10 years
Ongoing	continuous
Underway	currently being undertaken

Cost

Indicative costings for the proposed strategic actions have been prepared, and capital items are contained in *Section 6: Network Blueprint*.

Medium	$10,000 – $30,000
Low	< $10,000
Funded	within operational budgets
Resourced	staff time

(Note: The proposed actions are a guide only and will be subject to Council's prioritisation of existing work programs and annual budget considerations.)

Outcome 1: Robust economy

Strategy	Actions	Timeline	Cost
Strategy 1.1:	**Increase awareness of existing trail opportunities.**		
1.1.1	Work in partnership with Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd, recreation tour providers, tourism operators and local businesses to map, market and promote the Sunshine Coast trails.	Short	Resourced
1.1.2	Promote trails utilising up to date technology, that is: • regional trails are able to be accessed on smart phones • up to date downloadable GIS layers for regional mountain bike tracks and maps of all signed trails are available on Council's web site with links to its partners' web site e.g. Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd, FPQ and DNPRS&R.	Ongoing	Low
1.1.3	Print and distribute promotional material.	Short	Medium
1.1.4	Continue to maintain the South East Queensland Walking Trails database.	Ongoing	Resourced
1.1.5	Work in partnership with industry to establish one or more major sponsored events utilising the trails.	Medium	Low
Strategy 1.2:	**Proactively support economic and tourism plans that incorporate trail development.**		
1.2.1	Provide input into the review of the Sunshine Coast Tourism Opportunity Plan and the tourism levy model being undertaken during 2010-2012 in regard to recreation trails.	Short	Resourced

Outcome 2: Ecological sustainability

Strategy	Actions	Timeline	Cost
Strategy 2.1: Foster an appreciation and awareness of our natural environment.			
2.2.1	Develop the Biodiversity Interpretative Trail Network outlined within the Biodiversity Strategy.	Medium	Medium
2.1.2	Where trails traverse through Council managed environmental reserves/conservation areas and informal road reserves, trail planning and construction considers: • suitable tenure for protection • the primary purpose of the reserve • user suitability.	Ongoing	Resourced
Strategy 2.2: Trail corridor widths are minimal in high biodiversity areas.			
2.2.1	Trail construction guidelines indicate to keep the width of the trail corridor to a minimum through natural areas recognising the need to meet demand, minimise erosion, protect tree roots, etc.	Underway	Funded
2.2.2	Provide input regarding trail design into any relevant codes of practice e.g. development adjacent to waterways code.	Ongoing	Resourced
Strategy 2.3: Trails provide opportunity for rehabilitation and revegetation of degraded environments.			
2.3.1	State or federal funded employment programs are utilised to undertake revegetation and/or rehabilitation works adjacent to trails where environmental degradation has occurred, particularly along creeks and rivers.	Ongoing	Resourced
2.3.2	Consider opportunities to develop trails within areas where biosequestration is planned (e.g. areas to be planted with trees to reduce carbon footprint) where practical.	Long	Low
2.3.3	Work with not-for-profit, State recreation organisations and clubs for stewardship and trail rejuvenation projects.	Ongoing	Low
Strategy 2.4: Balance commercial use of the trail network with the environment.			
2.4.1	Protect the network from overuse from commercial activities to ensure safe and ongoing public access in accordance with Council's commercial use of community land policy and to avoid environmental degradation.	Ongoing	Resourced

Outcome 3: Health and wellbeing

Strategy	Actions	Timeline	Cost
Strategy 3.1:	Encourage community participation in outdoor recreation activities within open space networks (trails and parks)		
3.1.1	Provide a variety of recreational experiences along the trail network including new and innovative activities such as Geocache sites, GPS downloads, etc.	Ongoing	Low
3.1.2	Continue advocacy through partnerships with peak bodies such as Parks and Leisure Australia, and Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, Heart Foundation.	Ongoing	Resourced
3.1.3	Continue to promote and increase usage of trails across the Sunshine Coast through programs such as the healthy Heart Foundation Walking program and the provision of brochures and maps.	Underway	Resourced
Strategy 3.2:	Ensure the trail network is accessible and safe for users		
3.2.1	Regular maintenance and upgrade is undertaken on all signed trails.	Ongoing	Funded
3.2.2	Trail development is undertaken in accordance with Council trail development guidelines.	Underway	Resourced

Outcome 4: Social cohesion

Strategy	Actions	Timeline	Cost
Strategy 4.1:	Foster an appreciation and awareness of our cultural heritage, natural environment and geographical landscape to all.		
4.1.1	Provide a variety of thematic and engaging interpretative signage in areas where there are strong cultural heritage links, or unique natural environment or geographical landscape.	Ongoing	Resourced
4.1.2	Continue to improve existing and further develop heritage walks.	Short	Funded
4.1.3	Investigate developing and supporting community walks such as the indigenous Bunya festival or Glass House Mountains Walks.	Short	Medium
Strategy 4.2:	Provide a trail network that stimulates opportunities for social interaction along the recreation trails.		
4.2.1	Support community based projects which encourage use of the trails network and provide community wellbeing benefits.	Short	Resourced
4.2.2	Provide physical infrastructure along trails that encourage social interaction such as seating and viewing platforms and connect to community hubs.	Ongoing	Resourced
4.2.3	Investigate the establishment of volunteer trail maintenance days, similar to bushland care days.	Medium	Resourced
Strategy 4.3:	Opportunities are provided for interpretation, celebration and ongoing protection of cultural heritage sites along the trails.		
4.3.1	Identify cultural heritage sites along the existing and proposed trail network.	Short	Low
4.3.2	In conjunction with the indigenous community provide cultural heritage interpretative information, where appropriate, including trail head information, via the use of interpretative signage and web based information.	Medium	Funded

Outcome 5: Accessibility and connectedness

Strategy	Actions	Timeline	Cost
Strategy 5.1:	Trails are accessible to a range of users.		
5.1.1	Encourage equity in the distribution of trails for each user type across the region.	Short	Resourced
5.1.2	Identify and promote trails suitable for all user types and levels including those trails accessible to those with a disability.	Short	Low
5.1.3	Ensure the level of difficulty of the trail and which trail users are permitted on the trail is incorporated within signage and promotional material.	Short	Low
Strategy 5.2:	Ensure trails link places and people.		
5.2.1	Support implementation of the Active Transport Plan.	Short	Funded
5.2.2	Finalise the Coastal Pathway Strategic Plan and support implementation.	Short	Funded

Outcome 6: Managing growth

Strategy	Actions	Timeline	Cost
Strategy 6.1:	Proactively plan and deliver trails that are affordable and meet the community's changing needs.		
6.1.1	Land required for future trail development is identified, prioritised and incorporated into Council's land acquisition program for prioritisation.	Short	Resourced
6.1.2	Install trail counters along a select number of high profile trails so trail usage may be monitored.	Short	Medium
6.1.3	Priority trails are to be referred to the Priority Infrastructure Plan for public parks and community land network.	Underway	Resourced
6.1.4	Continue to secure land tenure by way of public thoroughfare easements and other mechanisms.	Short	Medium
Strategy 6.2:	Whole of life costs are integrated into trail planning and development.		
6.2.1	As part of the implementation plan, prepare a total asset management plan for the development, management and maintenance of the trail network.	Short	Resourced
Strategy 6.3:	Trails are attractive and desirable to users.		
6.3.1	Amend the Desired Standard of Service (*Appendix 5*) to address amenity elements to ensure user enjoyment. Trails are planned and constructed in accordance with the endorsed Desired Standard of Service Recreation Trail Construction Guidelines.	Ongoing	Resourced

