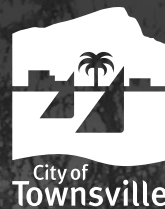


# Townsville Mountain Bike Strategy



**2021-2031**







## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Townsville City Council acknowledges the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun, Bindal, Gugu Badhun and Nywaigi as the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respects to their cultures, their ancestors and their Elders – past and present – and all future generations.



# CONTENTS

Message from the Mayor .....	4
<b>1.0 Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Background .....	6
1.2 Strategic connections .....	7
1.3 Methodology .....	7
<b>2.0 Mountain Biking in Townsville .....</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Trails in Townsville .....	12
2.2 Potential Future Trails in Townsville .....	13
2.3 Townsville 2020 Mountain Bike Survey Findings .....	14
2.4 Key Stakeholder Consultation .....	16
2.5 Demand Analysis .....	17
<b>3.0 Options Considered .....</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1 Future Riding .....	19
3.2 Ancillary Facilities .....	21
3.3 Maintenance .....	21
<b>4.0 Recommendations .....</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1 High Priority .....	23
4.2 Medium Priority .....	24
4.3 Low Priority .....	24

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The city of Townsville holds a reputation for a great number of things. Our region truly is the perfect place to live, work and play. At Townsville City Council we continually strive to enhance the liveability of our city with a focus on key community interests, building on Council's vision as a globally connected community driven by lifestyle and nature.

The sport of mountain biking has emerged as a major recreational focus for our region, which is supported not only by large local participation numbers, but by an emerging industry embracing eco-tourism and destination tourism. It is vital that Council continues to encourage healthy lifestyles and economic prosperity, and as such Council presents this evidence-based strategy as an information document for interested stakeholders to consider their role and contribution to advance mountain biking in Townsville.

This strategy is a culmination of broad community consultation, with engagement between key agencies and a variety of stakeholders, notably the Townsville mountain biking community.

It is through this consultation process that the fundamentals of this strategic plan have been derived; a shared vision whereby our existing assets are understood and in many cases enhanced, the sport is made more accessible to all the community, and allows Townsville to grow as a major destination for mountain biking events into the future.





1.0

# INTRODUCTION

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Townsville is home to impressive mountain biking trails which are supported and utilised by a strong mountain biking community.

In recent years mountain bike trails nationally and locally have recorded significant growth in participation and usage. Following public consultation during July – August 2020, the *Townsville Mountain Bike Strategy 2021-2031* provides a collective approach to improving and supporting mountain biking in the Townsville region.

Well planned and efficient mountain biking can provide various economic, social and environmental benefits to the community. These include but are not limited to:

- Opportunities to socialise with friends and family
- Increased participation in healthy (physical and mental) outdoors activity
- Increased visitation and extended length of stay in regional communities
- Spend in regional communities
- Decreased cost associated with adverse health impacts
- Reduced antisocial behaviour and illegal dumping.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

### PURPOSE

This strategy has been prepared to establish a future direction for the provision of mountain bike trails and associated infrastructure in Townsville to enhance the community's riding capacity, health and wellbeing whilst providing sustainable trails and economic opportunities.

Council presents this evidence based strategy as an information piece for interested stakeholders to consider their role and contribution to advance mountain biking in the region.

### SCOPE

This document relates to off road mountain biking in the Townsville Local Government Area including established trails located in national parks, state government reserves, the Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club land, and Townsville City Council reserves. The strategy does not consider unsanctioned trails located within the Townsville Local Government Area, paved bike paths or active transport routes.



Image: Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve



## 1.2 STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS

### THE TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN - TOWNSVILLE 2021 - 2026

The Townsville City Council Corporate Plan - Townsville 2021 - 2026, sets out Council's priorities, commitments, and operations. This Mountain Bike Strategy relates to the following:

#### GOAL 4: A CITY FOR PEOPLE

A sustainable destination that embraces and participates in the arts, sports, events and recreational activities.

- **Objective:** Improve the liveability of Townsville and encourage active and healthy lifestyles by providing accessible public facilities, community infrastructure and creating placemaking activities.
- **Deliverables:** Expand support for mountain biking, including infrastructure and events, creating opportunity for an eco-tourism niche in North Queensland.

### COMMUNITY PLAN TOWNSVILLE 2011 – 2021

The *Community Plan Townsville 2011 – 2021* provides a vision for the people of Townsville. Key guiding principles relevant to this strategy include:

- Providing active and passive sport and recreation opportunities.
- Valuing our natural environment and urban green spaces.
- A city that sustains and prospers from its environment.

### TOWNSVILLE SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITY STRATEGY 2018-2028

The *Townsville City Council Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy 2018-2028* is helping Council to achieve its vision to become a leader in the provision of high quality sport and recreation facilities, building on the liveability of Townsville and enhancing the health and wellbeing of the local community through active, inclusive and diverse participation opportunities. One of the recommendations of this strategy is

for future research, investigation, planning or the development of specific region-wide strategies for mountain biking.

### ACTIVATE QUEENSLAND

*Activate Queensland* focuses on four priority areas that ensure the coordinated investment from all interested parties achieves the vision for physical activity to enrich the Queensland way of life:

- Activate Queenslanders
- Activate Environments
- Activate Success
- Activate Collaboration.

### QUEENSLAND PROTECTED AREA STRATEGY 2020-2030

The mission of the *Queensland Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030* is to enhance and maintain a system of world-class protected areas, guided by First Nations' knowledge and expertise, global best practice and community needs. This will ensure Queensland's exceptional nature and culture are actively supported to thrive for future generations to experience and enjoy.

This strategy aims to deliver opportunities for the community to enjoy the associated health and wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature. It promotes the use of unique ecotourism facilities that enhance the protection of natural, cultural and heritage values. Finally, it identifies investments for innovative partnerships to grow, manage and promote protected areas.

### QUEENSLAND MOUNTAIN BIKE STRATEGY

The *Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy* identifies the Townsville region as a moderate priority for moderate scale of development. The region is identified as having potential for significant localised opportunities that offer desirable and high quality mountain biking destinations.

## 1.3 METHODOLOGY

The following methodology has been adopted in the preparation of the strategy.



#### PART A: SITUATION ANALYSIS

- Understanding our community
- Mountain biking in Townsville – participation, existing and future trails and infrastructure
- Community engagement – issues and opportunities
- Literature review



#### PART B: DEMAND ASSESSMENT

- Current and future demand
- Opportunities for community participation
- Opportunities for tourist experiences



#### PART C: ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Key recommendations



## UNDERSTAND OUR COMMUNITY

Townsville is a diverse and vibrant city with plenty of features that make it unique. Acknowledging and understanding these features is vital in ensuring community needs are appropriately addressed in Townsville.



### WE HAVE SEEN GROWTH IN OUR POPULATION:

**Population 195,032**  
**ABS ERP 2019**

Grown by 1,013  
from the previous year.



