



Appendix G

Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisory Group, Meeting No. 1.

21st November 2011

Attended by: Hornsby Council, Warringah Council, Pittwater Council, Northern Beaches TAFE, Ground Truth, STEP, Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Associate for Berowra Creek (2 members), Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon, International Mountain Biking Australia (IMBA), Hornsby MTB Alliance, Track Care Inc., Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (MNERAC), NPWS Staff (6 staff members)

Apologies: MLALC (CEO), Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon (Chairperson), MNERAC (2 members), NPWS (1 member)

Agenda : Provide project background information including NSW State Plan, NPWS Cycling Policy, NPWS Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy, assessment stages, identification of proposed mountain biking precincts, Stage 1 analysis including engagement of Epacris Environmental Consultants to conduct detailed assessment of proposed sites, draft Flora, Fauna and Heritage surveys provided to stakeholders for review and input, field day inspections scheduled for December 2011 and February 2012.

Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisory Group, Meeting No. 2 24th April 2012

Attended by: Hornsby Shire Council, Pittwater Council, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon, Ground Truth (Fellow of Macquarie University), STEP, Northern Beaches TAFE, International Mountain Biking Australia (IMBA), Sydney North Off Road Cyclists, Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee, and NPWS staff.

Apologies: MLALC (CEO), Warringah Council, Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Association for Berowra Creek (2 members), Trail Care (1 member), MNERAC (1 member), NPWS staff (ROC)

Agenda: Documents tabled: *NPWS Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy*, document on identification of potential sites, Draft REF (for group review using Determination Report, Draft OEH webpage Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Program. Members were requested to provide feedback on the draft webpage and advice on important issues needing to be addressed in the final REF.

Community field days were held at both the Berowra Regional Park (December 2011) and the Garigal National Park - Bantry Bay sites (February 2012).

Consultation and Cultural Heritage

The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council has been consulted regarding all stages of the project, including invitation to attend all stakeholder meetings and on-site inspection days.

5th December 2011- Site assessment of proposed track location in Garigal National Park

Attended by: Kevin Telford (Aboriginal Site Officer MLALC), Richard Delaney and Laurie Bimson (Aboriginal Representatives, RAC), Eric Keidge (Aboriginal Field Officer, NPWS), Kim McClymont (Ranger, NPWS), Mark Withford (Regional Asset Coordinator NPWS) and Michael Jackson (Environmental Consultant with Epacris).

Assessment was conducted on foot and included a thorough inspection of the area in order to identify any Aboriginal archaeological heritage constraints associated with the proposed site. A statement from MLALC was received on 8th December 2011 specifying that should further Aboriginal cultural materials be discovered during any stage of the proposed construction that all work should cease immediately and MLALC and NPWS are to be notified.

Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisory Group

Minutes of Meeting No 1

Date: Monday 21st November 2011

Attendance:

Name	Position	Organisation
Anthony Newling	Bushland Management Operations Coordinator	Hornsby Shire Council
Damian Ham	Team Leader Recreation Management	Warringah Council
Matt Hansen	Principal Officer Natural Resources	Pittwater Council
Liam Daley	Head Teacher. Sport, Fitness & Outdoor Recreation	Northern Beaches TAFE
Dr. Peter Mitchell	Fellow of Macquarie Uni. Ground truth Consulting	Ground Truth
Barry Tomkinson	Member	STEP
Rae Rosten	Members	Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Association for Berowra Creek
Noel Rosten	Members	Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Association for Berowra Creek
Jenny Harris		Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon
Simon Kean	Member	International Mountain Biking Australia (IMBA)
Campbell King	Chairperson	Hornsby MtB Alliance
Paul Lidgard	Member	Track Care Inc
Laurie Bimson	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Brigid Dowsett	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Kim McClymont	Ranger, Northern Beaches Area	NPWS
Tegan Burton	Ranger, Lower Hawkesbury Area	NPWS
Gary Dunnett	Regional Manager	NPWS
Rob Sheaffe	Regional Operations Coordinator	NPWS
Mark Withford	Regional Asset Coordinator	NPWS
Tim Cashman	GIS Officer (mapping)	NPWS

