

Recreation Trail Att 1 - Community Feedback

Attachment 1 – Summary Community Feedback on Draft Recreation Trail Plan

A total of 45 responses were made on the Draft Recreation Trail Plan (the Draft Plan) during the public display period in November, 2011. Of these 28 responded utilising the feedback form with 17 being in a written submissions responding to specific issues. An outline of the responses is provided below in two (2) parts:

- A. Feedback Form responses; and
- B. Feedback from specific submissions.

A. FEEDBACK FROM QUESTIONNAIRE

A feedback form containing eight questions was provided to make it straightforward for the public to respond to the Draft Plan. A summary of the feedback received to each question is provided below. Council's response to comments is included.

Question 1 Do you support the Draft Recreation Trail Plan Vision?

Generally feedback on the Draft Plan was positive with 82% of respondents being supportive of the Recreation Trail Plan vision, 7% were not supportive and 11% were unsure.

The reasons given for not supporting the vision were that:

- i.) it is not safe for walking, mountain bike and horse riding to occur on the same trails with walkers being at risk from mountain bike and horse riders.
- ii.) there was not enough commitment to funding for new projects with referrals, studies and liaison appearing to be a priority rather than trail construction.

Question 2 In your view, what are the top 3 most important outcome areas?

Outcome area	Number of times selected
1. Recreation trails support eco-tourism and attract	11
2. Biodiversity values are protected	9
3. Integrate and celebrate artistic and thematic expression	0
4. Good access to a variety of well located trails	15
5. Trails link people to culture, the environment and geographical landscape	11
6. Trails link people and places safely, are affordable and accessible	11
7. A diversity of walking, mountain bike and horse riding trails	16
8. Strong partnerships and alliances and engage within Council, the State Government, community organisations and the private sector	6

The most important outcome area identified was the provision of a diversity of walking, mountain bike riding and horse riding trails followed by providing good access to a variety of well located trails. The need to integrate and celebrate artistic and thematic expression was not identified as an important outcome area by any of the respondents and this outcome area has been removed from the Plan.

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Question 3 Do you support the Strategic Actions?

Thirteen (13) of the respondents indicated they supported the strategic actions, 12 were unsure and 1 did not support the strategic action.

Below summarises the comments received from those who were unsure or did not support the strategic actions, along with a Council response.

Comment	Response
Actions do not deal with persistent issues such as (1) invasion of trail bikes where prohibited, (2) land owners occupying public land and (3) walks through new subdivisions (usually subdivisions close off access rather than open it).	1) Illegal usage of trail bikes and public land is a local law matter. 2) Added into Outcome 5: <i>Public access along unformed road reserves is important.</i> 3) The network blueprint identifies trail corridors through future urban growth areas
Actions were obscure and confusing	No comment.
Actions need to address environmental impact caused by horse riders on wet days	Added in Outcome 3: <i>Where trails traverse through Council owned environmental reserves/conservation areas, trail planning considers:</i> - <i>the primary purpose of the reserve;</i> - <i>user suitability.</i>
Costings seem unrealistic ie: a) Outcome 7 Part 2 - resourced or staff time? b) Outcome 6 Part 1 - does that include adaptive sport too? c) Outcome 6 part 2 - why is disabled access long term?	a) The table outlining cost on page 24 of the draft plan indicates that resourced equates to staff time. b) "all user types" would include adaptive sport c) the timeline has been changed to short

Question 4 Are you a walker, mountain bike rider, horse rider, bird watcher, heritage walker, geocacher/orienteer, cross country runner/jogger, other?

Many respondents indicated that they participated in more than one trail activity.

33% and 25% of respondents indicated they were a walker and/or a mountain bike rider respectively. The next most common activity undertaken by respondents was bird watching with 12% participating in this activity followed by heritage walking, horse riding, cross country running and geocaching at 10%, 7%, 6% and 4% respectively.

Question 5 Does the network blueprint provide for your needs? Trail Supply, Range and Diversity, Quality

Yes to All	23%
Yes to some	61%
No	8%
Unsure	8%

Of the 61% who indicated the network blueprint only catered for some of their needs the majority were mountain bikers who indicated the length of the trail (ie the provision of varied distances) was the most common cause of concern followed by level of difficulty and the range of local, Sunshine Coast wide and regional trails (catchment type).

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Question 6 A detailed evaluation process has been undertaken by council to ensure that the draft Plan provides an equitable provision and diversity of trails. If there is a significant trail that has not been included please provide details, including justification, and a map if possible.

Below summarises the comments received to this question along with a response. It should be noted that not all comments received related to the question, nevertheless a response is provided.