### WE HAVE A YOUNGER MEDIAN AGE WHEN COMPARED WITH THE QLD AND NATIONAL AVERAGE:

**Median age 34**  
**ABS 2016**

Greater Brisbane	35.4
Queensland	37
Australia	38

7.0%

### WE HAVE A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FIRST NATION PEOPLE:

**Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander  
Population 7.0% (up 0.8%)**  
**ABS 2016**

Greater Brisbane	2.4%
Queensland	4.0%
Australia	2.8%



### WE HAVE ABOVE AVERAGE UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE:

**University attendance 6% (up 0.6%)**  
**ABS 2016**

Greater Brisbane	5.9%
Queensland	5%
Australia	5%



### WE ARE ABOVE THE STATE AND NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:

**Unemployment rate 7.1%**  
**June 2020 quarter**

Regional Queensland	6.4%
Queensland	6.4%
Australia	5.6%

2.1%

### 2.1% OF THE TOWNSVILLE POPULATION PARTICIPATES IN MOUNTAIN BIKING

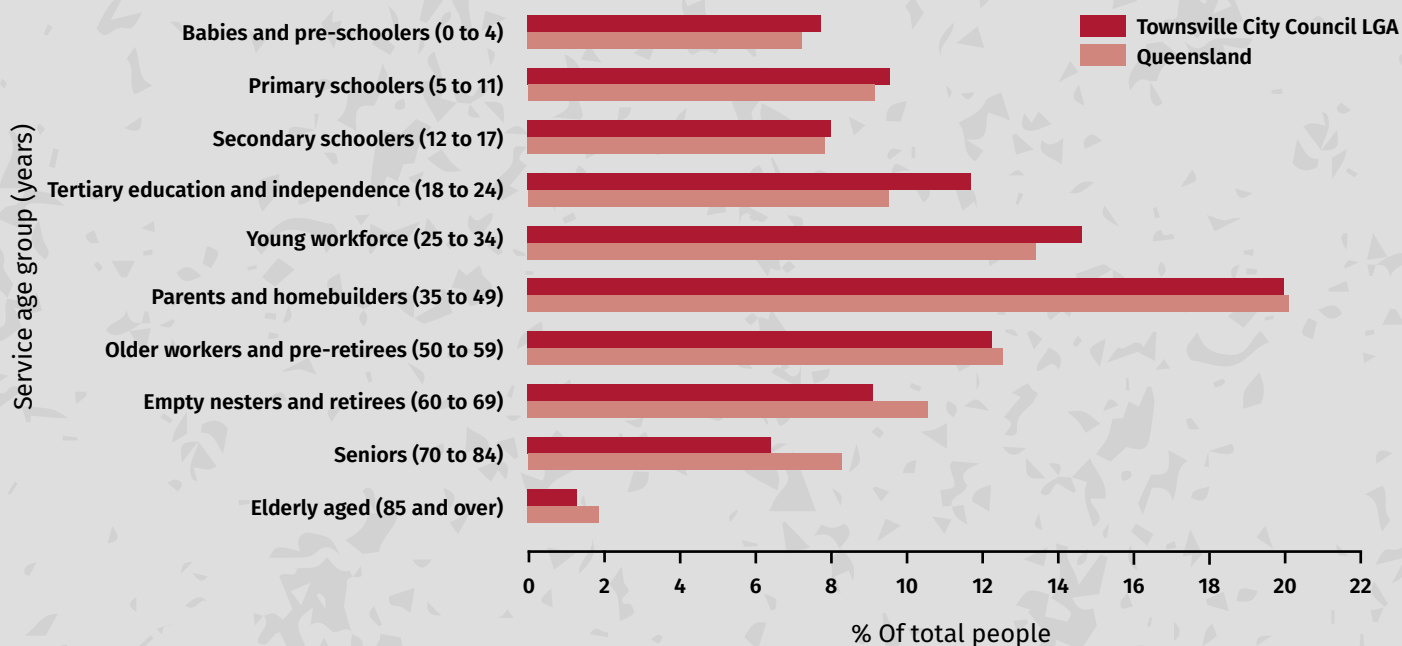
**Approx. 4,100 people\***

\* Participation data calculated during the development of the *Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy* in 2018



### WE HAVE A HIGHER NUMBER OF 0 TO 34-YEAR OLDS THAN THE QUEENSLAND AVERAGE:

**Age Structure - service age groups, 2016**  
**Total persons**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Census of Population & Housing, 2016 (Usual Residence Data)





## UNDERSTAND EXISTING TRAILS AND FACILITIES

### EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK LOCATIONS:

- Douglas
- Pallarenda
- Mt Stuart
- Paluma Dam Loop
- Elliot Springs
- Ross River Dam\*

### POTENTIAL FUTURE TRAIL NETWORK LOCATIONS:

- Elliot Springs
- Paluma to Wallaman Trail

\* Currently not accessible to ride – Access only for members of the Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club between 6am Saturdays to 6pm Sundays.

## CONSULTATION AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS

During the preparation of this strategy, discussions were undertaken with community organisations, federal, state and local government and mountain bike related businesses in the Townsville region.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A two-staged community engagement process was undertaken during the preparation of the strategy.

Information from previous engagement for the *Townsville Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy 2018-2028* has also been used to inform the strategy.

#### • **STAGE ONE – COMMUNITY SURVEY AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

- During 2020 over 32 organisations and individuals were engaged to understand key issues and opportunities with mountain biking in Townsville.
- From 29 July to 19 August 2020 a community survey was undertaken to understand current participation, riding preferences, issues and concerns and opportunities of the local community. During this period 567 surveys were submitted. Please refer to Section 2.3 for an overview of these findings.

#### • **STAGE TWO – REPORT CONSULTATION**

- Council will release this strategy for community feedback before the final report is adopted.

#### • **STAGE THREE**

- Consolidate feedback and finalise report to present to Council.

Image: Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve. Photography: Travis Bailey








2.0

# **MOUNTAIN BIKING IN TOWNSVILLE**

# 2.0 MOUNTAIN BIKING IN TOWNSVILLE

## TYPES OF TRAILS

International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Trail Rating Guide