Apologies

Paul Morris	CEO	Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
Tony Carr	Chairperson	Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon
Graham Douglas	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Denis Foley	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Michele Cooper	Senior Ranger, Neighbour and Community Relations	NPWS

Documents tabled:

Agenda - Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisor Group Meeting 1
OEH / NPWS – Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy
Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisory Group

Item No	Introductions	Action
1.1	Introduction of Stakeholder members	
Item No	Mountain Bike policies applying to national parks and reserves	Action
2.1	<p><i>NSW 2021</i> sets priorities and targets for the NSW government and public sector. One of the major objectives of <i>NSW 2021</i> is to encourage community involvement in a broad range of outdoor recreational activities.</p> <p>The <i>Office of Environment and Heritage Strategic Plan</i> responds to <i>NSW 2021</i> by committing the NPWS to provide a wide variety of visitor experiences in national parks and reserves. (Gary Dunnett)</p>	
2.2	<p>The NPWS prepared the <i>Sustainable Mountain Biking Discussion Paper</i> in response to requests for a more flexible approach to provision of mountain biking experiences in NSW national parks and reserves.</p> <p>Previously the NPWS Cycling Policy only permitted mountain bike riding to occur on those trails constructed for vehicular use. Mountain bikes were prohibited from the walking track network.</p> <p>A series of public forums were held as part of the public exhibition of the <i>Sustainable Mountain Biking Discussion Paper</i>.</p> <p>The Minister for Environment endorsed the <i>Sustainable Mountain Biking Discussion Strategy</i> in August 2011. The NPWS Cycling Policy was amended to reflect the key initiatives in the Strategy. These included the capacity to approve the use of 'single tracks' by mountain bikes in locations identified for that purpose within a reserve Plan of Management. The policy also allows for the construction of purpose designed mountain bike tracks, subject to the relevant Plan of Management and environmental impact assessment. (Gary Dunnett)</p>	
Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Project		
3.1	<p>One of the priority projects in the <i>Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy</i> is the Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Project. The key objectives of this project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify an appropriate location in a northern Sydney reserve for a mountain bike loop track of around 8-10 km in length; • select the route which entails the lowest possible environmental impact within that location; • design a track surface which requires a minimum of maintenance; • conduct a detailed environmental impact assessment (EIA) and place on public exhibition; • determine the EIA; • prepare an amendment for the relevant Plan of Management (POM) and place on public exhibition; • subject to the outcome of the EIA and POM processes, construct the track; and • implement a monitoring program to determine whether the ongoing use of the track is causing environmental impacts. <p>(Gary Dunnett)</p>	
3.2	NPWS Metro North East Region formed an internal Project Control Group (PCG) to manage the Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Project. The first task	

	<p>for the PCG was to identify potential track locations and complete a preliminary EIA of those sites.</p> <p>The NPWS Geographic Information System was used to conduct a desk top assessment of potential loop track locations. The following selection criteria were applied to each of the northern Sydney parks and reserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridge tops preferred, follow contours; • Maximum grade of 5– 10%; • Avoid known records of natural and cultural heritage assets such as Aboriginal sites, historic sites, threatened species and Endangered Ecological Communities; • Maximise links to existing and planned cycleways, access roads, carparks, and land management trails; • Avoid land management trails approved for horse use (includes Perimeter, Long, Cooyong-Neverfail, Duck Holes in KCNP and Bare, Heath, Cascades, Camborne in Garigal); • Loop length of a minimum of 7 to 10 km; and • Proximity to potential co-development sites on other tenures. <p>(Mark Withford/Tim Cashman)</p>	
3.3	<p>The GIS based desk top assessment identified 10 sites with potential for a mountain bike loop track. On the basis of known environmental attributes of the areas the three sites with fewest potential constraints were selected for further analysis. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kamber Trail Precinct – Garigal National Park • Bantry Bay – Garigal National Park • Stringy Bark Ridge / Schofields Parade – Berowra Valley Regional Park <p>(Mark Withford/Tim Cashman)</p>	
3.4	<p>NPWS engaged consultants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a site analysis report of the three identified mountain bike precincts to ground truth the sites for a possible single width mountain bike track and complete initial environmental assessment; • Prepare a detailed set out of possible track alignment, complete a systematic fauna & flora survey along track corridor, and complete a detailed cultural heritage assessment; • Prepare a Review of Environmental Factors report. <p>Tenders for the design and completion of environment assessment for a single width mountain bike track closed and was awarded February 2011.</p> <p>The Contract was awarded to Epacris Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd. Epacris have a strong background in walking track design and environmental assessment. (Gary Dunnett)</p>	
3.5	<p>Following the completion of the first stage of site analysis / assessment a number of issues were identified with the proposed Kamber Trail precinct which at this stage has meant it is not as high in feasibility when compared to the two other mountain bike precincts (Gary Dunnett)</p>	
3.6	<p>Epacris Environmental Consultants have now conducted systematic flora & fauna surveys and detailed cultural heritage assessment for the Bantry Bay</p>	

