

# Minutes



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

### MINUTES

26 FEBRUARY 2020

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## **ATTENDANCE:**

### **Councillors Present**

- Cr Tanya Milligan (Mayor) (Chairperson)
- Cr Jason Cook (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Kathy McLean
- Cr Janice Holstein
- Cr Chris Wilson
- Cr Michael Hagan
- Cr Rick Vela

### **Officers Present**

- Ian Church, Chief Executive Officer
- David Lewis, Acting Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity
- Angelo Casagrande, Group Manager Infrastructure
- Amanda Pugh, Manager Planning, Environment & Regulatory Services
- Elizabeth Jones, Coordinator Community Engagement & Events
- Neil Williamson, Community Development & Engagement Officer
- Erin Carkeet, Governance & Strategy Officer
- Caitlan Natalier, Coordinator Legal & Property
- Tammee Van Bael, Graduate Planning Officer
- Tammie Davidson, Development Support Officer
- Kim Calio, Coordinator Development Assessment

### **Apologies**

- Dan McPherson, Acting Group Manager People & Business Performance

### **Media Present**

- Dominic Elsome, Gatton Star

## **1.0 MEETING OPENED**

*The meeting commenced at 10:00am.*

*The Mayor, Cr Milligan as the Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Pastor Trevor Bartley led the meeting in prayer, following a minute's silence for those persons recently deceased.*

*Cr Holstein was not present at the commencement of the meeting. The Mayor advised Cr Holstein would be late to the meeting due to presenting leadership badges at Withcott State School.*

## **2.0 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

*No Leave Of Absence.*



### 3.1 Condolences/Get Well Wishes

**Date:** 19 February 2020  
**Author:** Erin Carkeet, Governance and Strategy Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** Ian Church, Chief Executive Officer

**THAT letters of condolence be forwarded to the families of recently deceased persons from within, or associated with, the Lockyer Valley region.**

**THAT letters of condolence be forwarded to the families of recently deceased persons from within, or associated with, the Lockyer Valley region.**

**Moved By:** Cr McLean **Seconded By:** Cr Vela  
**Resolution Number:** 16-20/1663

**CARRIED**  
**6/0**

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**4.0 DECLARATION OF ANY MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND SENIOR COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**4.1 Declaration of Material Personal Interest on any Item of Business**

Pursuant to section 175C of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a councillor or senior council officer who has a material personal interest in an issue to be considered at a meeting of a local government, or any of its committees must:

- (a) inform the meeting of the material personal interest in the matter, including the following particulars about the interest –
  - i. the name of the person or other entity who stands to gain a benefit, or suffer a loss, depending on the outcome of the consideration of the matter at the meeting
  - ii. how the person or other entity stands to gain the benefit or suffer the loss
  - iii. if the person or other entity who stands to gain the benefit or suffer the loss if the person or other entity is not the councillor or senior council officer—the nature of the relationship to the person or entity; and
- (b) leave the meeting room, including any area set aside for the public, and stay out of the meeting room while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

**4.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest on any Item of Business**

Pursuant to section 175E of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a councillor or senior council officer who has a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the local government or any of its committees must inform the meeting about the personal interest in the matter, including the following particulars about the interests:

- a) the nature of the interests
- b) if the personal interests arise because of the relationship with, or receipt of a gift from, another person:
  - i. the name of the other person; and
  - ii. the nature of the relationship or value and date of receipt of the gift; and
  - iii. the nature of the other person's interests in the matter.
- c) how the councillor or senior council officer intends to handle the matter i.e. leave the meeting or proposes to stay in a meeting.

*No declarations were made by Councillors or Senior Officers at this time.*

**5.0 MAYORAL MINUTE**

*No Mayoral Minute.*

## 6.1 Confirmation of Ordinary Meeting Minutes 12 February 2020

**Date:** 19 February 2020  
**Author:** Ian Church, Chief Executive Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** Ian Church, Chief Executive Officer

**THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Lockyer Valley Regional Council held on Wednesday 12 February 2020 be taken as read and confirmed.**

**THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Lockyer Valley Regional Council held on Wednesday 12 February 2020, as amended to include the correct title of the report attachment in Item 12.4, *'Summary of Council Actual Financial Performance vs Budget - 31 January 2020'*, be taken as read and confirmed.**

**Moved By:** Cr Hagan **Seconded By:** Cr Cook  
**Resolution Number:** 16-20/1664

**CARRIED**  
**6/0**

**7.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

*No Business Arising from Minutes.*

**8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*No Receival of Committee Reports as Minutes.*

**9.0 DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

*No Deputations/Presentations.*

**10.0 EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORTS**

*No Executive Office Reports.*

## 11.0 PEOPLE & BUSINESS PERFORMANCE REPORTS

### 11.1 Request for Purchase or Land Swap - Lot 98 on L16741

**Date:** 19 February 2020  
**Author:** Caitlan Natalier, Coordinator Legal Services and Property  
**Responsible Officer:** Dan McPherson, Group Manager People & Business Performance

#### Summary:

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from the landowner of Lot 98 on L16741 for Council to purchase, or alternatively enter into a land swap arrangement in relation to, the landowner's property in Laidley.

#### Officer's Recommendation:

**THAT with respect to the request from the landowner of Lot 98 on L16741 for Council to purchase or enter into a land swap arrangement in relation to the landowner's property, Council resolve to decline the request.**

#### RESOLUTION

**THAT with respect to the request from the landowner of Lot 98 on L16741 for Council to purchase or enter into a land swap arrangement in relation to the landowner's property, Council resolve to decline the request.**

**Moved By:** Cr Cook                      **Seconded By:** Cr Wilson  
**Resolution Number:** 16-20/1665

**CARRIED**  
**6/0**

#### Report

##### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from the landowner of Lot 98 on L16741 for Council to purchase, or alternatively enter into a land swap arrangement in relation to, the landowner's property in Laidley.