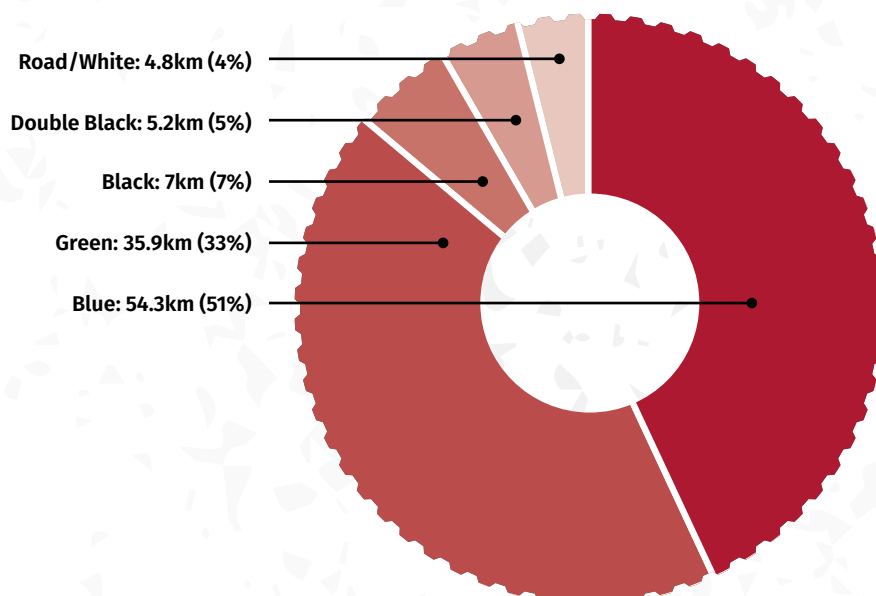
	 <b>VERY EASY</b> WHITE CIRCLE	 <b>EASY</b> GREEN CIRCLE	 <b>INTERMEDIATE</b> BLUE SQUARE	 <b>DIFFICULT</b> SINGLE BLACK DIAMOND	 <b>EXTREME</b> DOUBLE BLACK DIAMOND
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Likely to be a fire road or wide single track with a gentle gradient, smooth surface and free of obstacles. Frequent encounters are likely with other cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders.	Likely to be a combination of fire road or wide single track with a gentle gradient, smooth surface and relatively free of unavoidable obstacles. Short sections may exceed these criteria. Frequent encounters are likely with walkers, runners, horse riders and other cyclists.	Likely to be a single trail with moderate gradients, variable surfaces and obstacles.	Likely to be a challenging single trail with steep gradients, variable surface and many obstacles.	Extremely difficult trails will incorporate very steep surface and unavoidable, severe obstacles.
<b>SUITABLE FOR</b>	<b>RIDER:</b> Beginner/novice cyclists. Basic bike skills required.  <b>BIKE:</b> Most bikes.	<b>RIDER:</b> Beginner/novice mountain bikers. Basic mountain bike skills required.  <b>BIKE:</b> Off-road bikes.	<b>RIDER:</b> Skilled mountain bikers.  <b>BIKE:</b> Mountain bikes.	<b>RIDER:</b> Experienced mountain bikers with good skills.  <b>BIKE:</b> Better quality mountain bikes.	<b>RIDER:</b> Highly experienced mountain bikers with excellent skills.  <b>BIKE:</b> Quality mountain bikes.
<b>FITNESS LEVEL</b>	Most people in good health.	Most people in good health.	A good standard of fitness.	Higher level of fitness.	Higher level of fitness.
<b>TRAIL WIDTH</b>	Two riders can ride side by side.	Shoulder width or greater.	Handlebar width or greater.	Can be less than handlebar width.	Can be less than handlebar width.
<b>TRAIL SURFACE AND OBSTACLES</b>	Hardened with no challenging features on the trail.	Mostly firm and stable. Trail may have obstacles such as logs, roots and rocks.	Possible sections or rocky or loose tread. Trail will have obstacles such as logs, roots and rocks.	Variable and challenging. Unavoidable obstacles such as logs, roots, rocks drop-offs or constructed obstacles.	Widely variable and unpredictable. Expect large, committing and unavoidable obstacles.
<b>TRAIL GRADIENT</b>	Climbs and descents are mostly shallow.	Climbs and descents are mostly shallow, but trail may include some moderately steep sections.	Mostly moderate gradients but may include steep sections.	Contains steeper descents or climbs.	Expect prolonged steep loose and rocky descents or climbs.



## 2.1 TRAILS IN TOWNSVILLE

### 2.2.1 EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK

Percentage of trail grade & distance in metres for all of Townsville



Locations of existing trail network

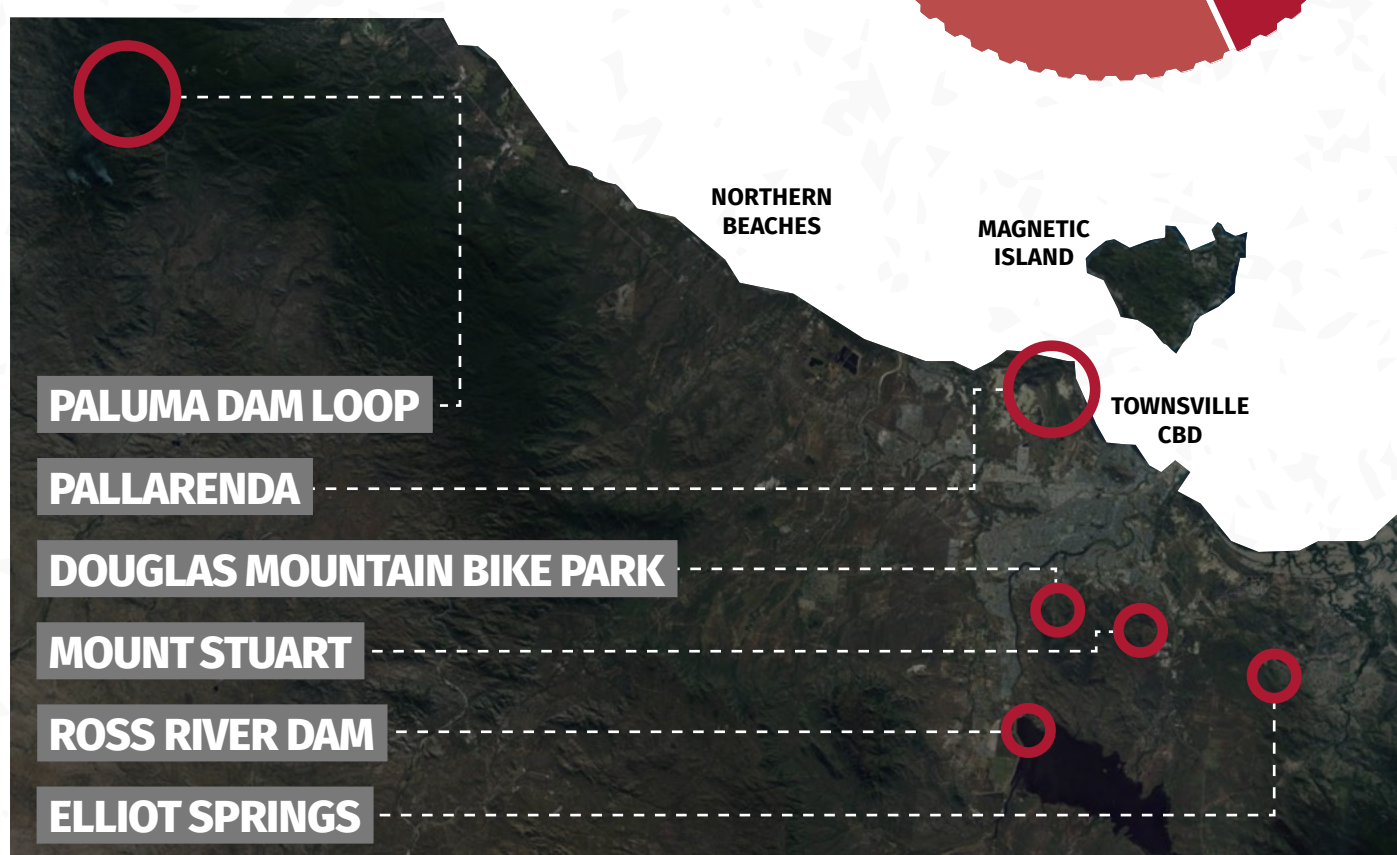


Table 1 – Distance and features of existing trail network

LOCATION	TRAIL DISTANCE (KM)					ANCILLARY FACILITIES		
	White	Green	Blue	Black	Double Black	Water	Toilets	Car Parking
Douglas	0	13.2	20	4.3	2.6	✗	✗	✓
Pallarenda	0	12.5	20.6	0	0	-	-	✓
Mount Sturt	0	0	0	2.8	2.7	✗	✗	✗
Paluma Dam Loop	0	0	12.5	0	0	-	-	-
Elliot Springs	0	3.2	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓
Ross River Dam*	4.9	10	1.3	0	0	✓	✓	✓

\* Currently not accessible to ride – Access only for members of the Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club from 6am Saturdays to 6pm Sundays.