Comment	Response
"No" to downhill mountain biking in National Parks.	The state government has a policy for mountain biking in national parks.
The future trail at the Mapleton lily ponds going east and looping down over the range invites many questions.	The trail is identified for future investigation only, thus the questions can be considered when the trail is being investigated.
Former access to Cooroy Mountain across private property is now prohibited. Council could develop the unformed road reserve to the base of the mountain with a signed trail.	There are a number of peak mountain climbs in the region including Mt Cooroora, Mt Coolum, Mt Tinbeerwah, Mt Tibrogargan, Mt Ninderry etc. The Noosa Trail Network also has 5 lookouts. It is considered, during the life of this plan, that there is no need for another mountain climb in the region, given the many other priorities.
Base maps are too difficult to read to be able to provide comment.	It is considered the maps provided sufficient detail to enable comment to be provided at a strategic level.
A commitment from the state government to utilise the existing train line as a trail when the line is re-routed between Nambour - Woombye – Palmwoods needs to be identified.	The line is unable to mapped as a trail at this stage, however the comment is feasible and consequently has been added in the planning recommendation.
The mountain bike trail on Delicia Road in places may encroach into the Nature Refuge. The boundaries need to be established and measures need to be undertaken to prevent soil erosion and the spread of weeds facilitated by this activity.	The network blueprint action plan recommends to: <i>Investigate feasibility of formalising the downhill mountain bike track adjacent to Delicia Rd including widening the road reserve to incorporate the track.</i> During the investigation an environmental assessment of the track would be undertaken.
Kunda Park needs a bike path from Robert St to Old Maroochydore Road.	This matter is to be referred to Integrated Transport Services for consideration.
a) Need for beginners off road mountain bike area close to housing. b) Provision of long distance mountain bike tracks for the community and visitors to enjoy. c) Study to consider opening up great walk tracks to mountain bikers.	Points a & b are included as an action in the detailed network blueprint under planning and partnering/advocacy. c) This is a matter for DERM and will be forwarded for their consideration.
What is the red hatched area that covers half of Map 1?	The red hatched area was investigation area and has been removed from the Plan.
Trails in the hinterland area - Glasshouse / Mapleton / Kenilworth for riders and walkers were requested.	The network blueprint identifies: <i>Develop a Glass House / Beerwah / Landsborough Trail Master Plan.</i>

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Comment	Response
A walking track between Eudlo and Palmwoods is needed. Private landholders have blocked through access to Paskins Rd.	The alignment of this trail was shown on the locality map. A new recommendation has been added to the network blueprint: <i>Access between Palmwoods and Eudlo is enhanced by enabling public access on the Culgoa unformed road reserve.</i>
There is no provision for off road trail maps or cross country tracks and no inclusion to provide money for off road mountain bike parks.	Councils web site currently provides an extensive number of maps for mountain bike riders and there is a strategic action under Health and Wellbeing to continue to provide maps. The network blue print action plan includes: <i>Identify a suitable location to establish a local mountain bike park for beginner skill development.</i> This action will be incorporated into councils budget planning process.
Rail trails, like the old Mapleton easement, should be investigated.	The following action has been added in the trail network blueprint in response to this valid comment: <i>Identify all existing/current railway easements and determine their suitability for a future trail</i>
The Buderim tramway and its extension should be a shared path, not walking only. All rail trails worldwide are shared.	The following action has been added into the trail network blueprint action plan: <i>Investigate the possibility of allowing mountain bike riders on the Buderim heritage tramway.</i>
Questioned what happened to the family trail at Coololabin Dam, as it now overgrown.	This trail is managed by SEQ Water and council does not have management responsibility.
Request to connect Coolum, Bli Bli and Nambour via a different route.	A Coolum to Nambour Feasibility Study was undertaken by an external trail consultant. The study concludes a recreation trail between Coolum, Nambour and Bli Bli is not desirable, rather sections of the trail are suited for recreation purposes. The matter of establishing a trail between Nambour and Coolum via Bli Bli as requested by the submitter has been referred to Councils Strategic Transport Planning branch for consideration.

.Question 7 In your view, does the draft Recreation Trail Plan address the important issues?

Yes	58%
No	25%
Unsure	17%

Of those who responded no or unsure, 80% were mountain bike riders. The comments submitted are below.

Comment	Response
Concern that funding may not be forthcoming to implement the plan	Funding is subject to council's budget consideration.
There is no mention in the plan of off road cross county mountain bike riding.	Cross country mountain bike riding is considered extensively throughout the plan as where ever mountain biking is referred to,

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	it is generally relevant to cross country mountain bike riding.
The plan does not consider the growth of mountain bike riding within Australia	The Plan recognises the trend and undertakes to be equitable across all user groups.
Concern the plan supports access by horse riders and mountain bike riders into National park areas.	QPWS have a policy for both horse riding and mountain bike riding. Horse riding and mountain bike riding are permitted in conservation parks, not national parks. The approved horse trail network is to be provided with a different tenure to national park.
The plan does not address the issue of rubbish in the forests	Responsible use of the trails is promoted in trails promotional material.

Question 8 Do you support the trail priorities shown on Map 5

Yes	43%
No	24%
Unsure	33%

Of those who answered no or unsure almost all indicated they were unable to interpret the maps. To overcome this problem the final recreation trail plan map layer will be available on MyMaps and will provide a more detailed level of information.

Other responses received included a request for:

- more mountain bike trails;
- Cooroy mountain access;
- more loops
- more trails.

B. FEEDBACK FROM SPECIFIC SUBMISSIONS

The table below provides a brief summary of the feedback received from the detailed submissions and a response.