##### 2. Background

On 31 October 2019 Council received correspondence from CSM Conveyancers on behalf of the landowner of Lot 98 on L16741 situated at 42 Napier Street, Laidley (**Land**) to determine whether Council would purchase or enter into a land swap arrangement in relation to the landowner's property. The dwelling on the Land burnt down on 5 April 2018 and the landowner does not wish to rebuild.

##### 3. Report

The Land is identified on **Attachment 1** to this report and was impacted by flooding during the 2011 and 2013 flood events. The burnt remains of the dwelling and other structures have not been

removed from the land, but it is proposed that this would be arranged by the landowner prior to any sale or land swap.

**Attachment 2** shows that the Land is located within the High Flood Hazard area under the Temporary Local Planning Instrument 01/2019: Flood Regulation (**TLPI**). A loss adjuster engaged by the landowner's insurer contacted with Council's Planning team in September 2018 to clarify whether the TLPI would operate to prevent the house from being rebuilt.

Planning advice was provided to the effect that a planning approval would not be triggered if the house was replaced or repaired on a like for like basis (i.e. the new home would have the same footprint and floor area as the pre-existing house). However, the Queensland Development Code would apply and may impose some restrictions which should be explored and clarified with the owner's builder to determine what mitigation measures may be required. No further contact was received until 31 October 2019 when Council was approached to ascertain whether Council would purchase the land or offer alternative flood-free land in exchange.

In preparing this report, a review of the Land Swap Programme that was offered to flood affected residents the Lockyer Valley region following the 2011 and 2013 flood events has been undertaken. This programme was finalised in 2014.

The landowner had an opportunity to participate in the Land Swap Programme when it was extended to residents outside of Grantham, but declined to do so as he didn't wish to relocate outside of Laidley. The landowner was one of a number of Laidley residents who took this position and held discussions with Council with a view to participating in the program if land in Laidley could be made available and State or Federal funding provided to cover all relocation costs.

Council made representations to both State and Federal Ministers and Officers to obtain funding and land however these efforts did not come to fruition. Council then offered the opportunity for these residents to self-fund the relocation of their homes if suitable land in Laidley could be identified from Council's existing landholdings. This opportunity remained open until the end of 2015 however only one resident accepted this opportunity and self-funded the relocation of their home to higher ground in Frome Street.

For completeness it is noted that through the Land Swap Programme, Council has acquired a number of the properties which adjoin and surround the landowner's Land, as can be seen on **Attachment 1**.

While the landowner's decision not to rebuild is understood and the TLPI does show a flooding risk, the landowner has not offered any evidence to justify a purchase or land swap by Council. The landowner has not offered any evidence that rebuilding is prohibited or identified any building restrictions or mitigation requirements advised by a builder or other qualified person that would establish that rebuilding or re-sale of the land is not viable.

As there are a number of Laidley residents who chose not to self-fund their relocation to a flood-free lot in Laidley, any action by Council to offer a land swap to the landowner now may be perceived as providing a benefit to the landowner who no longer has a dwelling to relocate.

For these reasons, it is recommended that Council decline to purchase, or offer any flood-free land in exchange for, the land.

#### 4. Policy and Legal Implications

The Land Swap Programme was undertaken pursuant to the Grantham Relocation Policy which was adopted by Council on 11 May 2011. It was extended and renamed the Lockyer Valley Relocation Policy in 2012 when other flood affected areas in Laidley, including the Land, were identified as eligible for inclusion.

Both Policy documents providing for land disposal received Ministerial exemption approval on 8 August 2011 and 16 July 2012 respectively and required all disposals to occur pursuant to certain conditions. In particular, the Ministerial exemption provided for the land swap program to continue *“until all available blocks of land have been transferred to eligible residents or 30 June 2013, whichever is earlier”*. The exemption, and the Policy, have now expired.

Council does have power under Section 236(1)(c)(v) *Local Government Regulation 2012* to resolve to dispose of Council land in exchange of other land if it is in the public interest to do so without a tender or auction and the disposal is otherwise in accordance with sound contracting principles. However, the disposal must be for consideration equal to or more than the market value of the Council land. As the purpose of the proposed land swap would be for Council to swap flood-free land for flood-affected land, the consideration provided by the landowner would not meet this requirement.

If Council does not wish to accept the recommendation made in this report, the only practical alternative is for Council to purchase the land from the landowner.

## 5. Financial and Resource Implications

If the recommendation in this report is accepted, no financial or resource implications are anticipated.

If Council wishes to purchase the land, it is expected that Council would incur valuation costs, purchase costs, stamp duty and Titles Office registration fees. No budget allocation exists to cover these costs.

## 6. Delegations/Authorisations

No further delegations are required.

## 7. Communication and Engagement

The advice provided by Council’s Planning, Environment and Regulatory Services team has been included in the body of this report.

The Chief Executive Officer, through the Legal and Property Services team, will respond to CSM Conveyancers to advise of Council’s position in relation to the request.

## 8. Conclusion

The recommendation made in this Report will enable a response to be provided to this request that is consistent with Council’s previous policy position in relation to dealings with flood-affected properties.

## 9. Action/s

1. Respond to CSM Conveyancers.

## Attachments

- 1 [↓](#) Attachment 1 - Aerial Plan 1 Page
- 2 [↓](#) Attachment 2 - Flood Risk Overlay 1 Page







*Cr Holstein arrived at the meeting, the time being 10:12am.*

## 12.0 COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PROSPERITY REPORTS

### 12.1 Application for Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) at 711 Woodlands Road, Woodlands

**Date:** 24 January 2020  
**Author:** Tammee Van Bael, Graduate Planning Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** David Lewis, Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity

#### Summary:

The purpose of this report is to consider an application (MC2019/0073) for a Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) on Lot 1 RP21571 at 711 Woodlands Road, Woodlands.

The application has been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act 2016* and it is recommended that the application be approved in accordance with the Officer's Recommendation.