- May contain facilities in the locality but not associated with the trail network



## 2.2 POTENTIAL FUTURE TRAILS IN TOWNSVILLE

The below identifies potential future trail locations:

### ELLIOT SPRINGS

Elliot Springs is set to provide 14km of green and blue rated mountain bike trails winding through the Bindal Ridge Conservation area. The trails will be a staged release in line with population growth at Elliot Springs over the next 10 years.

### PALUMA TO WALLAMAN TRAIL

A 125km dual purpose mountain biking and hiking trail has been proposed amongst the lush tropical rainforest between the township of Paluma and Wallaman Falls. The trail is set to have multiple overnight camping locations to accommodate bike packing adventures. Following a concept plan which was funded and supported by the Townsville City, Hinchinbrook Shire and Charters Towers Regional Councils, the Queensland Government is currently working towards a full business case for this project.



Image: Downhill trails, Mount Stuart. Photography: Travis Bailey

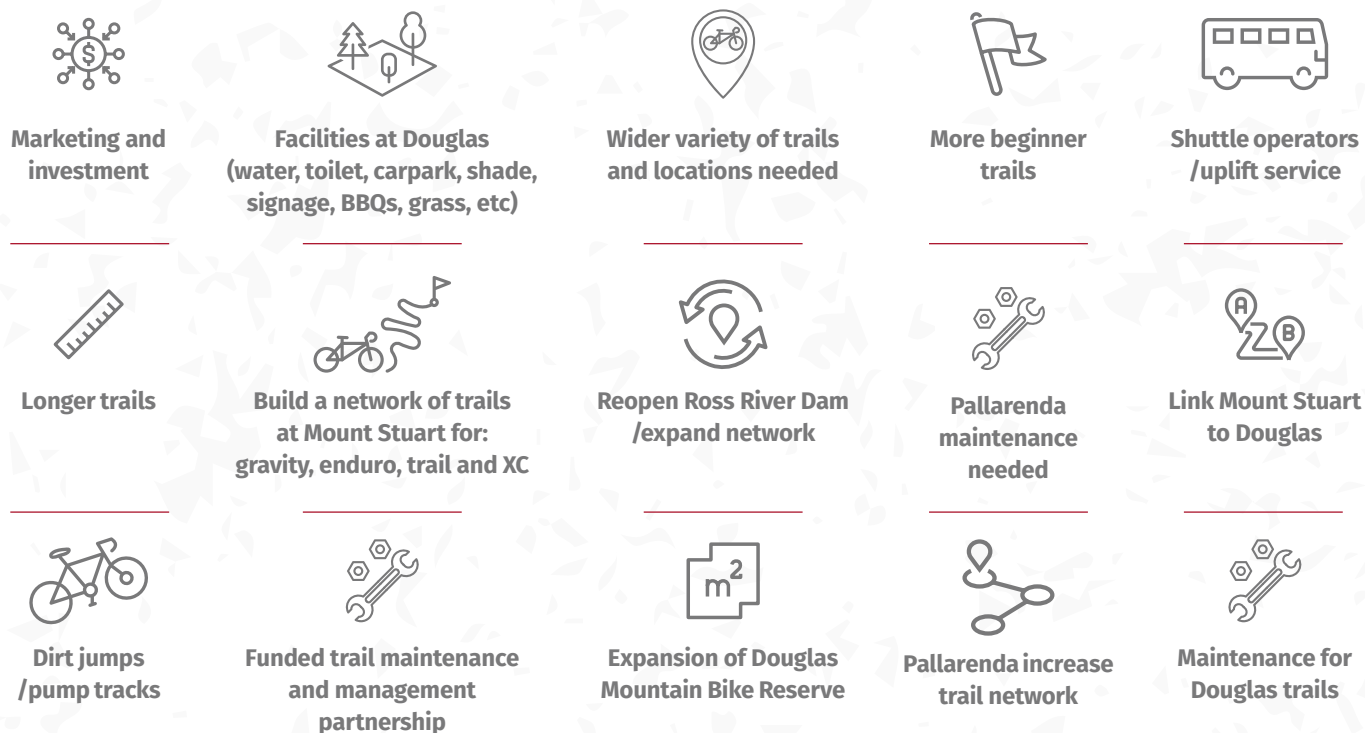
## 2.3 TOWNSVILLE 2020 MOUNTAIN BIKE SURVEY FINDINGS

A community survey was conducted between 29 July and 19 August 2020 to understand location, participation, concerns and opportunities. The survey was accessible through a number of communication channels, including a presentation to key stakeholders, signage placed at key mountain bike locations and bike shops, social media platforms, Council's website, print advertising and community organisations.

**567 responses were received.**

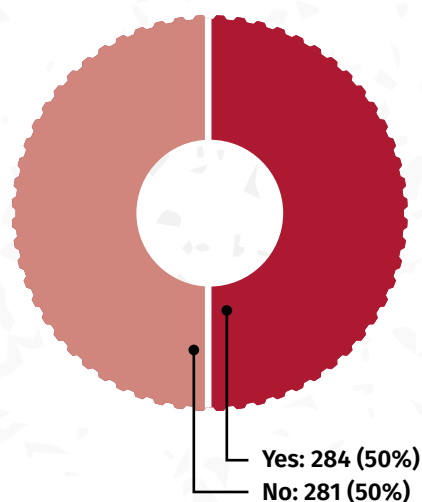
### KEY THEMES FROM SURVEY

Overall themes from the survey included:

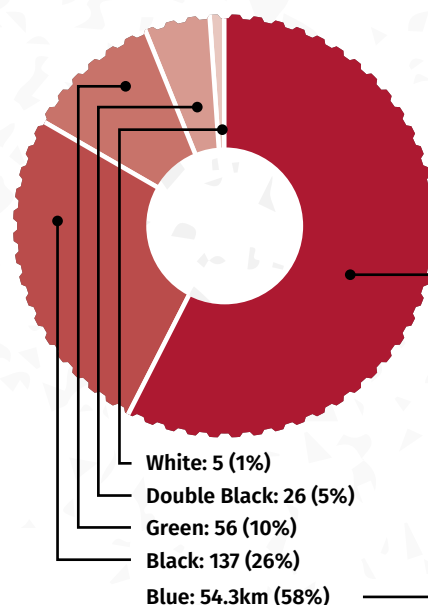


### SURVEY SUBMISSION PROFILES

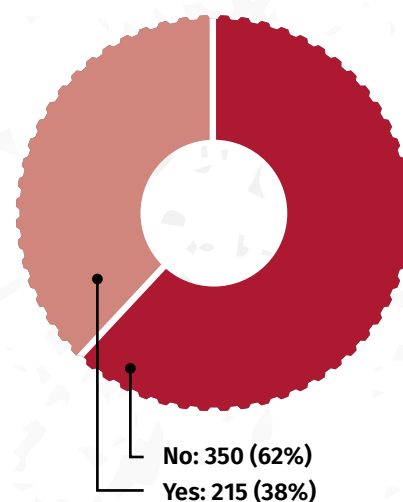
#### Members vs non-members



#### Preferred trail to ride downhill

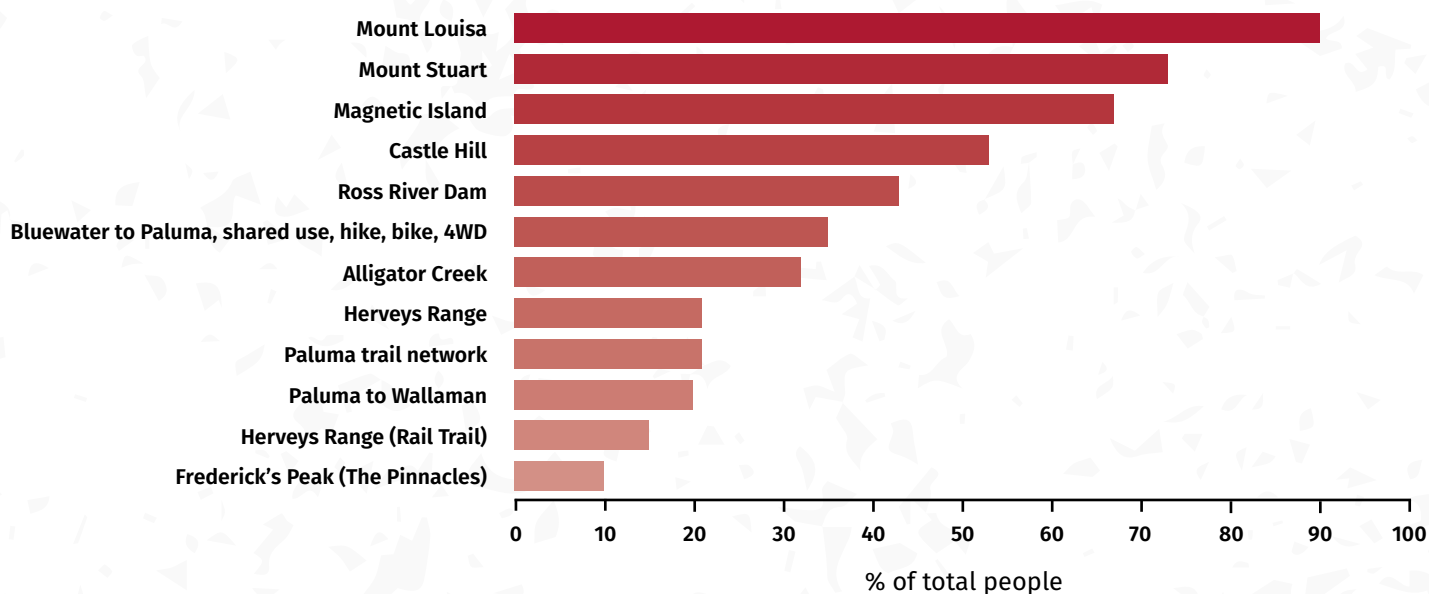


#### Volunteer to maintain trails

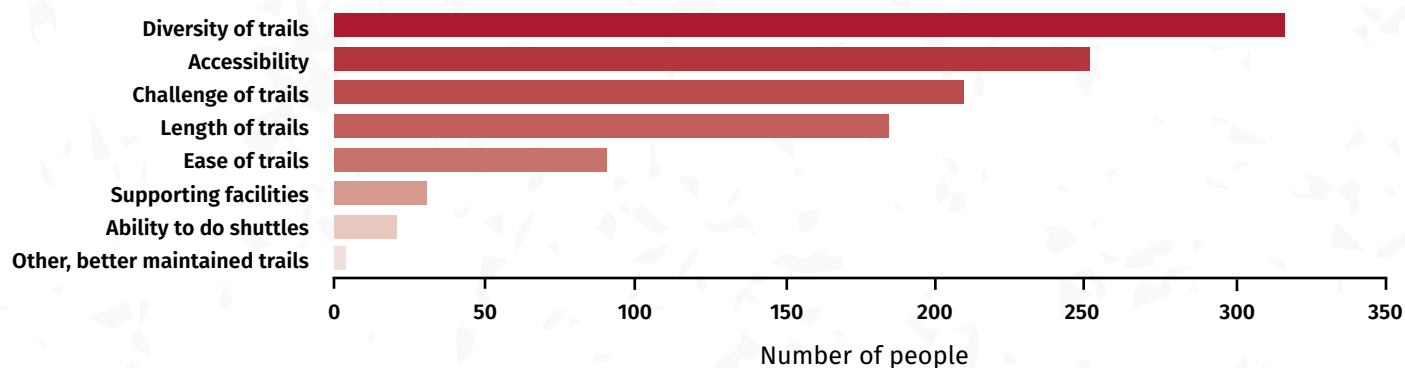




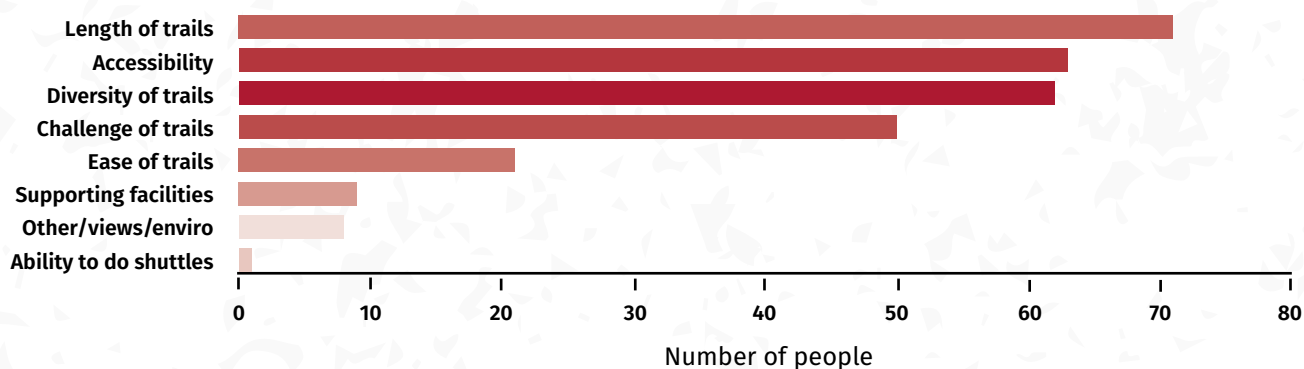
## Suggested future locations



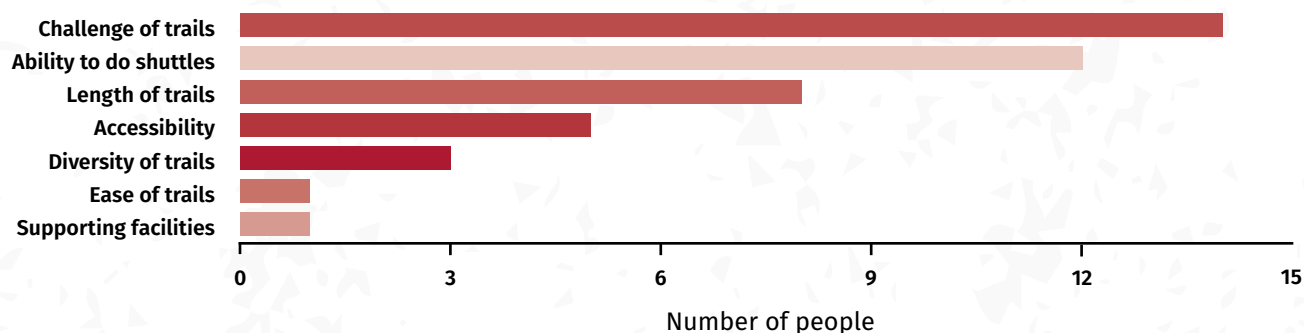
## User preference for riding at Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve



## User preference for riding at Pallarenda



## User preference for riding at Mount Stuart





## 2.4 KEY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Between July and September 2020 consultation was undertaken with various key stakeholders to understand the mountain biking community's needs, concerns and desires.

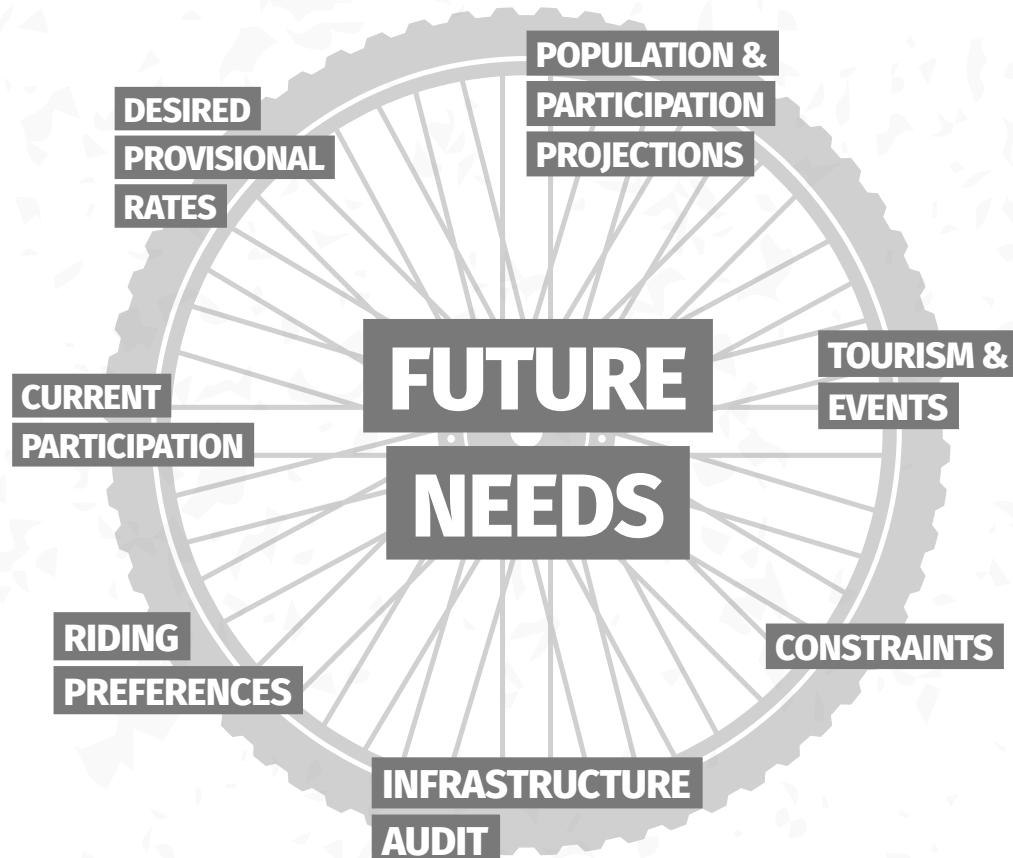
The key stakeholders representative bodies, organisations and groups included:

- Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- James Cook University
- Lendlease
- Townsville City Council
- Townsville Enterprise Limited
- Department of Housing and Public Works (Sport and Recreation)
- Department of Defence
- Department Natural Resource Mines and Energy
- Various sporting and commercial mountain bike providers.



## 2.5 DEMAND ANALYSIS

Below is a summary of the data and evidence analysis used to calculate the future demand for mountain biking in Townsville.



Future desired ratios have been allocated as an efficiency between the current provision ratio, Mountain Bike Australia recommendations for percentage of trail grades and results from the community survey and stakeholder engagement.

The below provides a summary of the demand analysis and the proposed length of trails required to meet current and future demands.

### TRAILS REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION GROWTH

Table 2 – Townsville Mountain Bike Trails Demand Assessment

Trail type	Current length (km)	Current ratio (rider:length)	Current total trail required (km)	Required extra length current ratio (km)	Desired ratio (rider:length)	Total length desired ratio by 2020 (km)	Required extra length desired ratio by 2020 (km)