Comment	Response
Request to not encourage horse riding in national parks and to not advertise the horse trails.	After considerable negotiation with user groups, DERM have an approved horse trail network. DERM are undertaking a 20 year scientific study to monitor the impact of horse riders on trails within environmentally sensitive areas. Horse riding is a legitimate valid recreational activity.
Request to remove the Delicia Road downhill mountain bike track due to environmental impacts.	Correct trail design can satisfactorily address environmental concerns. It is an action within the trail network blueprint action plan to: <i>Investigate the feasibility of formalising the downhill mountain bike track adjacent to Delicia Rd.</i>
Request to include Maroochy Botanic Gardens as existing signed trails.	The Maroochy Botanic Garden trails were included in the plan as long term future investigation, they have been changed to existing signed.
Is the small area near Buderim representing the trail along Martins Creek?	Unable to respond as it is unclear which area in Buderim is being referred to.

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Comment	Response
Request to include the Mooloolah wetlands trail and the canoe trail down the Maroochy River.	The Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary is already included. The scope of the plan does not include canoeing.
A range of comments relating to trails on national and conservation parks and within state forests were submitted by DERM and FPQ.	To address all concerns raised by DERM and FPQ, all trails except for all existing signed trails and all approved horse trails were removed from DERM and FPQ estate. Additionally the need to partner with DERM and FPQ was emphasised within the plan. Outcome 8 includes a relevant strategic action: i) <i>Continue ongoing liaison with state government departments and private entities such as DERM, FPQ and SEQ Water involved with trail development.</i>
Request for more information on major proposals ie what are they and why are the included in the plan.	Specific information relating to trail proposals is provided within the Network Blueprint map and action table. The action table has been moved to the beginning of Appendix D for ease of reading. The need for trails relating to supply, range and diversity, and quality was addressed in section 3.4 – Current Performance.
The inclusion of trails through Girraween Nature Refuge was questioned.	Noosa Council resolution to remove the trail is acknowledged and the trail has been removed from the mapping
Question inclusion of trail extending from Girraween through to Peregrine Beach within Noosa National Park	As these trails would be located on land managed by DERM they have been removed from the maps. An action has been included in the blueprint action plan under planning and advocacy: <i>Investigate short circuit trails behind and between Castaways Beach and Marcus Beach and possible link to Girraween Sports Complex</i>
Request to address competitive events within the plan	The plan addresses competitive events.
Request to highlight the two outstanding mountain bike single track hubs on the region, located at Tewantin and Parklands	Specific reference has been made to these two hubs.
Advocate for inclusion/reference of the International Mountain Bike Association books namely Trail Solutions and Managing Mountain Biking	The two books are referenced in the Recreation Trail Construction Guidelines.
Great governance should involve mountain bikers.	Outcome 7 addresses this matter: <i>Detailed planning of new trails and re-design of existing trails is to be undertaken in partnership with both the relevant residential and business community, user group and interested local community group/s.</i>
Request for a MOU with mountain bike user groups	It is recognised that QPWS has entered into MOUs with user groups however it is considered unnecessary for council to enter in such agreements. Outcome 7 includes a number of actions to ensure user groups are involved in future trail planning and development including the action to: <i>Establish a forum/working group of key</i>

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Comment	Response
	<i>stakeholders including land managers and trail users to continue to co-ordinate and provide input into recreation trail planning across the region.</i>
SEQ Active Trails Strategy 2007 outlined impediments to trail planning and development.	The impediments, not already identified within the issues section of the Plan (refer to 3.1), were added.
1km of trails per 1000 people may look good on paper however doesn't reflect the need to build the right trail in the right place ie future trails should be in rural and natural settings, not urbanised areas.	These comments are relevant to Sunshine Coast wide trails but not to local trails. During the community trail planning workshops the community identified good access to trails as a priority. The indicator (1km/1000people) was used to measure trail supply across the region to assess the distribution of current supply. The analysis revealed an inequitable distribution of trails. To address an under supply of trails in over 20 localities the plan recommends providing trails through open spaces in urban areas.
Concern all new trails will cater for walkers	This comment does not recognise that trails for mountain biker riders and infrastructure for horse riders are proposed – refer to section 6.2 range and diversity.
There has to date been an inequitable distribution of funding between the various user groups, for example millions have been spent on the development of the Great Walks projects which cater for a single user group	This matter was added into the issues section. Additionally the plan proposes a range of actions for all user groups – refer to section 6.2.
A “Great Rides” concept for mountain bike riders, similar to the National Park “Great Walks” should be included.	The Great Rides concept is a regional trail proposal and could be planned in conjunction with the North Coast Mountain Bike Touring Trail identified by the state government. The Great Rides concept may incorporate a series of loops linking to one major feeder trail. A local mountain bike club is currently investigating the concept and has been asked to identify possible trail alignments. An action of the trail network blueprint action plan has been amended to read: <i>Investigate the feasibility of, and alignment options for, the North Coast Mountain Bike Touring Trail (as per the SEQ Active Trails Plan) as a whole or in sections in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Great Rides concept.</i>