#### Officer's Recommendation:

**THAT the application (MC2019/0073) for a Development Permit for a Material Change of Use for Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) on Lot 1 RP21571 at 711 Woodlands Road, Woodlands be approved subject to the following conditions:**

#### APPROVED PLANS

The following plans are Approved Plans for the development:

#### Approved Plans

Plan No.	Rev.	Plan Name	Date
190402.01	4	Locality Plan, prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.02	4	Site Plan, prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.04	4	Floor Plan Proposed, prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.05	4	Elevations, prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.06	4	Floor Plans, Elevations, prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019

#### REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

Not Applicable.

#### VARIATION APPROVAL

Not Applicable.

#### FURTHER PERMITS REQUIRED

- Development Permit for Building Work
- Development Permit for Plumbing and Drainage

#### CURRENCY PERIOD OF APPROVAL

The currency period for this development approval is six (6) years starting the day that this development approval takes effect. (Refer to Section 85 "Lapsing of approval at end of currency period" of the *Planning Act 2016*.)

#### RECOMMENDATION

**APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS** Application No. MC2019/0073 for a Development Permit for Material Change Of Use for Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) situated at 711 Woodlands Road WOODLANDS QLD 4343 as identified in the attached details recommended for the Decision Notice.

#### ASSESSMENT MANAGER CONDITIONS

NO.	CONDITION	TIMING
1.	Undertake the development generally in accordance with the approved plans and documents referred to in this notice. These plans will form part of the approval, unless otherwise amended by conditions of this approval.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
2.	Maintain the approved development (including landscaping, crossover, access driveway, car parking and other external spaces) in accordance with the approved drawing(s) and/or documents, and any relevant Council or other approval required by conditions.	At all times.
3.	The use must not commence until all conditions of this approval have been met.	At all times.
<b>Alterations and/or Relocations</b>		
4.	Any alteration or relocation in connection with or arising from the development to any service, installation, plant, equipment or other item belonging to or under the control of the telecommunications authority, electricity authority or Council or other person engaged in the provision of public utility services is to be carried out with the development and at no cost to Council.	At all times.
5.	Replace existing Council infrastructure (including but not limited to any street trees and footpaths) to a standard which is consistent with Council's standards should this infrastructure be damaged as part of construction works.	At all times.
6.	Any damage caused to existing services and assets as a result of the development works must be repaired at no cost to the asset owner at the following times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Where damage would cause a hazard to pedestrian or vehicle safety, immediately; or</li> <li>b) Where otherwise, upon completion of the works</li> </ul>	At all times.

	associated with the development. Any repair work which proposes to alter the alignment or level of existing services and assets must first be referred to the relevant service authority for approval.	
<b>Infrastructure Charges</b>		
7.	Pay infrastructure charges for the proposed development in accordance with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Adopted Infrastructure Charges Resolution in effect at time of payment.	Prior to commencement of use.
<b>Building Approval</b>		
8.	Development Approval for Building Work is required prior to the commencement of any building work and a Certificate of Classification (final certificate), issued in accordance with the <i>Building Act</i> 1975 and must be issued prior to the occupation/use of any new buildings/structures.	Prior to commencement of use.
<b>Plumbing Approval</b>		
9.	A plumbing permit application will be required for any alterations to, or installation of, plumbing fixtures.	Prior to commencement of use.
<b>Advertising Device/s</b>		
10.	A maximum of two (2) advertising devices are approved including one (1) on the front entrance gate and one (1) attached to the Vet Surgery Building.	At all times.
11.	The advertising devices must be wholly located within the boundary of the premises.	At all times.
12.	The advertising devices must only display the name, location and products/services of the business on the premises. There must be no third party advertising.	At all times.
<b>Landscaping</b>		
13.	A landscaping buffer to the east of the Vet Surgery Building with a minimum of thirteen (13) native plants must be provided generally in accordance with Drawing No. 190402.02, Rev. 4, <i>Site Plan</i> , prepared by Arenkay Building Designs and dated 03.09.2019. The native plants must be a shrub/tree with a minimum mature height and spread of 1.5m.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
14.	Topsoil must have a minimum depth of 200mm. Topsoil used in landscaping must comply with the current Australian Standards, which includes being free of pests and be free of soil borne viruses, diseases and weeds.	At all times.
15.	Planting media is to include water saving devices such as water crystals applied to the manufacturer's recommendations. Water saving crystals or equivalent must be used.	At all times.
16.	No plants within Queensland Herbarium's 200 most invasive plants list are to be utilised within any landscaping works.	At all times.
17.	All exposed soil surfaces where landscaping occurs within the subject land must be protected from soil erosion. This includes mulching to a minimum depth of 75mm and providing garden edging.	At all times.
18.	All edging must have suitable longevity (treated soft and hard wood is not acceptable).	At all times.
19.	Landscaping shall be maintained in perpetuity and any plant that dies shall be replaced with a like species within three months.	At all times.

<b>Outdoor Lighting</b>		
20.	All outdoor lighting shall be directed inwards from the lighting source, be hooded and be directed away from residential uses.	At all times.
21.	Any outdoor lighting, including illumination of advertising devices, must be in accordance with the Australian Standard AS4282 – 1997 <i>Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting</i> .	At all times.
22.	Lighting must be provided to all pedestrian areas, parking areas and building entries.	At all times.
<b>Waste Management</b>		
23.	Refuse storage, removal and collection facilities must be provided in accordance with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provision of bins for general and recyclable waste, with an equal number of each being provided;</li> <li>b) Provision of a communal hardstand impervious area for the permanent storage location of all bins, having minimum dimensions of 1.5m<sup>2</sup> (1,100mm x 1,300mm) per bin; and</li> <li>c) Provision of a wash-down area in the vicinity of the permanent storage location fitted with a hosecock.</li> </ul>	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
24.	Any large deceased animals not stored within a freezer must be collected within 24 hours.	At all times.
25.	All municipal waste is to be disposed of off-site at an approved facility. No disposal is permitted onsite by burial, incineration or composting.	At all times.
<b>Water Supply</b>		
26.	A minimum of 45,000L potable water supply is to be provided on site.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
<b>Fencing</b>		
27.	A minimum 1.2m high fence is to be provided for any outdoor areas intended to keep animals.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
<b>Access and Car Parking</b>		
28.	All access, parking and manoeuvring areas within the subject site must be duly maintained to prevent dust nuisance to surrounding properties.	At all times.
29.	A minimum of four (4) car parking spaces must be provided for the Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) use, generally in accordance with the approved site plans.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
<b>Stormwater</b>		
30.	Stormwater discharge from all roofed and hardstand areas must be managed to prevent impacts and/or damage to adjacent or downstream properties and infrastructure.	At all times.
<b>Hours of Operation</b>		
31.	The hours of operation for the surgery including appointments and drop-offs is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm; and</li> <li>• Saturday 8am to 12pm.</li> </ul> <p>Outside these hours, emergency surgeries are permitted, and any</p>	At all times.