White	4.9	1:12	6.1	1.2	1:10	7.3	2.4
Green	36	1:26	43.1	7.1	1:17	65.9	29.9
Blue	54.4	1:42	65.0	10.6	1:37	73.8	19.4
Black	7	1:94	8.6	1.6	1:45	17.8	10.8
Double Black	5.3	1:22.5	6.5	1.2	1:20	7.3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107.5</b>		<b>129.3</b>	<b>21.8</b>		<b>172.1</b>	<b>64.5</b>



The background of the slide is a solid red color. Overlaid on this is a faint, semi-transparent image of a mountain bike wheel and a rider on a trail. The wheel is positioned in the upper half of the frame, and the rider is visible in the lower half, appearing to be in motion on a rocky path.

3.0

# **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

## 3.0 OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As the Townsville population grows, mountain bike participation will increase and as riding tourism and events across the region grow, options for addressing this increase in demand is required.

KEY:  POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT  POTENTIAL TOURISM BENEFIT

### 3.1 FUTURE RIDING

The demand assessment (Section 2.5) and community consultation have identified the need for additional mountain bike trails in a variety of trail grades. While the demand assessment identified the length of trails required, the community consultation highlighted the need for longer and easier trails to cater for beginners (refer to Table 2 for required trail lengths).

Installing additional trails with a variety of grade will benefit the riding community by increasing the participation, accessibility and riding capacity of biking trails. It will also improve the health and wellbeing of the general community, promote local tourism opportunities and ultimately enhance Townsville's liveability. Below are the possible locations that were considered to meet the current and future demand:

#### MOUNT LOUISA

Mount Louisa is 8.5km (17 minutes drive) from Townsville City with an elevation of 185m and an area of 400ha. Mount Louisa consists of rocky granite soils and open space. In 2020 the first stage of the Mount Louisa open space network was constructed with a 3.5km bush walking track accessible from Bayswater Road.