Outcome 7: Great governance

Strategy	Actions	Timeline	Cost
Strategy 7.1: Trails are planned and developed in accordance with Council's community engagement framework.			
7.1.1	Detailed planning of new trails and re-design of existing trails is to be undertaken in partnership with relevant land managers, adjoining land owners, residential and business community, user group and interested local community group/s.	Ongoing	Medium
7.1.2	Continue ongoing cooperation with State Government departments and private entities such as DNPRS&R, FPQ and Seqwater involved with trail development.	Ongoing	Resourced
7.1.3	Continue to work with QPWS as they formalise their recreation zoning plan and identification of preferred location of recreation trails.	Ongoing	Resourced
7.1.4	Identify and apply for suitable federal and State Government funded skill and employment development programs to be utilised during trail construction projects.	Ongoing	Resourced
7.1.5	Establish a working group of key stakeholders including land managers and trail users to continue to coordinate and provide input into planning.	Ongoing	Resourced
Strategy 7.2: Regional Sunshine Coast trails are recognised in State trail planning.			
7.2.1	Advocate for the inclusion of Sunshine Coast trails in the review of the South East Queensland Active Trails Strategy.	Short	Resourced
Strategy 7.3: Develop an integrated approach to the planning, development, maintenance and promotion of trails within Council.			
7.3,1	Integrate the planning and standards for recreation trails and the active transport network to achieve strategic outcomes.	Ongoing	Resourced
7.3.2	Ensure the new planning scheme for the Sunshine Coast reflects the policy direction outlined in this Plan.	Ongoing	Resourced

6 Network blueprint

The network blueprint:

- together with the strategic actions outlined in Section 5, seeks to achieve the vision, outcomes and policy direction of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*
- provides guidance for future planning and budget allocation
- addresses existing shortfalls in trail provision for each user group type
- plans for existing and anticipated trail requirements responding to predicted growth on the Sunshine Coast
- is a vital component of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* and relates to:
  - improving the supply of trails
  - increasing the range and diversity of trail experiences
  - upgrading the quality of existing trails.

Regional Map 5: Sunshine Coast Trail Network Blueprint identifies:

- the existing signed trail network
- the State approved horse riding trail network
- provides recommendations to advocate and partner with other land managers to improve access, linkages and recreational experiences on the Sunshine Coast (refer to *Appendix 4: Recreation Trail Network Blueprint*)

- provides recommendations for the short term (within 5 years) and an estimated cost, for the upgrade, planning and development of Council managed existing and proposed trails within specific localities (refer to *Appendix 4: Recreation Trail Network Blueprint*)
- provides maps of the trail planning priorities within each locality, (refer to *Maps 1-44 in Appendix 4: Recreation Trail Network Blueprint*) where an indicative location for the trails is identified.

New short term priority	New trails to be completed within 1 to 5 years
New medium term priority	New trails to be completed within 5 to 10 years
Planning short/ medium term	Planning of new trails to be undertaken within the next 10 years
Notional only	Indicator of potential future links/trails
Indicative coastal pathway corridor	Alignment of pathway determined at detailed design

Where trails require further planning or rely on a partnership approach they may not be shown on the network blueprint map as the location of their route is unknown or not approved, however they are identified within *Appendix 4: Recreation Trails Network Blueprint*.

A brief summary of the Recreation Trail Network Blueprint follows.

Trail supply

- New trails are proposed in the short term in those localities where there is no trail supply and in the medium term where trail supply is considered to be less than adequate.

- Trail developments, relating to supply, in the remaining localities are to be considered a medium to long term priority with the exception of the Coastal Pathway and trails resulting from other master planning processes such as the Maleny Community Precinct Master Plan.

- Timing of these trails will be subject to the overarching master planning process.

Range and diversity

- Increased provision of local signed walking trails.

- Provision of new infrastructure such as signage and seating, and upgrade of existing signed trails.

- Improve mountain biking opportunities at a local, Sunshine Coast wide and regional level by:
  - provision of a local mountain bike park in both the north and south of the region where beginners can learn mountain bike riding (obstacles for skill development)
  - investigating the possibility of developing new cross country tracks in partnership with the DNPRS&R and FPQ. The tracks to consider are to include the proposed North Coast Mountain Bike Trail and the Great Rides concept
  - partnering with DNPRS&R and FPQ to protect, plan and develop existing multi, shared and single use tracks where mountain bike riders are permitted, both signed and unsigned, and enhance

the existing mountain bike trail hubs at Tewantin National Park and Parklands Conservation Park
  - providing formalised difficult/very difficult rated single tracks for advanced riders
  - investigating opportunities where mountain bike riders may be permitted to share local urban trails with walkers.

- Improve horse riding opportunities by:
  - providing trail head facilities incorporating float parking to those open space areas where signed and unsigned multi use horse riding tracks exist
  - advocating to DNPRS&R to improve signage of the State approved horse trail network
  - advocating for the retention and protection of trails both signed and unsigned where horse riding is permitted.

- Develop a Sunshine Coast Bird Trail.

- Expanding the provision of Heritage Trails.

Quality

- Improve the quality of the existing signed trails listed in *Appendix 3* by:
  - improving trail head and directional signage
  - repairing and realigning existing trails
  - providing good quality interpretative signage.

The Network Blueprint is subject to Council's annual budget considerations, detailed on-site investigations and arrangements and agreements with relevant land managers.

7 Funding

There are a number of sources of funding available to support the development of recreation trails and these are outlined below.

General Revenue/Capital Works Program

General Revenue is allocated through a ten year financial plan and is subject to annual budgetary consideration. Financial planning for trails must consider not only the initial capital cost of the asset but also the operational and whole of life costing. Development of recreation trails is contained in the 'Recreation Trail' sub program of the Parks and Gardens and Environmental Operations Capital Works Program.

Infrastructure charges

Through the provisions of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, Council is eligible to collect infrastructure charges for trunk infrastructure within public parks and land for community facilities. Land and construction of recreation trails can be an eligible item within the network if identified.

Trail Head Signage

Infrastructure agreements

*The Sustainable Planning Act 200*9 offers an alternative to infrastructure charges by permitting the development of an Infrastructure Agreement. This alternative is generally utilised where large residential developments such as master planned communities are being developed.

Grants and subsidies

Both State and Federal Governments provide periodic Government funding programs.

Community groups are also able to source grants from Government (e.g. Gambling Community Benefit Fund) and industry (e.g. banks). Additionally the State has funding available to skill the long term unemployed, with trail development well suited to such programs.

Cultural Heritage Levy (Policy)

Council's Cultural Heritage Levy is revenue raised specifically to preserve, promote and celebrate cultural heritage. The funding of the heritage walks are included in the Cultural Heritage Levy's three year indicative program.

Environment Levy (Policy)

The Environment Levy funds initiatives under three themes namely land acquisition for conservation major initiatives and catalyst projects and community grants, partnerships and incentives. Council's investment of levy funds is complemented by significant contributions from government, community and private partners. The Biodiversity Trail Interpretative network could be eligible for funding from the levy.

Partnerships

Opportunities exist to work collaboratively with the Queensland Government and private entities such as Forestry Plantation Queensland to develop a range of trails across multiple tenures improving the opportunities and accessibility of the network.

Operational budgets and asset management

Operation management, maintenance and asset management funding is integral to Council's ability to provide a quality recreation trail network.

8 Management, implementation and review

A critical part of the management of a recreation trail network is ensuring the delivery and maintenance of recreation trails meet the desired outcomes of the community, outlined within *Sections 5: Strategic actions* and *Section 6: Network blueprint*, in a sustainable and affordable manner.

Within Council a clear management framework ensures that planning, development and maintenance, and trail asset management and programming are coordinated and integrated to facilitate delivery of the strategic actions and Recreation Trail Network Blueprint.

In accordance with the *Sustainable Planning Act 200*9 a Desired Standard of Service for recreation trails (DSS) has been developed and is provided at *Appendix 5: Recreation Trails Desired Standard of Service*. It is intended that implementation of the DSS within future urban development areas will deliver new trails to the community that are attractive and desirable.

This *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*, combined with the recreation trail construction guidelines and DSS, provides a sound basis for the future development of recreation trails by Council on the Sunshine Coast.

An internal recreation trail working group is proposed to oversee implementation of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* and a stakeholder working group to provide opportunity for ongoing input and communication relating to specific trail proposals by all interested stakeholders including land managers, user groups and community representatives.

Monitoring the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*'s implementation is important to its success. An annual status report addressing the strategic actions and network blueprint achievements, and identification of any barriers is proposed.

A detailed implementation plan based upon the strategic actions and recreation trail network blueprint is to be prepared to support and inform the progress of the plan's achievements and challenges.