	<p>and Stringy Bark Ridge mountain bike precincts.</p> <p>The EIA has identified the need to adjust the initial track alignment / corridor which has required Epacris to re-visit both sites and complete further field work which has occurred as late as today (Monday 21st November)</p> <p>With the north east section of the Stringy Bark Ridge precinct the identification of a Powerful Owl nesting tree, Aboriginal Shelter and flora species identified as vulnerable has required the consultant to re-position the proposed mountain bike track alignment /corridor. Rather than parallel the Great North Walk (Benowie Track) as originally proposed, the consultant has recommended that the GNW track be upgrade as a multi use track. (Mark Withford)</p>	
3.7	<p>The Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisory Group (MBSAG) has been convened to assist the NPWS with the selection of a preferred site, the design of a sustainable mountain bike track, and the EIA of the selected design and track route. (Gary Dunnnett)</p>	
3.8	<p>Gary Dunnnett noted that the BVRP investigations have raised the option of having sections of shared track as an alternative to a wholly dedicated mountain bike loop track.</p> <p>Rae Rosten raised concern with the possible conflict between walkers and cyclist. GD advised that the final design will address these issues.</p>	
3.9	<p>Epacris have prepared a draft (60% complete) REF for the Bantry Bay and Stringy Bark Ridge sites.</p> <p>NPWS requested that MBSAG review the REF report whilst still in draft form. Early review and input will ensure the quality of the documents.</p> <p>NPWS to email MBSA members the draft REF.</p> <p>NPWS requested that as the REF is still in draft format the documents not be distributed outside the membership of the MBSAG.</p> <p>Barry Tomkinson asked whether the draft REF could be distributed within their respective organisations. Gary Dunnnett advised that the concepts in the document would be discussed but that the actual documents should not be distributed until finalised and ready for public exhibition. .</p>	
	Discussion	
4.1	<p>Illegal tracks</p> <p>Barry Tomkinson asked whether the proposal for a single width mountain track was expected to stop the construction of illegal mountain bike track activity.</p> <p>Gary Dunnnett confirmed that the management of illegal track construction will still require strong and consistent law enforcement by NPWS. Other avenues and programs that will also assist with the reduction in illegal mountain activities need to involve the education of riders that will develop a culture of peer pressure not to construct illegal tracks and self regulation.</p> <p>Simon Kean advised that mountain bike mountain bike groups actively</p>	