	employees can operate from the business for the purposes of the mobile service.	
<b>Environmental Health – General Conditions During Construction</b>		
<b>Hours of Construction</b>		
32.	Hours of construction must not exceed Monday to Saturday 6:30am to 6:30pm. Construction work must not be conducted from the premises outside the above hours or on Sundays or public holidays.	To be complied with at all times during construction.
<b>Noise</b>		
33.	<p>Noise generated from building works, are limited to the requirements set out in the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>, Chapter 8, Part 3B, Division 3, Section 440R.</p> <p>a) A person must not carry out building work in a way that makes an audible noise:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On a business day or Saturday before 6:30am or after 6:30pm; or</li> <li>On any other day, at any time.</li> </ol> <p>b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All plant and equipment does not result in a level greater than <math>L_{A90}</math> 39 dB (A) when measured at 4m from the most exposed façade of the nearest residential uses;</li> <li>The contribution from all varying noise sources associated with the development during night-time hours (10pm-7am) does not exceed a level of <math>L_{AMAX}</math> 50 dB (A), adjusted for tonality and impulsiveness, when measured at 4m from the most exposed façade of the nearest residential uses; and</li> <li>All mechanical plant and equipment, including but not limited to, air conditioning/refrigeration plant and ventilation exhausts/extracts shall be screened/shielded where a noise complaint is determined.</li> </ol>	At all times.
<b>Air Pollution</b>		
34.	<p>The land owner must comply with <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> during construction of added facilities and during operation of normal activities including:</p> <p>a) Suppression of airborne particles including dust so that the qualities of the air environment that are conducive to; health and biodiversity of ecosystems, human health and wellbeing, protecting the aesthetics of the environment, including the appearance of buildings, structures and other property, and to protecting the agricultural use of the environment.</p>	At all times.
<b>Water Pollution</b>		
35.	The land owner must comply with <i>Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</i> during construction of added facilities and during operation of normal activities including:	At all times.

	<p>a) Contaminated water must not be released to stormwater; and</p> <p>b) Sediment controls must be installed where necessary to prevent the release.</p>	
<b>Waste &amp; Recyclable Material Bin(s), Storage &amp; Servicing</b>		
36.	<p>Provision of suitable waste removal services and suitable number and type of waste containers, in accordance with the <i>Environmental Protection Regulation 2008</i> and to the satisfaction of Council's Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan, for the storage of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>papers, plastics, cardboard, food scraps, used food containers and like wastes generated by workers on the site; and</li> <li>building construction and/or demolition wastes.</li> </ul>	At all times.
37.	<p>All waste collected/stored on site during construction shall be taken to an approved Waste Disposal Facility for disposal in accordance with current acceptance criteria and relevant fees and charges.</p> <p>Note: In Lockyer Valley Regional Council local government area Gatton Landfill and Laidley Transfer Station are approved to accept building construction and demolition waste.</p>	At all times during construction.
<b>Environmental Health – General Conditions</b>		
<b>Noise</b>		
38.	All 'Regulated Devices', 'Pumps', 'Air-conditioning equipment' and 'Refrigeration equipment' as defined by the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> must be designed, installed, operated and maintained in order to comply with the noise standards as specified within the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008</i> .	At all times.
<b>Air Pollution</b>		
39.	Undertake the activity in a manner that does not allow the unreasonable release of a contaminant to the air environment and achieves the air emission standards.	At all times.
40.	Noxious or offensive odours must not be emitted beyond the boundaries of the premises.	At all times.
<b>Water</b>		
41.	<p>Contaminates or contaminated water must not directly or indirectly be released from the premises or to the ground or groundwater at the premises except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Uncontaminated overland stormwater flow; and</li> <li>b) Uncontaminated stormwater to the stormwater system.</li> </ul>	At all times.
<b>Drinking Water</b>		
42.	Drinking water on the land providing to persons must comply with the <i>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011</i> . Any water tanks must be constructed in accordance with Chapter 2 Part 1 and Part 8 of the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i> (i.e. Constructed in a way that prevents the breeding of mosquitos).	At all times.
<b>ADVISORY NOTES</b>		

- (i) Under section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, a person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm (the *general environmental duty*).
- (ii) Council will issue an Infrastructure Charges Notice. These charges are required to be paid prior to the commencement of the use.
- (iii) Under the Development Incentives – Infrastructure Charges Policy SG23 the development may be eligible to receive a discount in accordance with the policy. Note this policy only applies to contributions payable for development permits for Material Change of Use that are approved during the period within which this policy is in effect and subject to further requirements as detailed in the policy. Please contact Council to discuss further.
- (iv) All works associated with this approval may not start until all subsequent approvals have been obtained, and its conditions complied with.
- (v) Any additions or modifications to the approved use (not covered in this approval) may be subject to further application for development approval.
- (vi) Biosecurity Queensland should be notified on 13 25 23 of proposed development(s) occurring in the Fire Ant Restricted Area before earthworks commence. It should be noted that works involving movements of soil associated with earthworks may be subject to movement controls and failure to obtain necessary approvals from Biosecurity Queensland is an offence.