The implementation plan will:

- include estimated time frames and costs for completion of each action/recommendation
- outline any current funding options and initiatives
- provide detailed contact lists of all relevant land managers, community groups and user groups
- assign responsibility of each action to branches within Council
- provide sufficient detail to enable handover of each action to the relevant branch e.g. for new trails a project brief is to be developed
- inform the recreation trail development component of the Council Capital Works Program.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is a long term planning document with a 10 year focus and 20 year horizon. It is recommended that full review of the strategic directions and actions, desired standards of service and Network Blueprint be undertaken in conjunction with the *Sunshine Coast Open Space Strategy 2011* review in five years.

9 Conclusion

The provision of recreation trails is important to communities, as research demonstrates that more than half the population participate in trail-based activities including walking for exercise, mountain bike riding, bushwalking and horse riding.

There is high demand from all recreation trail user groups for a range of short and long distance, easy to difficult new trails. The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* is focussed on ensuring:

- the community has access to a diverse range of quality recreation trails into the future
- the distribution of recreation trails is equitable throughout the region
- new trails are attractive and desirable
- strong strategic partnerships with the Queensland Government, Forestry Plantations Queensland, private entities, user groups and the community are built
- an integrated and coordinated approach is taken to the planning, development and management of recreation trails within the Sunshine Coast region.

The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* outlines clear policy direction that seeks to balance community needs and expectations in a transparent framework.
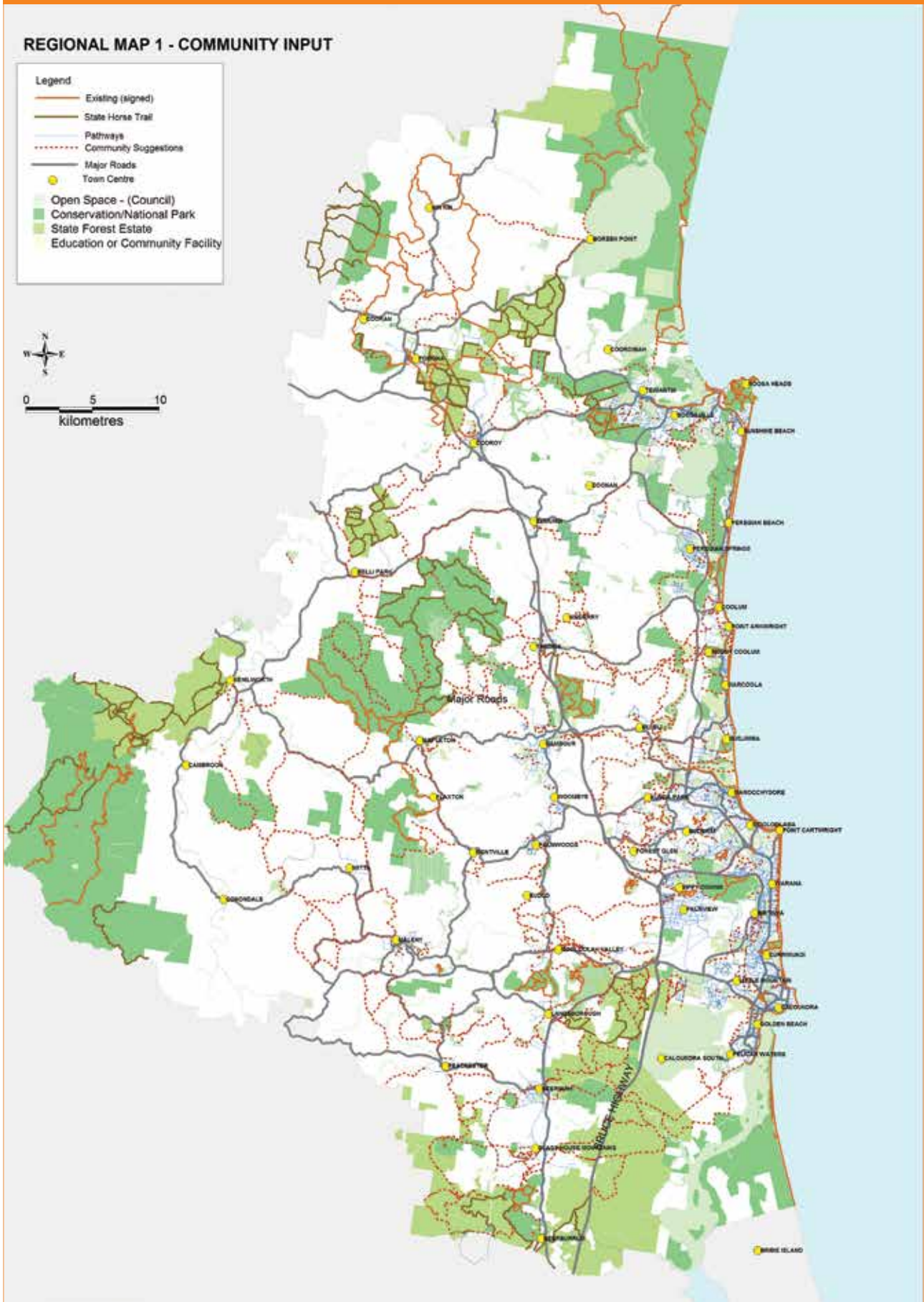
Glossary

DNPRS&R Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Directional Sign Provide guidance to trail users on-trail, particularly at intersections/junctions.

Fitness Trail A pathway along which signed exercise stations are provided. Each station contains some type of exercise equipment. Most fitness trails have approximately 10 or more stations.

FPQ Forestry Plantations Queensland.

Geocaching Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online.

IMBA International Mountain Bike Association.

Interpretative Sign The purpose of interpretative panels is to facilitate connection between the meanings in the resource and the interests of the visitor, provoking interest and effecting change in knowledge, attitude and behaviour.

Localities of Interest Geographical planning areas defined to identify the characteristics and traits of the wide range of communities currently existing on the Sunshine Coast. They are based on a combination of gazetted suburbs, and where possible represent communities that share a number of traits other than just their geographical location.

Multi-use Trail Walkers, mountain bike riders and horse riders are permitted to use the trail.

Outdoor Recreation Informal and formal recreation activities generally requiring large open space areas such as national parks, state forests, Sunshine Coast wide recreation parks, rivers and coastal waters.

Ramsar City in Iran, on the shores of the Caspian Sea, where the International Convention on Wetlands was agreed on 2 February 1971 thus the Convention's informal nickname, 'Ramsar Convention on Wetlands'.

Regulatory Sign Regulatory signage advises users of legal requirements and regulations associated with the use of a trail.

Rogaining Rogaining is long distance cross-country navigation sport. It is a twenty-four hour event where teamwork, endurance, strategy and map reading are required. The sport originated in Australia.

Shared Use Trail Only two user groups are permitted to use the trail, generally walkers and mountain bike riders.

Total Asset Management Plan Total Asset Management Plans are used to manage Council assets. They provide a model to understand the whole of live costs for all assets. The total asset management plans ensure the actual cost to install, maintain, renew and dispose of the infrastructure is considered. While the initial one off capital cost may appear comparatively low the long term cost must be fully understood.

Trail Head Sign Are located at the start of a trail. Are generally a large sign that provides essential information to intended trail users.

Warning Sign Warning signs play an important role in risk and safety management of trails. They inform trail users of dangers, safety issues and other relevant information.