	<p>discourage the construction of illegal mountain bike tracks and in his opinion the level of illegal track construction in the last 3 years has reduced significantly. Kim McClymont concurred with SK comment that construction of illegal tracks has reduced mainly attributed to peer pressure and via MTB web sites.</p> <p>Liam Daley advised that the outdoor education programs TAFE delivers informs students about the environmental damage that illegal tracks cause and promote sustainable practises. Slow process but word is spreading through MTB community.</p> <p>Damian Ham stated that a whole of government approach was required to address BMX and mountain bike user needs.</p>	
4.2	<p>Events</p> <p>Noel Rosten inquired if a mountain bike track was to be constructed would NPWS allow an organised event to occur.</p> <p>Gary Dunnett responded that the NPWS would not preclude organised events but noted that they would need to be assessed in the same terms as existing events such as long distance walks etc.</p> <p>Simon Kean noted that 94% of mountain bike users are recreational rather than competitive riders.</p>	Noted
4.3	<p>Plan of Management</p> <p>Gary Dunnett confirmed that the Plans of Management for Garigal National Park and Berowra Valley Regional Park do not currently permit cycling on walking tracks. Cycling is only permitted on management trails.</p> <p>GD advised that Garigal National Park PoM is due for renewal and therefore adjustment of the PoM to allow cycling on a single width purpose built mountain track would be undertaken as part of a comprehensive review of the POM.</p> <p>The Berowra Valley Regional Park PoM is more recent and if a site in that park were selected this could be managed through an amendment to the existing PoM.</p> <p>In either case a new PoM or a PoM amendment must be placed on public exhibit.</p>	Noted
4.4	<p>Involvement of Volunteers</p> <p>Campbell King enquired if volunteer involvement would be considered by NPWS in the construction of a mountain track if approved.</p> <p>NPWS stated its preferred option for the construction of the trial pilot project if approved would be by the engagement of professional track contractors to ensure the delivery of high quality and sustainable asset.</p> <p>Simon Kean and Paul Lidgard confirmed that the maintenance of Manly Dam mountain bike track system was completed by a volunteer base of 60+ people. During warmer months 20+ volunteers would participate in</p>	

	<p>maintenance programs on the weekends which also provided an avenue to educate riders in sustainable riding techniques etc. Volunteer program was limited by Council ability to manage and coordinate the volunteers. However with key staff recently leaving the employment of council, the volunteer program has suffered and as a result condition of Manly Dam mountain bike track system is of concern.</p> <p>Campbell King noted the Hornsby MtB Alliance involvement in volunteer day to remove rubbish from Hornsby Council managed lands at Old Mans Valley</p> <p>Gary Dunnett noted the Glenrock SCA volunteer structure that required the volunteers to manage, train and self supervise track maintenance program. Similar program may be considered by MNER in the future</p> <p>Damian Ham confirmed that Warringah Council is currently developing a Code of Practice for volunteers to maintain MTB tracks.</p>	Noted
4.5	<p>Environmental impact assessment and monitoring</p> <p>Barry Tomkinson enquired what would occur if adverse impacts from the pilot mountain track project became evident.</p> <p>Gary Dunnett confirmed that the construction of the track was contingent upon approval under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act</i>. Further, in regard to ongoing impacts associated with the use of such as track, it was noted that the Minister for Environment has stated that the project is a test to determine if a mountain track can be sustainable within Sydney sandstone landscape.</p> <p>A key component of the project is therefore the monitoring that will be required to detect and document any long term impacts from the operation of the track.</p>	Noted
	Terms of Reference	
4.1	<p>The draft Terms of Reference for the MBSAG were discussed and confirmed.</p> <p>Brigid Dowsett noted that the group may seek to vary the Terms of Reference as the project develops.</p>	
4.2	<p>Gary Dunnett asked whether there were any major omissions of stakeholder groups from the MBSAG. Members suggested that it was appropriate as convened.</p>	
	Field inspections	
5.1	<p>Stringy Bark Ridge – Berowra Valley Regional Park</p> <p>Members of meeting agreed to the detailed site inspection of Stringy Bark Ridge proposed mountain bike precinct Sunday 11th December 2011. Site inspection scheduled for 8:00am – 11:30am.</p> <p>NPWS to confirm attendance of Epacris Environmental Consultants project manager.</p>	

5.1	<p>Bantry Day – Garigal NP</p> <p>Proposed site inspection date is Saturday 11th or Sunday 12th February 2012.</p> <p>NPWS to confirm attendance of Epacris Environmental Consultants project manager.</p>	
	NEXT MEETING	
6.1	The next meeting was proposed for early to mid February 2012. Members to advise the NPWS of their preference by email.	
	MEETING CLOSED	
7.1	The meeting closed at 9:15 pm	



Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisory Group

Minutes of Meeting No 2
Date: Tuesday 24 April 2012
Chair: Gary Dunnett
Minutes: Michele Cooper

Attendance:

Name	Position	Organisation
Diane Campbell	Bushland Management Manager	Hornsby Shire Council
Graham Douglas	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Denis Foley	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Matt Hansen	Principal Officer Natural Resources	Pittwater Council
Ann Sharp	Member	Friends of Narrabeen lagoon
Dr. Peter Mitchell	Fellow of Macquarie Uni. Ground truth Consulting	Ground Truth
Barry Tomkinson	Member	STEP
Liam Daley	Head Teacher. Sport, Fitness & Outdoor Recreation	Northern Beaches TAFE
Simon Kean	Member	International Mountain Biking Australia (IMBA)
Campbell King	Chairperson	Sydney North Off Road Cyclists
Laurie Bimson	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Kim McClymont	Ranger, Northern Beaches Area	NPWS
Tegan Burton	Ranger, Lower Hawkesbury Area	NPWS
Gary Dunnett	Regional Manager	NPWS
Michele Cooper	Senior Ranger, Neighbour and Community Relations	NPWS
Mark Withford	Regional Asset Coordinator	NPWS
Matt Springall	A/Senior Ranger, Neighbour Relations	NPWS

Apologies

Paul Morris	CEO	Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
Damian Ham	Team Leader Recreation Management	Warringah Council
Rae Rosten	Member	Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Association for Berowra Creek
Noel Rosten	Member	Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Association for Berowra Creek
Paul Lidgard	Member	Trail Care
Brigid Dowsett	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Rob Sheaffe	Regional Operations Coordinator	NPWS

Documents tabled:

Agenda - Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisor Group Meeting 2
OEH Northern Sydney MtB webpage (draft)
Review of Environmental Factors Determination Report template

Media release – horse riding in parks

1	Introductions	Action
	Welcome and Introduction of Stakeholder members	
2	Apologies	
	<i>As noted above</i>	
3	Minutes of last meeting	
	Motion – Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting held on the 21 st November 2011 Motion – Tegan Burton Second – Diane Campbell Carried	
4	Recap and update	
	State wide mountain bike strategy Identification of a suite of potential sites Draft REF's Media release (re: horse riding) (Gary Dunnett) Draft OEH web page (Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Program) tabled and approved by all members	MC – send live asap
5	Group session – review of draft REF's using Determination report template	
5.1	Planning – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage – define hours/days of operation as per traditional park hours, eg – dawn to dusk • Rider values not addressed • Long term impacts on soil has not been addressed • Long term impacts on fauna/flora has not been addressed • Strong focus on threatened species (TS) – need to also address non-TS • Identify long term impact on good quality bushland – what will the measurements be? • Description of activity needs to be expanded (Mark Withford commented this had been addressed in the State Wide Strategy however it will also be in the final REF) • How will we measure or prevent the proliferation and deviation of the track by users • Need to include how we will address the current unauthorised tracks (reference to Appendix 5) 	
5.2	Activity – Ancillary or related activities – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking, toilets, etc. Address the user requirements for each location Suggestion to utilise existing facilities rather than install new ones • Shared trail – concern expressed over how this is going to work, including signage and codes of practice to be included • Visual and noise impacts (on neighbours), assessments need to be undertaken (Hornsby Shire Council experience was mentioned) • Night use of facility needs to be addressed – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess likely impacts on fauna • Unknown impacts? • Management response needed to this issue • Special event approvals • CRC research mentioned 	
5.3	Objectives, alternatives and justifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCC State Wide Strategy states no tracks through any good bushland – response may be required. 	S.Kean to provide to Michele/Group

- REF will also address the 'do nothing' option.
- NPWS spatial analysis did include assessment of degraded lands and current/proposed tracks and trails, this information needs to be presented or discussed in the REF

5.4 **Nature and extent of the potential impact**

Weather assessment

Storm events in terms of mitigating impacts, use predictive modelling to understand an x storm event will have x impact including level of erosion and instability – this needs to inform the design of the track

Storm event data is available

IMBA have storm event guidelines

Water – where the track is located above the topographic line and above TS is of concern

- Need to consider how to manage nutrients and pathogens being washed in and down through the bushland – what is the management response to this?
- Management of pathogens such as Phytophthora and Myrtle Rust entering the bushland?