It is a legal obligation to report any sighting or suspicion of fire ants within 24 hours to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

The Fire Ant Restricted Area as well as general information can be viewed on the DAF website [www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants)

#### **Advice for Queensland Urban Utilities**

On 1 July 2014, Queensland Urban Utilities became the assessment manager for the water and wastewater aspects of development applications. An application will need to be made directly to Queensland Urban Utilities for water supply connections for the proposed development.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**THAT the application (MC2019/0073) for a Development Permit for a Material Change of Use for Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) on Lot 1 RP21571 at 711 Woodlands Road, Woodlands be approved subject to the following conditions:**

##### **APPROVED PLANS**

The following plans are Approved Plans for the development:

##### **Approved Plans**



Plan No.	Rev.	Plan Name	Date
190402.01	4	<i>Locality Plan</i> , prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.02	4	<i>Site Plan</i> , prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.04	4	<i>Floor Plan Proposed</i> , prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.05	4	<i>Elevations</i> , prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019
190402.06	4	<i>Floor Plans, Elevations</i> , prepared by Arenkay Building Designs	03.09.2019

#### REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

Not Applicable.

#### VARIATION APPROVAL

Not Applicable.

#### FURTHER PERMITS REQUIRED

- Development Permit for Building Work
- Development Permit for Plumbing and Drainage

#### CURRENCY PERIOD OF APPROVAL

The currency period for this development approval is six (6) years starting the day that this development approval takes effect. (Refer to Section 85 "Lapsing of approval at end of currency period" of the *Planning Act 2016*.)

#### RECOMMENDATION

**APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS** Application No. MC2019/0073 for a Development Permit for Material Change Of Use for Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) situated at 711 Woodlands Road WOODLANDS QLD 4343 as identified in the attached details recommended for the Decision Notice.

#### ASSESSMENT MANAGER CONDITIONS

NO.	CONDITION	TIMING
1.	Undertake the development generally in accordance with the approved plans and documents referred to in this notice. These plans will form part of the approval, unless otherwise amended by conditions of this approval.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
2.	Maintain the approved development (including landscaping, crossover, access driveway, car parking and other external spaces) in accordance with the approved drawing(s) and/or documents, and any relevant Council or other approval required by conditions.	At all times.
3.	The use must not commence until all conditions of this approval	At all times.

	have been met.	
<b>Alterations and/or Relocations</b>		
4.	Any alteration or relocation in connection with or arising from the development to any service, installation, plant, equipment or other item belonging to or under the control of the telecommunications authority, electricity authority or Council or other person engaged in the provision of public utility services is to be carried out with the development and at no cost to Council.	At all times.
5.	Replace existing Council infrastructure (including but not limited to any street trees and footpaths) to a standard which is consistent with Council's standards should this infrastructure be damaged as part of construction works.	At all times.
6.	Any damage caused to existing services and assets as a result of the development works must be repaired at no cost to the asset owner at the following times: a) Where damage would cause a hazard to pedestrian or vehicle safety, immediately; or b) Where otherwise, upon completion of the works associated with the development. Any repair work which proposes to alter the alignment or level of existing services and assets must first be referred to the relevant service authority for approval.	At all times.
<b>Infrastructure Charges</b>		
7.	Pay infrastructure charges for the proposed development in accordance with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Adopted Infrastructure Charges Resolution in effect at time of payment.	Prior to commencement of use.
<b>Building Approval</b>		
8.	Development Approval for Building Work is required prior to the commencement of any building work and a Certificate of Classification (final certificate), issued in accordance with the <i>Building Act 1975</i> and must be issued prior to the occupation/use of any new buildings/structures.	Prior to commencement of use.
<b>Plumbing Approval</b>		
9.	A plumbing permit application will be required for any alterations to, or installation of, plumbing fixtures.	Prior to commencement of use.
<b>Advertising Device/s</b>		
10.	A maximum of two (2) advertising devices are approved including one (1) on the front entrance gate and one (1) attached to the Vet Surgery Building.	At all times.
11.	The advertising devices must be wholly located within the boundary of the premises.	At all times.
12.	The advertising devices must only display the name, location and products/services of the business on the premises. There must be no third party advertising.	At all times.
<b>Landscaping</b>		
13.	A landscaping buffer to the east of the Vet Surgery Building with a minimum of thirteen (13) native plants must be provided generally in accordance with Drawing No. 190402.02, Rev. 4, <i>Site Plan</i> , prepared by Arenkay Building Designs and dated 03.09.2019. The native plants must be a shrub/tree with a minimum mature height	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.

	and spread of 1.5m.	
14.	Topsoil must have a minimum depth of 200mm. Topsoil used in landscaping must comply with the current Australian Standards, which includes being free of pests and be free of soil borne viruses, diseases and weeds.	At all times.
15.	Planting media is to include water saving devices such as water crystals applied to the manufacturer's recommendations. Water saving crystals or equivalent must be used.	At all times.
16.	No plants within Queensland Herbarium's 200 most invasive plants list are to be utilised within any landscaping works.	At all times.
17.	All exposed soil surfaces where landscaping occurs within the subject land must be protected from soil erosion. This includes mulching to a minimum depth of 75mm and providing garden edging.	At all times.
18.	All edging must have suitable longevity (treated soft and hard wood is not acceptable).	At all times.
19.	Landscaping shall be maintained in perpetuity and any plant that dies shall be replaced with a like species within three months.	At all times.
<b>Outdoor Lighting</b>		
20.	All outdoor lighting shall be directed inwards from the lighting source, be hooded and be directed away from residential uses.	At all times.
21.	Any outdoor lighting, including illumination of advertising devices, must be in accordance with the Australian Standard AS4282 – 1997 <i>Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting</i> .	At all times.
22.	Lighting must be provided to all pedestrian areas, parking areas and building entries.	At all times.
<b>Waste Management</b>		
23.	Refuse storage, removal and collection facilities must be provided in accordance with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provision of bins for general and recyclable waste, with an equal number of each being provided;</li> <li>b) Provision of a communal hardstand impervious area for the permanent storage location of all bins, having minimum dimensions of 1.5m<sup>2</sup> (1,100mm x 1,300mm) per bin; and</li> <li>c) Provision of a wash-down area in the vicinity of the permanent storage location fitted with a hosecock.</li> </ul>	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
24.	Any large deceased animals not stored within a freezer must be collected within 24 hours.	At all times.
25.	All municipal waste is to be disposed of off-site at an approved facility. No disposal is permitted onsite by burial, incineration or composting.	At all times.
<b>Water Supply</b>		
26.	A minimum of 45,000L potable water supply is to be provided on site.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
<b>Fencing</b>		
27.	A minimum 1.2m high fence is to be provided for any outdoor areas intended to keep animals.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.