Wayfinding Signage Directional finger boards which direct potential users from local roads to a single trailhead location.
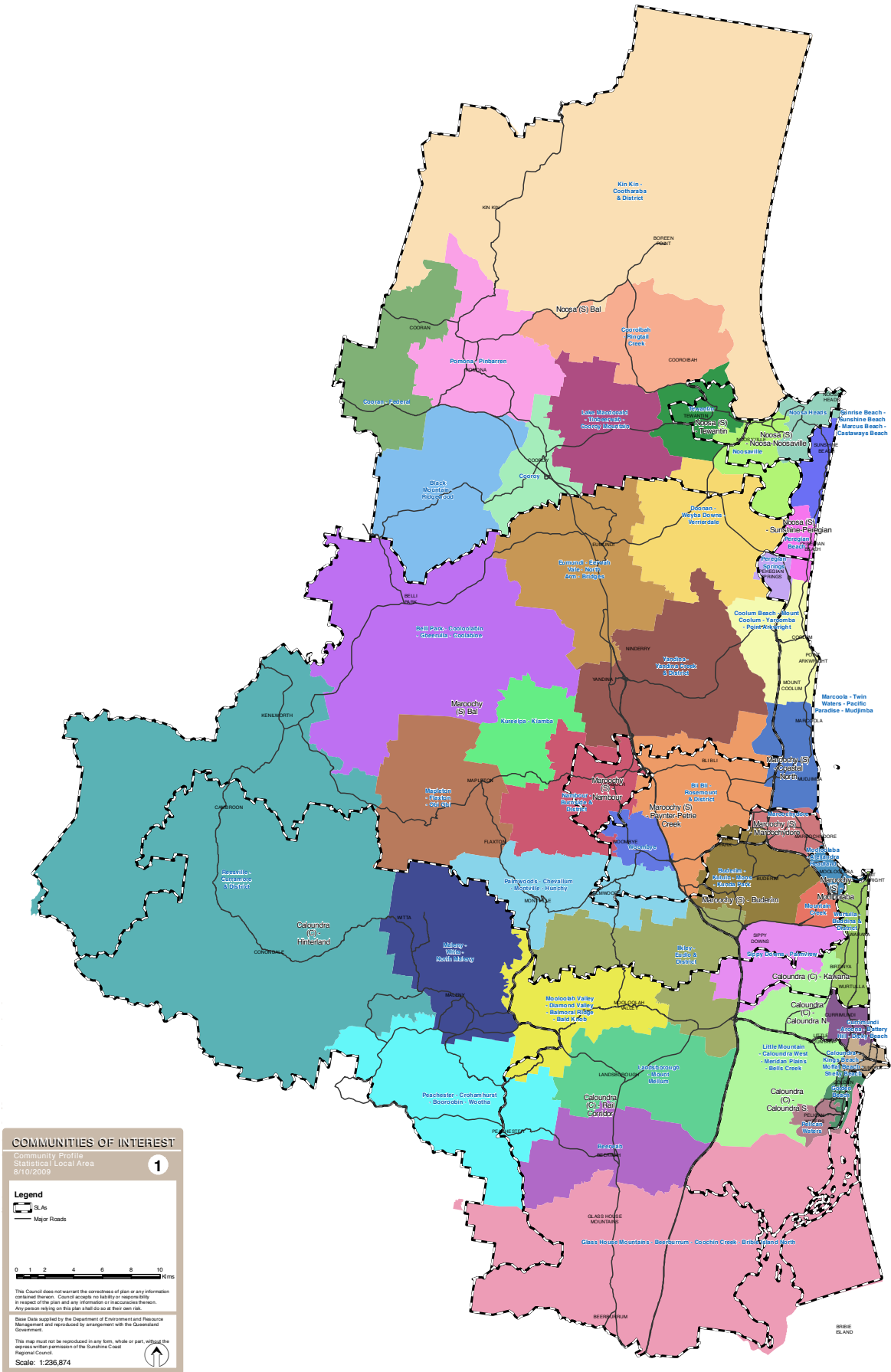
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REGIONAL MAP 1 - COMMUNITY INPUT

Legend

——	Existing (signed)
——	State Horse Trail
——	Pathways
----	Community Suggestions
——	Major Roads
●	Town Centre

Open Space - (Council)
Conservation/National Park
State Forest Estate
Education or Community Facility

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Community Profile
Statistical Local Area
8/10/2009

1

Legend

SLAs

Major Roads

0 1 2   4   6   8   10
Kms

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REGIONAL MAP 3 EXISTING SIGNED TRAILS BY USER TYPE (across all tenures)

Legend
— Multi Use
— Shared Use
— Walking Only
— Major Roads
○ Town Centre
Open Space - (Council)
Conservation/National Park
State Forest Estate
Education or Community Facility

REGIONAL MAP 4 EXISTING SIGNED TRAILS BY CATEGORIES (across all tenures)

REGIONAL MAP 5 - TRAIL NETWORK BLUEPRINT

- New Short Term Priority
- New Medium Term Priority
- Short/Medium Term Planning
- Notional Only (Potential Future Link\Trail)
- State Horse Trails
- Existing Signed
- Coastal Pathway Corridor
- Major Road
- ○ Town Centre
- Open Space - (Council)
- Conservation/National Park
- State Forest Estate
- Education or Community Facility

0   5   10
kilometres

Appendix 1: User group activities defined

Trail user activities, namely walking, mountain bike riders, runners and horse riders, are described by Trails South Australia in the *Sustainable Recreational Trails* report as follows. These same descriptions have been applied within this *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012*.

Walkers

A 'walker' broadly describes anyone who travels by foot on recreational trails. Walking includes all forms of recreational walking and a variety of trail experiences from a leisurely stroll in the local park to strenuous treks across rugged terrain. Walking may also involve exercising dogs, nature appreciation [e.g. bird watching], cultural heritage and educational experiences, or overnight stay.

Walkers use both urban and rural trails. Urban walkers use trails within suburban reserves, linear parks and transport corridors. The majority of these types of walkers use trails for fitness and social reasons. Walkers in rural areas often seek a variety of trail experiences including more challenging trails that visit interesting natural features.[12]

Geocaching is a new activity being undertaken by walkers. Wikipedia defines 'Geocaching' as an outdoor sporting activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called 'Geocaches' or 'Caches', anywhere in the world.

[12] *Trails SA Sustainable Trails* (undated).

Mountain bike riders

Similar to walkers, since the development of the activity there are a range of sub-groups of mountain biking such as cross-country biking, all-day endurance biking, freeride biking, downhill mountain biking, north shore and a variety of track and slalom competitions. Each type of mountain bike riding utilises a different style of bike.

Cross-country riders seek trails with a technical complexity of easy to moderate. They like to get away from busy trails to areas of more solitude and like trails that include a variety of interconnecting loops consisting of a mix of rough forest paths and singletrack (also referred to as doubletrack depending on width), smooth fireroads and even paved paths connecting other trails. Cross-country riders include family, occasional or beginner mountain bike riders seeking short loops of fairly level terrain, with some challenges to introduce them to off-road cycling.

Endurance mountain bike races are formalised races that occur on tracks utilised by the cross-country rider and can vary in length from

50 kilometres to over 100 kilometres. There are also endurance mountain bike events that are based on riding for a period of time.

Down hillers seek steep challenging terrain and obstacles that appear unusable to outsiders. Down hill racing generally occurs on a track where there is a parallel road enabling competitors to be driven (shuttled) back to the start.

Technical/Trails riders look for trails that provide numerous obstacles to challenge their riding skills.

Mountain Bike Touring combines both on road and off road trails to create a ride that extends over a long distance where riding for pleasure and endurance are a priority over utility or speed. Touring can range from single day 'supported' rides (e.g. rides to benefit charities) where provisions are available to riders at stops along

the route, to multi-day trips with solo or group riders carrying all necessary equipment, tools, food, and clothing, or utilisation of overnight accommodations such as pubs and hotels along route.

Horse riders

Horse Riders can also be divided into a number of sub-groups:
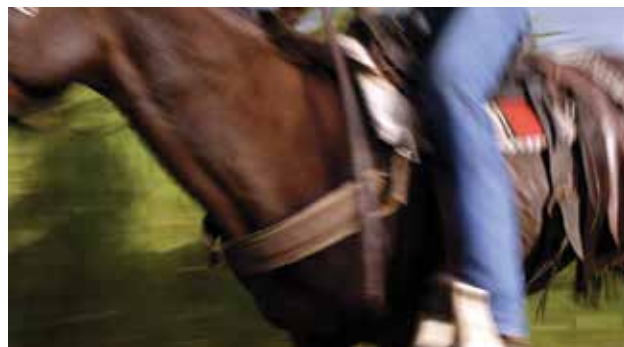
Recreational or 'weekender' riders look to exercise their horses and ride in attractive rural settings for a few hours to a daylong ride.

Endurance riders are competitive riders who like very large circuits to train on but events are usually held on temporary loops.

Long distance riders are non-competitive riders who often travel long distances on linear trails or on daily loops of up to 30 kilometres from a base. Their trail experience can range from overnight to rides that last a number of weeks.

Appendix 2: Summary of review of relevant legislation and policies

International/National legislation

a) In September 2007 under the *United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)* Man and the Biosphere Program, the Noosa Biosphere was awarded. Biospheres are created to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the Biosphere.

b) The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* contains a list of places with outstanding heritage value to the Australian nation, including places overseas. These places are protected under the Australian Government's national environment law. In August 2006 the Glass House Mountains National Landscape was included in the National Heritage List.