Soil information and assessment in inadequate – need to link design with storm events and soil

Local erosion vulnerability to be addressed, guidelines or framework needed for expected conditions, linked to soil type

Parameters for management needed in storm events, eg, no activity on the track/trail after xx m of rainfall, closure of the track, how to notify users of this information also needs to be included

International best practice to be included – investigate use of membranes, geotextile fabrics in erodible areas

Design to standard of imperviousness?

5.5 **Biological impacts**

Too focussed on TS – need to consider broader environmental/ecological impact on fauna and flora

Note – new EEC recently declared (Coastal Upland Swamp (Hanging Swamps)), this EEC is also integral to Aboriginal sites

TS, populations and seed banks – 10 m disturbance tolerance? Minimum disturbance approach to be addressed, eg, gap between powerful owl and track vs gap between *Darwinia biflora* and track

Impact on herbaceous not addressed

Numbers of users – address the potential impact on species, fauna movements and potential wildlife fragmentation

Biological pathogens have to be addressed and their management (weed management, Phytophthora, Myrtle Rust, etc) including during construction phases, how will this be managed?

Weeds in neighbour areas such as car parks – especially noted at Bantry Bay where users may be parking and picking up weeds and dispersing along track

Offsets to be considered

Monitoring program to be included

Tree removal – 100 m diameter may be too big, Bantry Bay area is a regrowth

<p>5.6</p>	<p>area therefore many tree's under 100 m</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural heritage</p> <p>Where there is rock art (engraving) the whole platform is considered a site therefore carving located on a platform renders that whole platform out of bounds to users</p> <p>Bantry Bay rock art site 1 (off the fire trail adjacent Wakehurst Pkwy) – lots of concern expressed Site 2 (kangaroo) users not to access platform at all – NPWS to investigate aerial imagery of area from 1943 http://lite.maps.nsw.gov.au/ which shows some old vehicle tracks in both Bantry Bay and Schofields (subsequent email sent to group by P.Mitchell)</p> <p>How will management stop users if close existing unauthorised track off</p> <p>Use of raised platforms for users to ride over engravings – concede no material available on the market yet that will with stand potential fire impacts</p>	<p>NPWS to locate and map</p>
<p>5.7</p>	<p>Fire</p> <p>Bushfire events – note prevailing winds issue for both sites and address in REF</p> <p>How will access be managed during high fire danger days and actual events? How is the safety of the users being addressed? How will management close and enforce tracks closures during fire events?</p>	
<p>5.8</p>	<p>Other</p> <p>Address the impact of choosing one site over the other, eg, if Schofields chosen what will happen to Bantry Bay and vice versa, tracks will still be a problem, what is managements response to managing unauthorised tracks? Recommendations needed on how to manage unauthorised tracks/trails</p> <p>Engage MtB community – education and volunteer effort</p> <p>Likely impacts on surrounding land uses</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Where to from here?</p>	
	<p>All members to have written comments to Michele by 30 April 2012</p> <p>All comments will be compiled into one document and circulated to members and consultant</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Michele</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	
	<p>Date for the next meeting was not set</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>MEETING CLOSED</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.40pm</p>	

Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisory Group

Minutes of Meeting No 3

Date: Wednesday 17 April 2013

Attendance:

Name	Position	Organisation
Anthony Newling	Bushland Management Manager	Hornsby Shire Council
Graham Douglas	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Rae Rosten	Member	Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Association for Berowra Creek
Campbell King	Chairperson	Sydney North Off Road Cyclists
Paul Lidgard	Member	Trail Care
Ann Sharp	Member	Friends of Narrabeen lagoon
Robin Buchanan	Member	STEP
Damian Ham	Member	Warringah Council
Marcel Van Schie	Member	Independent
Craig Starling	Member	SNORC
Sue Guthrie	Ranger, Ku-ring-gai Chase	NPWS
Peter Hay	A/Regional Manager	NPWS
Kathy Carter	A/Senior Ranger, Neighbour and Community Relations	NPWS
Mark Withford	Regional Asset Coordinator	NPWS
Jeanette Stannard	Planning Officer	NPWS
Peter Bergman	A/Area Manager Ku-ring-gai	NPWS