Access and Car Parking		
28.	All access, parking and manoeuvring areas within the subject site must be duly maintained to prevent dust nuisance to surrounding properties.	At all times.
29.	A minimum of four (4) car parking spaces must be provided for the Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) use, generally in accordance with the approved site plans.	Prior to commencement of use and to be maintained thereafter.
Stormwater		
30.	Stormwater discharge from all roofed and hardstand areas must be managed to prevent impacts and/or damage to adjacent or downstream properties and infrastructure.	At all times.
Hours of Operation		
31.	<p>The hours of operation for the surgery including appointments and drop-offs is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm; and</li> <li>Saturday 8am to 12pm.</li> </ul> <p>Outside these hours, emergency surgeries are permitted, and any employees can operate from the business for the purposes of the mobile service.</p>	At all times.
Environmental Health – General Conditions During Construction		
Hours of Construction		
32.	Hours of construction must not exceed Monday to Saturday 6:30am to 6:30pm. Construction work must not be conducted from the premises outside the above hours or on Sundays or public holidays.	To be complied with at all times during construction.
Noise		
33.	<p>Noise generated from building works, are limited to the requirements set out in the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>, Chapter 8, Part 3B, Division 3, Section 440R.</p> <p>a) A person must not carry out building work in a way that makes an audible noise:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On a business day or Saturday before 6:30am or after 6:30pm; or</li> <li>On any other day, at any time.</li> </ol> <p>b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All plant and equipment does not result in a level greater than <math>L_{A90}</math> 39 dB (A) when measured at 4m from the most exposed façade of the nearest residential uses;</li> <li>The contribution from all varying noise sources associated with the development during night-time hours (10pm-7am) does not exceed a level of <math>L_{AMAX}</math> 50 dB (A), adjusted for tonality and impulsiveness, when measured at 4m from the most exposed façade of the nearest residential uses; and</li> <li>All mechanical plant and equipment, including but not limited to, air conditioning/refrigeration plant and ventilation exhausts/extracts shall be</li> </ol>	At all times.

	screened/shielded where a noise complaint is determined.	
<b>Air Pollution</b>		
34.	The land owner must comply with <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> during construction of added facilities and during operation of normal activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Suppression of airborne particles including dust so that the qualities of the air environment that are conducive to; health and biodiversity of ecosystems, human health and wellbeing, protecting the aesthetics of the environment, including the appearance of buildings, structures and other property, and to protecting the agricultural use of the environment.</li> </ul>	At all times.
<b>Water Pollution</b>		
35.	The land owner must comply with <i>Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</i> during construction of added facilities and during operation of normal activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Contaminated water must not be released to stormwater; and</li> <li>b) Sediment controls must be installed where necessary to prevent the release.</li> </ul>	At all times.
<b>Waste &amp; Recyclable Material Bin(s), Storage &amp; Servicing</b>		
36.	Provision of suitable waste removal services and suitable number and type of waste containers, in accordance with the <i>Environmental Protection Regulation 2008</i> and to the satisfaction of Council's Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan, for the storage of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• papers, plastics, cardboard, food scraps, used food containers and like wastes generated by workers on the site; and</li> <li>• building construction and/or demolition wastes.</li> </ul>	At all times.
37.	All waste collected/stored on site during construction shall be taken to an approved Waste Disposal Facility for disposal in accordance with current acceptance criteria and relevant fees and charges.  Note: In Lockyer Valley Regional Council local government area Gatton Landfill and Laidley Transfer Station are approved to accept building construction and demolition waste.	At all times during construction.
<b>Environmental Health – General Conditions</b>		
<b>Noise</b>		
38.	All 'Regulated Devices', 'Pumps', 'Air-conditioning equipment' and 'Refrigeration equipment' as defined by the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> must be designed, installed, operated and maintained in order to comply with the noise standards as specified within the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008</i> .	At all times.
<b>Air Pollution</b>		
39.	Undertake the activity in a manner that does not allow the	At all times.

	unreasonable release of a contaminant to the air environment and achieves the air emission standards.	
40.	Noxious or offensive odours must not be emitted beyond the boundaries of the premises.	At all times.
<b>Water</b>		
41.	Contaminates or contaminated water must not directly or indirectly be released from the premises or to the ground or groundwater at the premises except for: a) Uncontaminated overland stormwater flow; and b) Uncontaminated stormwater to the stormwater system.	At all times.
<b>Drinking Water</b>		
42.	Drinking water on the land providing to persons must comply with the <i>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011</i> . Any water tanks must be constructed in accordance with Chapter 2 Part 1 and Part 8 of the <i>Public Health Act 2005</i> (i.e. Constructed in a way that prevents the breeding of mosquitos).	At all times.

#### ADVISORY NOTES

- (i) Under section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, a person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm (the *general environmental duty*).
- (ii) Council will issue an Infrastructure Charges Notice. These charges are required to be paid prior to the commencement of the use.
- (iii) Under the Development Incentives – Infrastructure Charges Policy SG23 the development may be eligible to receive a discount in accordance with the policy. Note this policy only applies to contributions payable for development permits for Material Change of Use that are approved during the period within which this policy is in effect and subject to further requirements as detailed in the policy. Please contact Council to discuss further.
- (iv) All works associated with this approval may not start until all subsequent approvals have been obtained, and its conditions complied with.
- (v) Any additions or modifications to the approved use (not covered in this approval) may be subject to further application for development approval.
- (vi) Biosecurity Queensland should be notified on 13 25 23 of proposed development(s) occurring in the Fire Ant Restricted Area before earthworks commence. It should be noted that works involving movements of soil associated with earthworks may be subject to movement controls and failure to obtain necessary approvals from Biosecurity Queensland is an offence.