   Recreation trails within this heritage-listed landscape need to comply with the object of the Act which is to provide for the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations.

c) The *Ramsar Convention* is an international treaty signed by over one hundred countries. The Ramsar strategy is aimed at preserving intertidal feeding banks in both hemispheres and along the flyways of migratory bird species. By law in these areas, no one can take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment. Care and consultation is needed when planning for trails in these areas.

Queensland Government legislation

a) The *Queensland Government Act 2009* highlights the need for councils to plan for the long term and requires the development of a Community Plan. Councils Community Plan clearly outlines the communities' aspirations including enjoying an active lifestyle, developing the economy and ensuring social cohesion. The development of recreation trails will assist Council to meet the communities' aspirations.

b) The *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* allows councils to levy development charges to contribute to network growth for some elements of the open space network such as recreation parks, sports grounds and recreation trails infrastructure. Financial contributions are able to be obtained via a Priority Infrastructure Charges Plan for the construction of trails, however a contribution towards the acquisition of land required for trail development is not.

c) The *Land Act 1994* applies to the management of non-freehold land, the deeds of grant in trust and the creation of freehold land. The Act requires land owned by the Government to be managed for the benefit of the people of Queensland by having regard to: sustainability, evaluation, development, community purpose, protection, consultation and administration. Trails may traverse land managed by Council under this Act.

   The *Land Act 1994* also outlines the provisions whereby a "public thoroughfare easement" may be created over freehold land. This type of easement, with the agreement of the landowner, appears on the freehold title and ensures perpetuity of access for trail users.

d) The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* informs the planning and management of various protected areas including national and conservation parks, resource reserves, nature refuges, coordinated conservation areas and world heritage management areas, and the revocation of state forests and timber reserves. Its objective is the conservation of nature.

   Recreation trails are permitted within protected areas providing they do not compromise the preservation of the area's natural condition, and protection of the area's cultural and natural resources.

   QPWS are responsible for managing the states' protected areas. To aid in the implementation of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* QPWS employs a regional recreation zoning model that seeks to provide a range of recreation opportunities across the region based on tenure, topography, substrate, rare and threatened flora and fauna, presence of noteworthy features, historical use, and other similar opportunities in the region.

   QPWS are currently in the process of finalising a Recreation Zoning plan for the Sunshine Coast Burnett Region. The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* will set out the vision with regards to recreation opportunities

into the future. QPWS will utilise this plan to assess any trail proposals on QPWS estate.

e) The *Forestry Act 1959* (reprinted November 2010) requires state forests to be managed so they produce timber and associated products in perpetuity. Recreation, including recreation trails, are permitted within state forests providing the primary purpose of timber production is not compromised.

Forestry Plantations Queensland (FPQ), holds a 99 year Plantation Licence to manage commercial plantations on some areas of state forest (known as the Licence Area). Recreation management of the Plantation Licence Area is the responsibility of FPQ and is managed in accordance with the Act, Plantation Licence, Operations and Delegations Deeds.

f) The *Water Act 2000* outlines how the states' water commission is required to manage the states' water supply and the procedure for establishing water authorities amongst other things. A function of the water authority it to manage recreational areas on land under its ownership or control. Within the Sunshine Coast there are a number of dams where recreation trails exist that are now under the control of a water authority e.g. Ewen Maddock Dam.

g) The *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988* provides a mechanism for managing areas with multiple tenures and high levels of recreation.

h) The *Native Title Act 1993* outlines the process required to be adhered to when traversing land.

i) The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* ensures Aboriginal people are involved in processes for managing the recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage which is particularly relevant when developing cultural heritage interpretative information along trails.

Queensland Government Policy

a) The *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031* is bought into affect under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* recognises outdoor recreation as a valued part of the regional landscape with principle 3.7 for Outdoor Recreation stating:

Provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to meet priority community needs, while protecting other regional landscape values.

b) The *Toward Q2 2008 – Tomorrow's Queensland* is a policy direction of the Queensland Government based around five ambitions and ten targets for a Stronger, Greener, Smarter, Healthier and Fairer Queensland.

Trails located within the regional landscape are an important component of the State Government's Towards Q2 vision with program 3.7.6 of the *Sunshine Coast Recreation Trail Plan 2012* stating:

Review, refine and implement the South East Queensland Active Trails Strategy in consultation with local Government.

c) The purpose of the *South East Queensland Active Trails Strategy* prepared in 2007, is to inform and guide future investment in regional planning, development and management. Its scope was to identify trail alignments external to protected areas such as national parks and conservation parks.

The strategy identifies nine new regional trails of which three have been, or are currently being developed, namely the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, Maroochy River Canoe Trail (opened on 14 August 2010) and the Boonah to Ipswich Trail.

The other trail within the strategy located within the Sunshine Coast area is the North Coast Mountain Bike Touring Trail, a 200 kilometres trail extending from Brisbane to Yandina.

d) The *South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy October 2010* was prepared to help achieve the Toward Q2 policy direction. The Strategy identified the need to increase the communities participation in outdoor recreation and for partnerships between the State and local government, private enterprise and the community to be developed to provide places for people to recreate. Such partnerships are essential for successful regional trail development.

Appendix 3: Current performance

a) Trail supply across all tenures (both signed and unsigned trails)

Trails contribute to the vitality of a community and thus it is important to ensure there is an adequate supply and equitable distribution of trails throughout the region.

In this regard the 44 Localities of Interest on the Sunshine Coast based on gazetted suburbs are used for planning purposes. *Regional Map 2: Localities of Interest* shows the distribution of the localities throughout the region.

An analysis of trail supply identified that there are no signed trails within 9 of the 44 localities, with those localities being:

o   Locality 1:   Beerwah
o   Locality 12: Doonan – Weyba Downs – Verrierdale
o   Locality 13: Eumundi – Eerwah Vale – North Arm – Bridges
o   Locality 21: Little Mountain – Caloundra West – Meridian Plains – Bells Creek
o   Locality 29: Nambour – Burnside and District
o   Locality 33: Peachester – Cromahurst – Booroobin – Wootha
o   Locality 34: Pelican Waters
o   Locality 36: Peregian Springs
o   Locality 42: Woombye.

Further, there are 10 localities where the provision of signed trails is less than adequate provision i.e.:

o   Locality 5:   Buderim – Kuluin – Mons – Kunda Park
o   Locality 6:   Caloundra – Kings Beach – Moffat Beach – Shelly Beach
o   Locality 10: Cooroy
o   Locality 11: Currimundi – Aroona – Battery Hill – Dicky Beach
o   Locality 15: Golden Beach
o   Locality 25: Maroochydore
o   Locality 26: Mooloolaba – Alexandra Headland
o   Locality 28: Mountain Creek
o   Locality 31: Noosaville
o   Locality 41: Tewantin.

There are 23 localities with an average/moderate supply of signed trails.

The localities with a high level of trail provision are generally those localities with a low population, high land area and host to the longer distance regional trails, that is, the rural localities within the Sunshine Coast. Full details are provided in the *Recreation Trail Plan Background Study 2011*.

A full list of existing signed trails managed by Council, DNPRS&R, FPQ and Seqwater is provided in *Table 1: Lengths Used to Determine Category by User Groups* and *Table 2: Level of Difficulty for Walking*. In relation to the DNPRS&R, FPQ and Seqwater list of trails in *Table 2: Level of Difficulty for Walking* it is recognised this list may not be complete.