Apologies

Clare McHugh	CEO	Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
Denis Foley	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Matt Hansen	Principal Officer Natural Resources	Pittwater Council
Simon Kean	Member	International Mountain Biking Australia (IMBA)
Laurie Bimson	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Dr. Peter Mitchell	Fellow of Macquarie Uni. Ground truth Consulting	Ground Truth
Liam Daley	Head Teacher. Sport, Fitness & Outdoor Recreation	Northern Beaches TAFE
Noel Rosten	Member	Hornsby Conservation Society, Friends of Berowra Valley & Association for Berowra Creek
Brigid Dowsett	Committee Member	Metro North East Regional Advisory Committee (NPWS)
Richard Mason	Member	Hornsby Conservation Society
Bob Salt	Member	Friends of Berowra Valley

Documents tabled:

Minutes - Northern Sydney Mountain Bike Stakeholder Advisor Group Meeting 2

1	Introductions 6:45	Action
	Welcome and Introduction of Stakeholder members by A/Regional Manager. Briefing update on the project, with the confirmation that the Bantry Bay site has been chosen to pursue construction of a MTB track.	
2	Apologies	
	<i>As noted above</i>	
3	Minutes of last meeting	
	Motion Adoption of minutes – Liam Daley Seconded – Campbell King	
4	Recap and update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bantry Bay has been chosen through consideration of various factors including user demand, needing to address current impacts of riding on unauthorised tracks and over Aboriginal engraving sites. • Planning is to provide approx 7km of riding trails, with maximum sustainability and minimal maintenance needs. • Track design will be to complement the adjacent Manly Dam experience, but specifically planned and appropriate to the site. • Time frame is currently that the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and Public Exhibition of the Garigal National Park Plan of Management (POM) amendment in May 2013. • The project requires the identification of suitable funding and pending outcomes of the REF and Plan of Management amendment construction is currently scheduled to commence October 2013. • Feedback that design at this stage appears to be meeting use and environmental aspects. • Anthony Newling of Hornsby Shire Council gave an update on the recently opened and already popular Hornsby mountain bike track. 	
4	Presentation & Questions	
4.1	<p>Final alignment and design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the total length of the proposed MTB loops / circuit which includes sections of land management trails and purpose built single width MTB track which is within Garigal National Park is 7.872 km. • It is proposed that there be two loops that are linked, enabling riders to choose one or both loops. • The Western Cook & Currie Street MTB circuit will accommodate a skill level of beginner to intermediate. Proposed total length of this circuit is 3.2 km, and will consist of 1.2 km of single width MTB track and 2.0 km of land management trail. It is intended that the single width MTB track will be one way and ridden in a north to south direction. NPWS will install signage that confirms the skill level required (Green – beginner level) and that the track is designated for use by mountain bikes. • As the proposed Cook & Currie Street single width section of MTB tracks crosses the Natural Bridge walking track, under the project plan NPWS will seek to rectify drainage issues associated with this section of walking track that is upslope of the new MTB track. • The Eastern Engraving & Bluff Trail MTB circuit will accommodate a skill level of intermediate. Proposed total length of this circuit is 4.6 km, and will consist of 1.9 km of single width MTB track and 2.7 km of land management trail. It is intended that the single width MTB track will be one way and ridden in a north to south direction. • At this stage NPWS are still undertaking significant field work to locate the Engraving & Bluff Trail section of single width track off the recently scheduled Coastal Upland Damp Heath Swamp Endangered Ecological Community (EEC). It was noted that this EEC was declared after the initial route/alignment identification. Field work to confirm the extent of the EEC is expected to be 	