Approximately 127.8 hectares of land at Mount Louisa is owned in freehold or managed as a reserve by Townsville City Council. Stage 1 of the Mount Louisa Bush Walking Track is constructed within public use land located at the end of Bayswater Road. The remaining properties comprising the Mount Louisa ridgeline involve a range of different tenures including the Queensland Government, Department of Defence and a number of private owners. A coordinated strategy for introducing mountain biking activities at Mount Louisa would require agreement between all of the current property owners.



#### OPTION 3.1.1

Investigate mountain bike trails on Mount Louisa as a trail network location to cater for the future desired ratio of trails to riders.

#### MOUNT STUART

Mount Stuart is a 16km (17 minute) drive from the city centre with and has an elevation of 584m. Mount Stuart has open woodland with large granite rocks and slabs with rocky granite soils. The Department of Defence and the Queensland State Government have tenure of a significant portion of the area.

Mount Stuart is of significant size and may have potential for a full array of trails including cross country, all mountain, endurance and gravity with the ability of shuttle access on Mount Stuart drive. A 392ha parcel of land with 300m of usable elevation adjacent to the existing Mount Stuart downhill mountain bike trails has been identified as a possible location for future trails.



#### OPTION 3.1.2

Investigate the feasibility of Mount Stuart as a trail network location to cater for the future desired ratio of trails to riders (in particular Lot 63 EP2200).

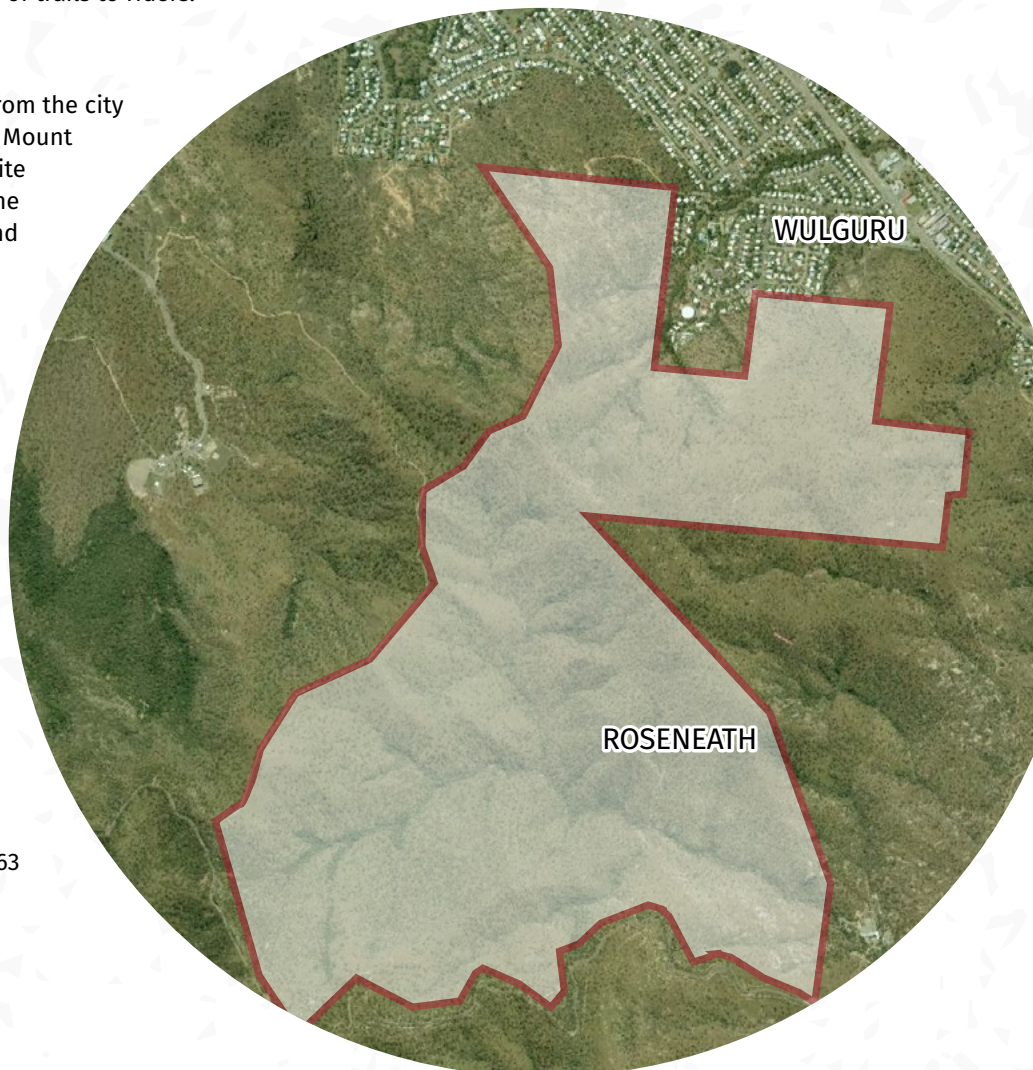


Figure 1 – Parcel 63 EP2200 for investigation.

## MAGNETIC ISLAND

Situated 8km off the coast of Townsville, Magnetic Island is a short 25 minute ferry ride from the city. Magnetic Island is 52km<sup>2</sup> in area with 39.5km<sup>2</sup> allocated as national park. It's comprised of large granite boulders, sandy granite soil and a majority of the island is covered with open woodland and hoop pines.

In 2019 Townsville City Council and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services released the *Magnetic Island Trails Vision Plan* which provides a strategic plan for a trail network connecting Magnetic Island's attractions, enhancing visitor experience and increasing tourism opportunities for the island.

Magnetic Island may have potential to support cross country mountain bike trails benefiting tourism and the local community. Some of the identified trails in the vision plan may be suitable to mountain biking.



### OPTION 3.1.3

Investigate mountain bike trails on Magnetic Island as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders.

## CASTLE HILL

Located close to Townsville City and The Strand, the 150 ha Castle Hill Reserve comprises of granite rock faces, open woodland and granite soil slopes. The Castle Hill Reserve is abundant with walking trails taking in 360-degree views of the city and coastline.

Castle Hill is predominantly a reserve for the purposes of open space, which is owned by the Queensland Government and managed by Townsville City Council as the trustee. The site was listed on the State Heritage register on the 28 May 1993 to protect the environmental features of the hill and preserve the natural aesthetics of the landmark valued by the Townsville community.



### OPTION 3.1.4



Investigate mountain bike trails on Castle Hill as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders.

## ROSS RIVER DAM

The Ross River Dam is operated by Townsville City Council and is the major water supply for Townsville. The area surrounding Ross River Dam currently provides 16km of beginner and intermediate mountain bike trails along the hilly foreshore. These trails are currently only accessible on weekends to members of the Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club. During the record breaking monsoon event in 2019 the trails suffered significant damage and the access road was washed away.



### OPTION 3.1.5



Investigate potential future use of the Ross River Dam as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders including unrestricted access to the site.