Table 5: Council managed signed recreation trails

Type	Trail Name	Location
Walking Only	Ben Bennet Park	Caloundra
	Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve	Bald Knob
	Foote Memorial Botanic walk	Buderim
	Lake Mac Botanic Gardens	Cooroy
	Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens	Tanawha
	Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary	Bli Bli
	Koala Bushland Park	Nambour
	Buderim Forest Park	Buderim
	Obi Obi Boardwalk	Kenilworth
	Gardners Falls	Maleny
	Eggmolesse Bushland Reserve	Buderim
	Kiamba Falls	Kureelpa
	Kolora Park	Palmwoods
Shared Use	Mountain Creek Conservation Area	Mountain Creek
	Sunshine Coast Coastal Pathway	Coastal towns of the Sunshine Coast
	Cranks Creek Park	Tewantin
	Heritage Park	Tewantin
Multi-use (All Users)	Noosa Trail Network Trails 1-8	Kin Kin, Pomona, Cooran, Cooroy
	Mooloolah River Trail	Mooloolah
Bird Trails	Noosa Bird Trail	Northern area of the Sunshine Coast
Fitness Trails	Chancellor Park	Sippy Downs
	Mooloolaba	Mooloolaba
	Kings Beach	Caloundra
	Noosa River	Noosaville
	Cooroora Park	Pomona
Heritage Walks	Tewantin	Tewantin
	Cooroy	Cooroy
	Pomona	Pomona
	Montville	Montville
	Buderim Heritage Tramway	Buderim

Table 6: Other land manager signed recreation trails

Type	Trail Name	Land Manager
Single Use (Walking)	Wildhorse Mountain Lookout	FPQ
	Glass House Mountains Lookout	FPQ
	Little Yabba Circuit	FPQ
	Boolumba Hiking Trail	FPQ
	Noosa Heads National Park Boronia Track/Tanglewood Track/Hells Gates/ Trachyte Circuit	DNPRS&R
	Bribie Island Fortress	DNPRS&R
	Conondale Great Walk	DNPRS&R
	Great Sandy National Park – Cooloola Section: Cooloola Great Walk/Cooloola Wilderness Trail/ Elanda Point to Kinaba/Mill Point	DNPRS&R
	Currumundi Lake Heath Trail	DNPRS&R
	Emu Mountain	DNPRS&R
	Tewantin National Park Fig Tree Walk/Tinbeerwah Lookout	DNPRS&R
	Jowarra Walk	DNPRS&R
	Mapleton National Park Kondalilla Falls Circuit/Mapleton Falls/Mapleton Rainforest Walk	DNPRS&R
	Maroochy River Conservation Park Melalueca Track/Xanthorea Track	DNPRS&R
	Mooloolah River National Park	DNPRS&R
	Mt Coolum National Park summit climb	DNPRS&R
	Mt Beerwah walking track 556m	DNPRS&R
	Mt Beerwah western boundary walk 1	DNPRS&R
	Mt Coolum summit walk	DNPRS&R
	Mt Cooroora hiking trail	DNPRS&R
	Mt Tibrogaran circuit 3.3 kilometres	DNPRS&R
	Mt Tinbeerwah lookout 270m	DNPRS&R
	Ngun Ngun Summit Track	DNPRS&R
	Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk	DNPRS&R
	Boolumba Falls Circuit Walk	DNPRS&R
	Ewan Maddock Dam	Seqwater
Single Use (Mtn bike riding)	Parklands Conservation Park	DNPRS&R
	Tewantin National Park	DNPRS&R
Shared Use	Coastal Pathway Kathleen McArthur	DNPRS&R
Multi-use (All Users)	Pt Glorious Lookout	DNPRS&R
	Dularcha Rail Trail	DNPRS&R
	Parklands Conservation Park	DNPRS&R
	Tewantin National Park	DNPRS&R
	Woondum National Park	DNPRS&R
	Mapleton National Park	DNPRS&R
	Eumundi Conservation Park	DNPRS&R
	Ewan Maddock Dam	Seqwater

b) Trail range and diversity across all tenures (signed trails only)

It is important to ensure there is an adequate range and diversity of trails to:

- accommodate each user group and the subgroups within the user group
- meet the various needs of those using the trails
- provide a variety of experiences for trail users.

Trail range and diversity is measured by investigating the **catchment, scale, level of difficulty and capacity**.

Catchment

Table 7: Trail Catchment indicates the length of **signed** trails within the local, Sunshine Coast wide and region catchments, between each user group.

Table 7: Trail Catchment

Catchment	User Type		
	Walker (km)	Mtn Bike Rider (km)	Horse Rider (km)
Local	17	10	6
Sunshine Coast Wide	71	57	0
Region	464	175	152
Total	**552**	**242**	**158**

The results of *Table 7: Trail Catchment* indicate there is a reasonable proportional distribution of trails for each user group when compared with the percentage of the South East Queensland population who, on average, participate in each user type activity. However given the high percentage of people who walk and giving recognition to the fact that the majority of Sunshine Coast wide and regional trails are in the hinterland areas the length of walking trails at a local level is considered low.

Category

Table 8: Trail Category indicates the length of signed trails for each user group category.

Table 8: Trail Category

Category	User Type		
	Walker (km)	Mtn Bike Rider (km)	Horse Rider (km)
Short	103	188	62
Medum	208	54	96
Long	240	0	0
Total	**551**	**242**	**158**

In summary, there is a distinct lack of trails for local users and a lack of supply of long distance trails for mountain bike and horse riders. This impacts on the ability to undertake mountain bike touring on the Sunshine Coast. Nevertheless a number of the existing short and medium length trails can be easily combined to create a long distance trail.

Level of difficulty

Assessment has indicated:

- There is a good range of signed walking tracks of varying difficulties on the Sunshine Coast.
- All existing signed mountain bike tracks are classified as easiest, easy or intermediate with only one difficult and no extremely difficult signed trails available for advanced riders.
- The only 'easy' signed horse riding tracks, of which there are two, are located in the far south of the region. There is one 'moderate' signed trail in the west and a mix of 'moderate' and 'advanced' signed trails in the north, i.e. there is an inequitable distribution of signed horse riding trails within the region.

Capacity – single, shared, multi-use, other user type

- There are many single use walking tracks.
- There is only one short (1.2 kilometres) single use mountain bike track.
- There no single use horse trails.
- There is only one bird trail, located in the north of the region.
- There are five existing heritage walks.

o A museum trail is available.

o Environmental/biodiversity trails are not promoted, however environmental interpretative information is provided on a number of the signed trails e.g. Mary Cairncross Park, Ben Bennett Park, Noosa Trail Network.

c) Trail quality of council managed trails (signed trails only)

The components that contribute to a quality trail include not only the standard of the trail surface but also the supporting infrastructure such as trail signage, carparking, seating and picnic facilities.

The quality of a trail can be measured by examining not only the trail's amenity and construction standard but also the infrastructure, including signage, provided along the trail. There are currently 29 signed, Council managed trails in the region.

Signage

o The standard, quality and style of trail head signage varied considerably throughout the Sunshine Coast.

o Due to poor wayfinding signage (i.e. signs that direct you through a suburb to locate the start of a trail), trails on average were difficult to locate within a locality.

o Directional signage on the trail itself, with a few exceptions, was poor.

Construction standard

o The surface of each trail varies from sealed to natural and on most trails is in relatively good condition.

o The surface and standard of signed sections of the Coastal Pathway vary considerably.

Infrastructure

o The infrastructure provided to support existing signed trails on the whole was good quality.

Appendix 4: Recreation Trail Network Blueprint

The Recreation Trail Network Blueprint (detailed) consists of *Table 1: Network Recommendations* and *Table 2*: *Locality descriptions* and locality *maps 1-44*.

Table 9: Network Blueprint recommendations

- Network Blueprint recommendations have been prepared based on the following four categories:

  - **partnering/advocacy**   forming relationships and liaison with external stakeholders, negotiations relating to property acquisition

  - **planning**   where a potential trail has been identified investigation of the trail alignment, ground truthing to determine any constraints or alternative routes and liaison with relevant land managers, user groups and adjoining residents is required

  - **upgrades**   works required to be undertaken on existing signed trails

  - **new**   the planning has been completed and a new trail is to be either costed, designed and/or installed.

- provide preliminary estimated cost for short term recommendation

- indicate the user group the trail action listed caters for e.g. walker, mountain biker, horse rider

- identify whether the action is addressing the key element of supply, quality, or range and diversity.

The preliminary estimated costs are indicated within *Table 10: Network Blueprint recommendations* as below:

High	> $100,000
Medium	$10,000 – $100,000
Low	< $10,000
Funded	Existing 11/12 budget
Resourced	Staff Time

Table 11: Sunshine Coast localities of interest lists the names of 44 localities.