	<p>completed by late April 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPWS stated that to avoid conflict between different user groups the design & construction of a track shared by mountain bikes and walkers would require the provision of specified safety sight lines and for passing purpose require the new track to have a width at least 1.5 wide. Provision of such a shared track would potentially increase the amount of vegetation clearing. Preference at this stage is for the new proposed track to be designated for use by mountain bikes. • The Bluff, Timber-Getters, Natural Bridge and Magazine walking tracks are available in the Bantry Bay area and will be retained for use by walkers only. • Direct access from the proposed Bantry Bay trail(s) to Manly Dam site across Wakehurst parkway is not endorsed by Warringah Council or NPWS as it has been identified as a significant safety issue. However, future proposal to link the sites across the pedestrian overpass may be investigated. • There are also EEC issues where unauthorised tracks traverse Aboriginal engravings in the area. Fencing and rehabilitation for these “unauthorised tracks” will be considered. • Alternative access to the Aquatic centre from Manly Dam may also be explored with council and signage reviewed. • It was suggested that the degree of difficulty for at least one of the trails circuits would need to be considered intermediate or higher to satisfy the demand from the cycling community. NPWS confirmed that the style of the proposed MTB tracks will be in accordance with NPWS Cycling Policy / Strategy. Advice from the mountain bike constructor, who is part of the design team, is that the single width track section of the Engraving & Bluff Trail MTB circuit will require a intermediate skill level and provide an ‘all mountain’ experience. 	
4.2	<p>Review of Environmental Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The REF suggestions minuted in Meeting 2 will be considered and incorporated where possible • REF will consider the financial impact of the project, following cost estimates advice as part of the project documentation. • Trailcare has identified a number of maintenance issues some which they had not expected, this will be incorporated into the REF 	
4.3	<p>Plan of management amendment</p> <p>It has been confirmed that to enable this project to proceed that an amendment to the Garigal National Park PoM is required. As above, the proposed amendment will be publicly exhibited for a 45 day period along with the REF to enable widest comment on the proposal.</p>	
4.4	<p>Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tender will most likely be a Schedule of Rates Tender - in 2 separable portions with the Cook/Currie Street track to be built first allowing for any adjustments to be made and adapted into the more technical Eastern track. Tenders will go to a selective tender panel. • NPWS Metro North East Region will be submitting an application for the allocation of construction funds for Bantry Bay track from NPWS Metropolitan & Mountain 2013/14 capital works program. • There are however preliminary project planning, design and investigation funds committed to enable preliminaries work for this financial year. • Works are scheduled to commence in October this year for the beginner track and later for the intermediate track. • There would not be an onsite depot constructed, instead as per our walking track construction methods much of the material will be flown onto site with a helicopter and small caches of materials and tools placed at strategic locations – this is to reduce the footprint of 	

	the project and regeneration time of the surrounding vegetation.	
	Field inspections	
5.1	Members of the Group will be invited to a field inspection that will be conducted to ensure people absent from this meeting and those present get a chance to view the proposed alignment prior to project commencement. This will likely occur in late May or June when planning reaches an appropriate point considering significant planning factors. Good notice will be given and consideration of "school holidays"	
	Community Involvement	
6.1	Manly Dam has a volunteer trail maintenance group where supervisors were sponsored to go on "Masterbuilder Trail Building Course" this enables individuals to successfully manage groups of volunteers in undertaking maintenance work days, supported by Warringah Council. Hornsby Council is also undertaking a similar scheme to assist the tracks maintenance. It was noted that this approach seems to promote ownership and strengthens community ties to ensure that the trail is maintained and utilised properly i.e. compliance with regulations etc. NPWS will consider the best way forward in delivering management and maintenance regimes and will consider how best to involve community, this will likely also take the form of volunteer groups, workdays etc.	
6.2	It was noted by A Regional Manager that during this process support from the stakeholders and their respective organisations is sought to promote the work being undertaken by NPWS and the Stakeholder Group in pursuing construction of this track at Bantry Bay. It was also noted that it would assist if cooperation from riders to ride responsibly was widely encouraged, ensuring compliance with current regulations and park usage.	
	MEETING CLOSED	
7.1	The meeting closed at 9:15 pm Next Meeting to be advised Field Visit May/June also TBA ASAP	