## PALLARENDA CONSERVATION PARK

Pallarenda Conservation Park has 33km of beginner and intermediate mountain bike trails which provide coastal views of Townsville. Pallarenda is located 8km from the city centre and a five minute drive from the airport. The existing trails wind through the conservation park and include pockets of vine thickets, open woodlands, coastal dunes, mangrove forests and wetlands extensive with bird life. The mountain bike trails at the Pallarenda Conservation Park are managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services.



### OPTION 3.1.6



Investigate potential future expansion of trails at Pallarenda Conservation Park as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders.

## DOUGLAS MOUNTAIN BIKE RESERVE

The Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve is located on the foothills of Mount Stuart with 280 metres of elevation and is 116ha in area. It currently has over 40km of trails suitable for beginners through advanced riders. The Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club currently has license to occupy the site from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.



### OPTION 3.1.7



Expansion of Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve to summit of Mount Stuart as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders.

## PALUMA TO WALLAMAN TRAIL

The proposed Paluma to Wallaman trail is to be located amongst the tropical rainforest between the township of Paluma and Wallaman Falls located 1.5 hours north-west of Townsville. The Paluma to Wallaman Trail is 125km of dual purpose Mountain Biking and Hiking trail (mostly white and green trails). The trail is set to have multiple overnight camping locations to accommodate bike packing adventures.



### OPTION 3.1.8

Support the Paluma to Wallaman Trails for tourist attraction.





### 3.2 ANCILLARY FACILITIES

The shortage of amenities at the current riding locations across the city has been a significant community participation barrier, in particular: Douglas, Pallarenda and Mount Stuart. The provision of amenities including toilets, change facilities, drinking water and shade may assist in removing this barrier. The provision of amenities may increase the potential to support mountain bike tourism and participation by female and junior riders.

The Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club currently have a license to occupy the site from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Energy. A licence to occupy does permit permanent structures (e.g. toilets, clubhouse etc.) to be installed on the site. In order for any facility to be constructed, a lease over the site would be required. This may involve an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Traditional Owners of the area.



#### OPTION 3.1.9



Take steps to convert the license to occupy to a lease from State Government to allow the development of ancillary facilities to occur. This may include an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Tradition Owners of the area.



#### OPTION 3.1.10



Investigate the potential for the purchase of adjacent freehold land to development of ancillary facilities.

### 3.3 MAINTENANCE

With Townsville's current and anticipated interest in mountain biking increasing, maintaining the trails will also become significant. Different trail locations across Townsville have different maintenance models. Douglas, Mount Stuart, and Ross River Dam trails are currently managed by the Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club which fund trail works and organise volunteers. The Pallarenda trails are managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services.

Maintenance is a high resource activity which is managed by volunteers at multiple locations across the region.



#### OPTION 3.1.11

Develop partnerships to facilitate and strengthen community user groups and trail owners.



4.0

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 4.0 outlines the series of recommendations and timeframes (priority) for the interested stakeholders to consider their contribution in advancing mountain biking in the region:

### 4.1 HIGH PRIORITY

Options most compatible with existing site features, community feedback and most likely to achieve the future desired ratio of trails to riders

#### MOUNT STUART - OPTION 3.1.2

Investigate the feasibility of Mount Stuart as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders (in particular Lot 63 EP2200).

#### ROSS RIVER DAM - OPTION 3.1.5

Investigate potential future use of the Ross River Dam as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders including unrestricted access to the site.

#### DOUGLAS MOUNTAIN BIKE RESERVE - OPTION 3.1.7

Expansion of Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve to summit of Mount Stuart as a trail network location to provide for the future desired ratio of trails to riders.

Prior to the expansion of the Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve it is recommended that option 3.1.9 or 3.1.10 be undertaken to ensure sufficient ancillary facilities are available to the reserve and service users.

#### PALUMA TO WALLAMAN TRAIL - OPTION 3.1.8

Support the Paluma to Wallaman Trails for tourist attraction.

#### ANCILLARY FACILITIES - OPTION 3.1.9

Take steps to convert the License To Occupy at Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve to a lease from the Department of Natural Resource Mines and Energy, to allow the development of ancillary facilities to occur. This may include an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Traditional Owners of the area.

#### MAINTENANCE - OPTION 3.1.11

Develop partnerships to facilitate and strengthen community user groups and trail owners.

Image: Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve  
Photography: Travis Bailey





## 4.2 MEDIUM PRIORITY

Options with some site compatibility concerns, which are to be considered following the high priority options being delivered to meet the desired ratio of trails to riders.

### CASTLE HILL - OPTION 3.1.4

#### TO INVESTIGATE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS ON CASTLE HILL AS A TRAIL NETWORK LOCATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE DESIRED RATIO OF TRAILS TO RIDERS.

Due to the potential walker and rider conflict of the trails on Castle Hill, it is considered as a medium term opportunity. Castle Hill is currently used exclusively for walking and due to the existing trail network and gradient of the Hill it is not a preferred location to ensure safe walking tracks are provided for the community. Due to the gradient of Castle Hill the trails would likely provide Black and Double Black trails which would only meet part of the required trails identified in the demand assessment.

### PALLARENDA CONSERVATION PARK - OPTION 3.1.6

#### EXPANSION OF TRAILS AT PALLARENDA CONSERVATION PARK AS A TRAIL NETWORK LOCATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE DESIRED RATIO OF TRAILS TO RIDERS.

As the primary purpose of the Pallarenda Conservation Park is for conservation purposes, expansion of the trails should be considered in the long term. The park currently has extensive trail networks which is popular with the local community and tourists. Maintenance of the existing trail network has been identified as a concern and therefore additional trails at this location will require further discussion and investigation to ensure existing maintenance standards can be preserved.

### ANCILLARY FACILITIES - OPTION 3.1.10

Investigate the potential for the purchase of adjacent freehold land at the Douglas Mountain Bike trails to development of ancillary facilities.

## 4.3 LOW PRIORITY

Options with challenging site features which are to be considered in the longer term as new opportunities for trail development arise.

### MOUNT LOUISA - OPTION 3.1.1

#### TO INVESTIGATE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS ON MOUNT LOUISA AS A TRAIL NETWORK LOCATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE DESIRED RATIO OF TRAILS TO RIDERS.

Due to the potential walker and rider conflict, Mount Louisa is considered more suitable for mountain bike trails in the long term. Mount Louisa is currently used exclusively for walking and this is considered to be appropriate to ensure sufficient walking tracks are provided for the community in a safe manner.

### MAGNETIC ISLAND - OPTION 3.1.3

#### TO INVESTIGATE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS ON MAGNETIC ISLAND AS A TRAIL NETWORK LOCATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE DESIRED RATIO OF TRAILS TO RIDERS.

Due to the soil type of the island and the high level of erosion associated with it, Magnetic Island is a long term potential opportunity. The Magnetic Island Trail Vision Plan provides a strategic vision for trails at the island which may allow for mountain bike trails in specific locations (potentially Horseshoe Bay). As identified in the vision plan connectivity of the island for pedestrians including bikes is a priority.













## CONTACT US

-  103 Walker Street, Townsville City
-  PO Box 1268, Townsville QLD 4810
-  13 48 10
-  [enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au)
-  [townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au)