It is a legal obligation to report any sighting or suspicion of fire ants within 24 hours to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

The Fire Ant Restricted Area as well as general information can be viewed on the DAF website [www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants)

On 1 July 2014, Queensland Urban Utilities became the assessment manager for the water and wastewater aspects of development applications. An application will need to be made directly to Queensland Urban Utilities for water supply connections for the proposed development.

**Moved By: Cr Hagan**

**Seconded By:**

**Cr McLean**

**Resolution Number: 16-20/1666**

**CARRIED 6/1**

**Voting**

**For the Motion: Crs Milligan, McLean, Wilson, Cook, Hagan and Vela.**

**Against the Motion: Cr Holstein.**

**Report**

**1. Introduction**

The applicant seeks a Development Permit for a Material Change of Use for Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) at 711 Woodlands Road, Woodlands. The subject site is zoned Rural General and Rural Agriculture under the *Gatton Shire Planning Scheme 2007*.

**2. Background**

The subject site is located approximately five kilometres south of Gatton and has road frontage to Woodlands Road and Manteuffel Road. There are a number of existing buildings on site including a Dwelling House, Annexed Unit and ancillary outbuildings. Access to the site is via Woodlands Road. As part of the assessment of the application, the assessment officer undertook a site visit on 31 October 2019 and 3 January 2020.

**3. Report**

**Proposed Development**

The proposal involves the use of an existing building on site to be utilised as a Commercial Premises for a Veterinary Surgery (refer to Figure 1). The existing building (21.35m long x 7.55m wide) will have an internal fit out to include a reception, consultation room, laboratory room, surgery, x-ray, staff room, equipment room and two stables. In addition, an extension (6.23 long x 3.0m wide) to the existing Cottage on site will be used for laundry and bathroom facilities and an existing farm building will be used for staff car parking. Access to the site will be via the existing driveway crossover along Woodlands Road (refer to Figure 2). The use will operate on site Monday to Friday from 8am to 4:30pm and on Saturday from 8am to 12pm, with no operation on a Sunday. In addition to this, a mobile operation of the vet service will operate off site in conjunction with the Vet Surgery on the subject site. The use includes a maximum of 3 vets, operating predominantly offsite and a maximum of 3 support/administration staff operating from the Veterinary Surgery. The on-site use will be by appointment only and will not include any retail services. The applicant has proposed two advertising devices, including one on the front gate and one attached to the Vet Surgery Building, which will advertise the Veterinary Surgery business. The proposed development is wholly located within the Rural General zone.

MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE	DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS	
	Required	Proposed
Gross Floor Area	-	179.1m <sup>2</sup>
Building Height/ Storeys	Maximum 8.5m	5.008m
Setbacks	Front: 20m Side & Rear: 10m	Front: 54.2m Side: 135m (east), 1025m (west) Rear: 200m
Site Cover	-	0.6%
Parking	Minimum 4 car parking spaces	4 car parking spaces

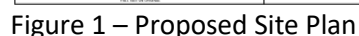






Figure 2 – Aerial view of subject site

#### Subject Land

<b>SITE AND LOCALITY DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Land Area:</b>	40.4845ha
<b>Existing Use of Land:</b>	Dwelling House & Annexed Unit
<b>Road Frontage:</b>	Woodlands Road: 176.2m Manteuffel Road: 458.4m
<b>Significant Site Features:</b>	Heavily vegetated
<b>Topography:</b>	Generally slopes down towards southwest
<b>Surrounding Land Uses:</b>	Agricultural uses & Dwelling House

#### **Assessment**

##### Categorising Instruments for Statutory Assessment

For the *Planning Act 2016*, the following Categorising Instruments may contain Assessment Benchmarks applicable to development applications:

- the *Planning Regulation 2017*
- the Planning Scheme for the local government area
- any Temporary Local Planning Instrument
- any Variation Approval

Of these, the planning instruments relevant to this application are discussed in this report.

##### **Assessment Benchmarks Pertaining to the *Planning Regulation 2017***

The following Assessment Benchmarks from the *Planning Regulation 2017* are applicable to this application:

<b>PLANNING REGULATION 2017 DETAILS</b>	
<b>Assessment Benchmarks:</b>	State Planning Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality – Water Resource Catchments</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Hazards, Risk and Resilience – Flood hazard area (Local Government flood mapping area) and Bushfire Prone Area</li> </ul>
<b>SEQ Regional Plan Designation:</b>	Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area

#### State Planning Policy

##### *State Interest – Water Quality*

The site is mapped within the water resource catchment. However, the proposed development does not trigger assessment against the State Planning Policy for Water Quality as it will not result in six or more dwellings or an impervious area greater than 25 per cent of the net developable area.

##### *State Interest – Natural Hazards, Risk and Resilience*

The site is mapped within the flood hazard area – Local Government flood mapping area and bushfire prone area. The subject site is located within Council's *Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) 01/2019 Flood Regulation* and the matters in relation to the flood hazard area have been addressed below. The development is not located within the bushfire prone area, therefore no further assessment is triggered for this matter.

#### **Assessment Benchmarks Pertaining to the Planning Scheme**

The applicable planning scheme for the application is *Gatton Shire Planning Scheme 2007*. The following sections relate to the provisions of the Planning Scheme.

<b>Planning Scheme:</b>	Gatton Shire Planning Scheme 2007
<b>Zone:</b>	Rural General Zone
<b>Assessment Benchmarks:</b>	Planning Scheme

#### Desired Environmental Outcomes

The development is within an existing building on site and will not impact upon any biodiversity areas. Any wastewater generated will be disposed of through an on-site effluent disposal system, which is subject to a further Plumbing Permit. The applicant has proposed a number of waste disposal methods including Clinical Waste, Recyclable Waste and General Waste. As it is a commercial development, it is the applicant's responsibility upon commencement of use to dispose of this waste appropriately. In addition, any deceased animals will be stored in a freezer on site if it is a small animal or collected within 24 hours if it is a large animal, due to the inability to freeze these animals. As such, conditions have been recommended to ensure that the waste stored on site does not cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

The existing buildings on site are generally consistent with that of rural properties within the rural area. The site is not listed as a place of cultural heritage.

