



West Coast Council

# CONCEPT PLAN WEST COAST TOWN-TO-TOWN TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Community Feedback and Comments

July 2021



# CONCEPT PLAN - WEST COAST TOWN TO TOWN TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

Dirt Art has been engaged by the West Coast Council to develop a regional mountain bike trail development plan that will guide the next phase of mountain bike trail infrastructure development across the West Coast region. Following release of the Concept Plan, an opportunity for community to provide feedback was provided and is presented below in a summarized form.

The proposal was released for public comment for a period of 2 weeks, from 17 July to 31 July 2021. The comment period was advertised via social media, Council website and local radio.

There were 13 submissions received in relation to the proposal feedback.

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**Name:** Aidan Hodge

**Town:** Zeehan

Interested in including the local heritage of West Coast mining historical sites and natural landmarks as part of the trail network. Recognises the importance provided by this concept plan for the economic growth on the West Coast.

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**Name:** Grant Hodge

**Town:** Zeehan

Interested in including the Granville Tramway that traverses the Piney Creek Gorge as a multipurpose track.

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**Name:** Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)

The general alignment of the concept tracks appears to pass through at least 12 different reserve types managed by Tasmania Parks and Wildlife (PWS), each of which will need to be reviewed and undergo an environmental impact assessment to preserve natural and cultural values. Council should engage early on with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.

Social impacts and public benefits will need to be considered. It is noted that trails are aimed at experienced riders and Council should consider beginner trails, ideally situated close to towns.

If a new trail traverses PWS land, a lease application will need to be made citing West Coast Council is responsible for management and maintenance.

Future planning needs to consider additional infrastructure to support riders at Granville Harbour/Trial Harbour and how the trails leading to these towns would benefit the communities.

In town infrastructure is required, specifically bike wash stations, to reduce the risk of trail-to-trail biosecurity risks.

Emergency management and response should be integrated into future planning including alternate access tracks, management trails for vehicles and minimal helicopter only access areas.

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**Name:** Jane Delaney-John  
**Town:** Strahan

Disappointed that the report does not have an identified consideration of Aboriginal Cultural values which should inform the proposed route rankings. Was also disappointed that the West Coast Aboriginal community was not consulted in the development phase regarding environmental considerations and cultural sensitivities.

Likes the town-to-town linkages and interconnectedness of trails that will offer a diverse experience of the region.

Timetabling and staged approach could be better defined as to afford businesses/community a clearer understanding of how to provide associated visitor experiences.

Shared community anxieties include safety concerns due to potential user conflicts on the Montezuma Falls Trail and the over reliance on bus access to trails. Requested details about what considerations had been given to safety mechanisms for riders in the design concept stage.

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**Name:** Kylie Eastman

Expressed support for the concept, advocating that it will help Tasmania to become a world class MTB destination and be a smart economic investment for the region. Also noted MTB trails can facilitate events that support arts and culture activities in the region.

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**Name:** MMG  
**Town:** Rosebery

MMG is currently carrying out a Closure Pre-Feasibility study for the Rosebery/Hercules mine sites and they have many infrastructure assets within the lease that may be repurposed for tourism and recreational pursuits, such as the tracks and roadways. Some of these assets are also proximal to existing tourist attractions, providing an opportunity to extend tourism experiences within the Rosebery area and tie in with current or proposed MTB trails.

It was noted that the concept plan states that mining areas should be avoided as a general principle and a similar bias is given to lands managed by Sustainable Timbers. This is a key deficiency that may discourage economic diversification in communities located within or nearby lands classified as such.

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**Name:** Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT)

Notes that all the proposed trail alignment opportunities are located within a Strategic Prospectivity Zone and are all situated, to some degree, within active Exploration Licence areas and/or Mining Leases which would require the approval of the Lessee and MRT.

MRT prefers Mining Leases to be avoided, like the previous Mt Owen and Heemskirk Regional Reserve developments, however, there are mechanisms in place to protect the interests of lease and licence holders.

MRT will consider requesting that any Crown Land Lease or Licence preserves the rights of Exploration Licence and Mining Lease holders to undertake exploration and mining activities.

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**Name:** Silver Trails  
**Town:** Zeehan

Proposed trail locations all have a rich history that will allow riders to experience a variety of unique landscapes and local heritage.

Likes the potential to provide a riding experience for the whole of the West Coast which will develop opportunities for existing and new businesses. Sees Zeehan as a central service hub that is well placed to complement surrounding towns, especially Granville and Trial Harbour.

Believes the MTB Trails project as vital to West Coast businesses and community.

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**Name:** Tasmania Health Services

No feedback submitted

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**Name:** West Coast Mountain Bike Club

Natural access to high elevations should be leveraged to take advantage of the burgeoning gravity focused MTB market and provide more commercial opportunities for uplift and tour operators on the West Coast.

The flora and ecosystems of the West Coast provides opportunity for riders to access unique environments, notably Mt Dundas. Providing historical context of the West Coast's past of mining and incorporating historical sites throughout the route will provide a point of difference.

Provided comment on the Sterling Valley and Heemskirk trails including links to existing tracks  
Concern about user conflicts in the Lake Cumberland area between motorized vehicle groups and MTB riders.

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**Name:** West Coast Recreation Association Inc.

Has concerns about the possible impacts to and integration with existing 4WD tracks.

Sees the project as an opportunity to utilize West Coast land areas which are minimally used, have extraordinary beauty and a unique topography.

Capacity to showcase the West Coast as a globally recognized adventure destination and create occupational diversity within the region.

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**Name:** West Coast Wilderness Railway

**Town:** Queenstown

Supports the back country trails but would like to see Strahan linked to Queenstown. Having the trail intersect with Dubbil Barril Station would enhance the tourism attraction and open up further opportunities.

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**Name:** Zeehan Thrives

**Town:** Zeehan

The project will provide opportunities to expand existing businesses and develop new business endeavours crucial to invigorating the town of Zeehan.

The West Coast, with its variety of contrasting landscapes and outdoor experiences, has many offerings for riders of all skills levels.

Opportunity for Zeehan to become a central service hub. Would also like to see a focus on the whole of the West Coast where benefits can be shared between all towns.

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