Maps 1 to 44 show the existing signed trails (including coastal pathway, pathways, State horse trails, approximate location of proposed new trails within each of the 44 Localities of Interest and anticipated time frame for development are located on Council's website at **www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au**

New short term priority	New trails to be completed within 1 to 5 years
New medium term priority	New trails to be completed within 5 to 10 years
Planning short/medium term	Planning of new trails to be undertaken within the next 10 years
Notional only	Indicator of potential future links/trails
Indicative coastal pathway corridor	Alignment of pathway determined at detailed design

Table 10: Network Blueprint recommendations – short: partnering/advocacy

Locality	Trail – Partnering/Advocacy	Horse Rider	Mountain Biker	Walker	Estimated Cost	Supply	Quality	Range and Diversity
All	Promote Trails – Brochures/Web page	✓	✓	✓	Medium			✓
Many	North Coast Mountain Bike Touring Trail/Sunshine Coast Great Rides concept.		✓		Medium			✓
Many	Encourage QPWS to activate the State horse trail network	✓			Resourced			✓
1, 14, 20	Glass House/Beerwah/Landsborough Trail Master Plan	✓	✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
2	Cooloolabin Dam mountain bike circuit		✓		Low			✓
2	Buckby Road single track	✓	✓	✓	Low			✓
4, 5	Secure trail corridor for Buderim Tramway Extension			✓	Medium	✓		
8, 17, 37	Request FPQ / QPWS to not allow trail bike riders on Noosa Trail	✓	✓	✓	Resourced		✓	
12, 31, 35, 41	Mountain bike link from Peregian Beach to Tewantin National Park		✓		Resourced			✓
12, 13	Horse riding access within Eumundi Conservation Park	✓			Resourced	✓		
12, 13	Multi use trail circuit within Eumundi Conservation Park	✓	✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
13	Upgrade link between north and south Eumundi Conservation Park	✓	✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
13	Secure trail corridor Eumundi 2 kilometres town circuit		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
16	Facilitate public access on the Culgoa unformed road reserve	✓	✓	✓	Low	✓		
18, 29	Nambour – Wappa Dam		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
18	Kureelpa – Kiamba	✓	✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
19	Secure trail corridor Ringtail State Forest – Tewantin National Park	✓	✓	✓	Medium	✓		
20	Dularcha Trail Head to accommodate float parking & hitching rails	✓			Medium		✓	
20	Dularcha Rail Trail – Ewen Maddock Dam circuit trail	✓	✓	✓	Funded	✓		
21	Bruce Hwy overpass – Pearce Ave and Old Caloundra Road			✓	Resourced		✓	

Table 10: Network Blueprint recommendations – short: partnering/advocacy (continued)

Locality	Trail – Partnering/Advocacy	Horse Rider	Mountain Biker	Walker	Estimated Cost	Supply	Quality	Range and Diversity
21	Town Reserve Sugar Bag Road, Caloundra West		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
23	Downhill mountain bike track adjacent to Delicia Rd		✓		Resourced			✓
23	Mapleton – Cooloolabin Dam via Mapleton Forest Rd		✓		Resourced			✓
24	Mudjimba circuit utilising Coastal Pathway and Maroochy River Conservation Park		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
29	Secure trail corridor local Nambour circuit through Cilento Park			✓	Medium	✓		
30	Secure trail corridor Yunaman Park to Viewland Drive, Noosa Heads			✓	Medium	✓		
30, 40	Sunrise Beach – Noosa Junction			✓	Resourced		✓	
37	Multi-use circuits within Yurol State Forest, link to Noosa Trail	✓	✓	✓	Resourced			✓
38	Link Kenilworth township to Imbil State Forest	✓	✓	✓	Medium	✓		
40	Short circuit trails – Castaways Beach, Marcus Beach and possible link to Girraween Sports Complex			✓	Resourced			✓
44	Secure trail corridor – Coolum to Maroochy Lift Bridge		✓	✓	Medium	✓		

Table 10: Network Blueprint recommendations – short: planning

Locality	Trail – Planning	Horse Rider	Mountain Biker	Walker	Estimated Cost	Supply	Quality	Range and Diversity
All	Identify location for local mountain bike park for beginner skill development		✓		Resourced			✓
All	Identify all existing/current unused railway easements and determine their suitability for a future trail e.g. North coast realignment	✓	✓	✓	Resourced			✓
1	Local urban Beerwah circuit		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
4, 5	Trail master plan for the Buderim Tramway Circuit extending into Buderim township			✓	Resourced	✓		
4, 5	Investigate the use of the Buderim heritage tramway for mountain bikes		✓		Resourced			✓
5	Trail master plan for Buderim township			✓	Resourced	✓		
5	Karawatha Drive pedestrian crossing near Mountain Creek Rd			✓	Resourced	✓		
5, 33	Investigate suitability of downhill mountain bike track Jarrah Road – Environmental Reserve, and Peachester Road		✓		Resourced			✓
7	Incorporate Magenta Dve Park to Coolum Creek in the Coolum Sports ground master plan and Coolum place making project		✓	✓	Resourced			
11	Currimundi Creek Circuit via Honeywood Crt, Sycamore Dr			✓	Resourced			
12	Investigate feasibility Lake Weyba Foreshore track upgrade			✓	Funded	✓		
13	2 kilometres Eumundi town circuit		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
21	Determine need for Caloundra Pony Club trails	✓			Resourced			✓
22	Investigate cost to upgrade Gardners Falls track to improved accessibility		✓	✓	Resourced		✓	
23	Examine suitability of Green Park as a trail head facility	✓	✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
22, 23	Montville to Maleny Strategic pathway link		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
28	Mountain Creek bushland and lakeside paths local circuit		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
31, 41	Alex Loveday Park and between schools local circuit		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
36	Peregian Springs circuit		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
36	Link Peregian Springs to Peregian Beach		✓	✓	Resourced	✓		
37	Noosa Trail alternative route – Pomona showgrounds to Yurol State Forest	✓	✓	✓	Resourced	✓		

Table 10: Network Blueprint recommendations – short: upgrade

Locality	Trail – Upgrade	Horse Rider	Mountain Biker	Walker	Estimated Cost	Supply	Quality	Range and Diversity
Many	Coastal Pathway Upgrade as per the Coastal Pathway Strategic Plan (inc Hastings Street Boardwalk upgrade, Tooway Creek Pathway upgrade)			✓	Funded		✓	
All	Review emergency access points and upgrade as required	✓	✓	✓	Medium		✓	
All	Plan and provide infrastructure on trails to encourage social interaction	✓	✓	✓	Medium		✓	
4	Maroochy Wetlands boardwalk			✓	Funded		✓	
5	E.J. Foote Memorial Botanic Walk, Buderim			✓	Low		✓	
5	Eggmolesse Bushland Conservation Reserve creek crossing and boardwalk development			✓	Funded		✓	
5	Creek crossing at Martins Creek in Buderim Forest Park			✓	Funded		✓	
8,10, 17, 37	Improve Noosa Trail Network trails including realignment, rest areas and trail surface renewal	✓	✓	✓	Funded		✓	
10, 32, 37, 41	Renew Heritage Walk brochures – Tewantin, Cooroy, Pomona, Montville			✓	Funded			✓
12	Lake Weyba Foreshore track			✓	High		✓	
22	Mary Cairncross tracks			✓	Funded		✓	
26	Provide interpretative signage at Alex Forest Bushland Park			✓	Medium		✓	
27	Mooloolah River Trail	✓	✓	✓	Funded		✓	
29	Cilento Park creek crossing		✓	✓	Funded		✓	
29	Upgrade pathways and signage at Koala Bushland Park			✓	Low		✓	
32	Kolora Park Walk upgrade			✓	Medium		✓	
36	Doonan Creek Environmental Reserve		✓	✓	High		✓	
44	Mt Ninderry walking track			✓	Funded		✓	

Table 10: Network Blueprint recommendations – short: new trail or infrastructure

Locality	Trail – New Infrastructure	Horse Rider	Mountain Biker	Walker	Estimated Cost	Supply	Quality	Range and Diversity
Many	New Sections of the Coastal Pathway – Refer to Coastal Pathway Strategic Plan		✓	✓	High	✓		
All	Sunshine Coast Bird trail (signage and promotion)			✓	Funded			✓
All	Indigenous Trail project (signage and promotion)			✓	Medium			✓
All	Cultural Heritage interpretative signage plan				Funded			✓
Unknown	Construct Mountain bike park for development of basic skills		✓		High			✓
1	Local urban Beerwah circuit		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
1, 14, 20	Implement Glass House Mountains trail master plan	✓	✓	✓	High	✓		
2	Wellington Rd (Cooroy) – float parking & hitching rails	✓			Medium			✓
2	Belli Creek Park – Trail head – float parking & hitching rails	✓			Medium			✓
2	Cooloolabin Dam mountain bike circuit		✓		Low			✓
4, 5	Extend Buderim Tramway to Buderim township		✓	✓	High	✓		
5	Main Street Buderim Strategic pathway network		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
5, 29, 20, 22, 38	New Heritage Walk – Buderim, Nambour, Landsborough, Maleny and Kenilworth			✓	Funded			✓
9	Ringtail Ck Rd/McKinnon Dve – float parking & hitching rails	✓			Funded			✓
11	Currimundi Creek circuit via Honeywood Ct and Sycamore Dr		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
11, 21	Sharyn Bonney Bushland Reserve Walking Track		✓	✓	High	✓		
12, 35	Peregian Beach – Lake Weyba via Woodland Dve		✓	✓	Medium			✓
13	Eumundi 2 kilometres town circuit		✓	✓	High	✓		
13	Eumundi to Eumundi Conservation Park link		✓	✓	High	✓		
14	Float parking & hitching rails at Rapkins Rd, Beerburrum	✓			Medium			✓
14	Float parking & hitching rails at Roys Rd, Beerburrum	✓			Medium			✓
19	Circuit walk at Lake Macdonald Botanic Gardens			✓	Funded			✓
20	Provide float parking to service Dularcha Trail Head	✓			Medium			✓

Table 10: Network Blueprint recommendations – short: new trail or infrastructure (continued)

Locality	Trail – New Infrastructure	Horse Rider	Mountain Biker	Walker	Estimated Cost	Supply	Quality	Range and Diversity
20	Dularcha Rail Trail and Ewen Maddock Dam circuit	✓	✓	✓	Funded	✓		
21	Caloundra West circuit		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
21, 43	Kawana Waters via Parrearra Channel circuit		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
21, 43	Mooloolah River to Kawana Waters strategic pathway link		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
22	Obi Obi Creek pathway		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
22	Maleny Strategic pathway link		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
25	Maroochy urban trail circuit		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
26	Local trail circuit – Alex Forest Park, Bushland Park, Nelson Park, Wrigley St Park, Tranquil Pl, Oloway Cres and Okinja Rd		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
26, 28	Coastal pathway to Mountain Creek Trails		✓	✓	Medium			
27	Extend Mooloola River Trail	✓	✓	✓	High	✓		
28	Mountain Creek motorway underpass at Brisbane Road from Seriata Way		✓	✓	Low		✓	
28	Mountain Creek bushland and lakeside circuit		✓	✓	High	✓		
29	Nambour circuit – Petrie Creek/Quota Park		✓	✓	Funded	✓		
30	Extend Smoke Bush Dve pathway, Noosa Heads and sign circuit		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
30	Yunaman Park to Viewland Drive and sign circuit			✓	High	✓		
30	Weyba Park Sth Bushland Reserve circuit		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
31, 41	Alex Loveday Park and adjoining open space circuit		✓	✓	Medium	✓		
33	Stanley River Park walk			✓	Funded	✓		
33	Peachester local urban circuit		✓	✓	Low	✓		
36	Peregian Springs – Peregian Beach		✓	✓	High	✓		
41	Tewantin to Tewantin National Park		✓	✓	Medium			✓
42	Woombye local urban circuit		✓	✓	Low	✓		
43	Point Cartwright circuit			✓	Medium	✓		
43	Link coastal pathway – Nicklin Way via Nanyima St / Pt Cartwright Dve		✓	✓	Medium	✓		

Table 11: Sunshine Coast localities of interest

Locality	
1	Beerwah
2	Belli Park – Cooloolabin – Gheerulla – Coolabine
3	Black Mountain – Ridgewood
4	Bli Bli – Rosemount and District
5	Buderim – Kuluin – Mons – Kunda Park
6	Caloundra – Kings Beach – Moffat Beach – Shelly Beach
7	Coolum Beach – Mount Coolum – Yaroomba – Point Arkwright
8	Cooran – Federal
9	Cooroibah – Ringtail Creek
10	Cooroy
11	Currimundi – Aroona – Battery Hill – Dicky Beach
12	Doonan – Weyba Downs – Verrierdale
13	Eumundi – Eerwah Vale – North Arm – Bridges
14	Glass House Mountains – Beerburrum – Coochin Creek Bribie Island
15	Golden Beach
16	Ilkley – Eudlo and District
17	Kin Kin – Cootharaba and District
18	Kureelpa – Kiamba
19	Lake Macdonald – Tinbeerwah – Cooroy Mountain
20	Landsborough – Mount Mellum
21	Little Mountain – Caloundra West – Meridan Plains – Bells Creek
22	Maleny – Witta – North Maleny
23	Mapleton – Flaxton – Obi Obi
24	Marcoola – Twin Waters – Pacific Paradise – Mudjimba
25	Maroochydore
26	Mooloolaba – Alexandra Headland
27	Mooloolah Valley – Diamond Valley – Balmoral Ridge – Bald Knob
28	Mountain Creek
29	Nambour – Burnside and District
30	Noosa Heads
31	Noosaville
32	Palmwoods – Chevallum – Montville – Hunchy
33	Peachester – Crohamhurst – Booroobin – Wootha
34	Pelican Waters
35	Peregian Beach
36	Peregian Springs
37	Pomona – Pinbarren
38	Reesville – Curramore and District
39	Sippy Downs – Palmview
40	Sunrise Beach – Sunshine Beach – Marcus Beach – Castaways Beach
41	Tewantin
42	Woombye
43	Wurtulla – Buddina and District
44	Yandina – Yandina Creek and District

Appendix 5: Recreation trails desired standards of service

Description	Settings	
Recreation trails are provided for the primary purpose of recreational activities such as walking, horse riding and mountain biking. Recreation trails often traverse through a range of land tenures. These places have a different intent to the pedestrian and bicycle networks co-located with roads infrastructure, which exist primarily to expedite modes of movement.	Natural	✓
	Semi-natural	✓
	Semi-developed	✓
	Developed	

Landscape development

Size and topography
- 12 m wide corridor incorporating a 1.5-3 m wide pathway.
- A variety of distances and circuits to be provided.
- Natural contours are to be followed to ensure even trail grades.
- Ensure local drainage is maintained along water courses.
- Poorly drained areas and areas with high erosion to be avoided.

Access and location
- Trails to connect to recreation parks, sports grounds and amenity reserves, and traverse drainage reserves, appropriate environment reserves, State forests and conservation/national parks to activate the open space network and create a sense of connection to and immersion in open space.
- Trails to be located close to edges of parks to reduce impacts on park users.
- Trail location to give consideration to the user and service vehicle access requirements for maintenance.

Provision
- Consider access for residents to be <500 m from a recreation trail.

Linkages
- Trails are linked to community hubs (cafés, community facilities) parks, reserves and sports grounds, active transport networks and the non-urban trail networks.

Landscape and character
- Where space allows, without compromising the lands' core function, the trail gently meanders to take advantage of natural and constructed features and provide an element of discovery.
- Desirable for 60 % of trail to have access to shade from vegetation.
- Trails are to be interesting and routed through different vegetation and landform.
- Where determined, environmental and cultural features are outlined in interpretive information.
- Recycled/sustainable construction materials preferred. Where not possible, materials that are durable or can be reused are required.

Natural assets (vegetation)
- Taller trees for shading.
- Planting to provide diversity of layers and qualities for wildlife needs – food sources connection, protection and breeding.
- Trails constructed so as not to impact on existing trees and reduce need for constant pruning.
- Porous materials to be considered in suitable areas to improve water penetration and reduce sheet flow.

Safety and security
- The use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles relevant to level of risk and nature of setting.
- Trails are located a minimum of 5 m from constructed roads.
- Safety signage and fencing where necessary.

User benefits
- At planning stage determine what users (e.g. walking, cycling, equestrian) and level of accessibility.

Flood immunity
- The provision of appropriate drainage must be considered in the trail planning, design and construction process.

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