The proposed commercial use is generally not consistent in the Rural General zone. However, due to the nature of animals serviced, predominantly being larger animals such as cows, goats, alpacas and horses, it is considered appropriate for the development to be located in a rural area where the

predominant customer base is located. It is noted that the main activity for the premises will relate to the off site veterinary services where veterinarians will visit customers at their premises.

#### Assessment Benchmarks – Planning Scheme Codes

The application requires Impact Assessment and therefore must be assessed against the Planning Scheme as a whole. The following codes are most relevant to the assessment of the application:

- Rural General Zone Code
- Advertising Device Code
- Building Work Code
- Commercial Premises and Shops Code
- Earthworks Code
- Landscaping Code
- Lighting Code
- Services and Infrastructure Code
- Vehicle Access, Parking and On-Site Movement Code

The application has been assessed against each of the applicable codes and found to be compliant with, or can be conditioned to comply with each. The pertinent issues arising out of assessment against the codes are discussed below:

#### Zone Code

##### *Rural General Zone Code*

A Commercial Premises use is generally an inconsistent use in the Rural General Zone. However, in this situation it is considered the proposed use as a Veterinary Surgery is acceptable. The proposed Veterinary Surgery predominantly services large animals including cows, goats, alpacas and horses, which is considered to be a service that is more appropriate in the Rural General Zone closer to customers. A major component of the business is an off site service where veterinarians will attend customers premises and therefore it is more efficient to locate the premises in proximity to customers. The development will provide for a service that supports the rural uses within the area and is located in an area to conveniently service customers of the use.

The development is located in an area on site that will not impact upon environmental values, as it is not located within any mapped overlay areas. Access to the site is via the existing access on Woodlands Road which is constructed to a standard to cater for the development traffic, which is predominantly vehicles with horse floats. The development will not impact upon areas of Good Quality Agricultural Land being located approximately 590m these areas.

It is considered the development is consistent with the intent of the zone.

#### Development Codes

##### *Advertising Device Code*

The applicant proposes to locate a sign on the gate at the front entrance and on the vet building to identify the business. A condition has been recommended requiring the advertising devices display only words, symbols, logos or replicas which identify the name, location and products/services of the

business, which is in accordance with the Code. The sign on the building covers approximately 3% of the building front area which is compliant with the 25% to 30% maximum prescribed under the Code.

It is considered the development is compliant with the Code.

#### *Building Work Code*

The Rural General Zone has a maximum building height of 8.5 metres. The development has a maximum building height of 5.008 metres for the existing cottage and 4.246 metres for the vet building. The Code specifies a front setback of 20 metres, and a 10 metre setback from the side and rear boundaries. The applicant has proposed a front setback of 54.2m, side setbacks of 135m from the eastern side boundary and 1,025m from the western side boundary, and 200m from the rear boundary.

It is considered the development is compliant with the Code.

#### *Commercial Premises and Shops Code*

The site has a total area of 40.5ha, which is compliant with the minimum 600m<sup>2</sup> prescribed under the Code. Probable Solution A4.1 requires a maximum gross floor area of 100m<sup>2</sup> where premises are on land other than in the Commercial Zone. The applicant has proposed a total gross floor area of 179.1m<sup>2</sup> which exceeds the requirement. However the proposed development is consistent with the Specific Outcome as the larger gross floor area is required to cater for the larger animals predominantly cows, goats, alpacas and horses. The larger area is required to ensure that these animals can be moved throughout the building with ease as well as space for stabling these animals when required.

The proposed siting of the building is consistent with the surrounding buildings in the rural zone. The building is setback approximately 54 metres from the road frontage, which is generally consistent with setbacks on other properties within the area. In addition, the built form of the building is generally reflective of a farm shed within the rural zone which is consistent with the number and type of ancillary buildings on properties within the area. Access to the site is via an existing formed driveway crossover on Woodlands Road, with adequate sight distance to the general public.

It is considered the development is compliant with the Code.

#### *Earthworks Code*

The applicant has not proposed any earthworks as part of the development, therefore no further assessment against this Assessment Benchmark is required.

#### *Landscaping Code*

The site contains existing vegetation that is considered to be sufficient to enhance the appearance of the development from Woodlands Road. This existing vegetation consists predominantly of mature trees which provide for a visual buffer between the development and the general public and adjoining neighbours. However, the vegetation is scattered thus providing for opportunities for casual surveillance. The applicant proposes to plant a landscaping buffer along the eastern side of the existing building. This will provide for additional visual buffering of the development and conditions have been recommended accordingly.

The development incorporates the existing rural fencing which is consistent with the surrounding area and considered acceptable in this situation due to the rural nature of the area. The applicant proposes to locate the main waste storage area at the rear of the vet building. Due to the topography of the land, this waste storage area will not be visible to the general public on either Woodlands or Manteuffel Roads, or any nearby properties.

It is considered the development is compliant with the Code.

#### *Lighting Code*

The applicant has identified minimal lighting will be provided due to the hours of operation predominantly limited to daylight hours. However, some lighting will be provided for security purposes. Several conditions have been recommended to ensure the development is compliant with the requirements of the Code, specifically ensuring lighting is in accordance with Australian Standard AS4282 – 1997 *Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting*.

It is considered the development is compliant with the Code.

#### *Services and Infrastructure Code*

The subject site is not located within an area serviced by reticulated water or sewer. The code requires a site be provided with a minimum of 45,000 litres of potable water supply, as such a condition has been recommended. The development is required to be serviced by an on-site effluent disposal system and a further plumbing permit is required for any alterations to or installation of plumbing fixtures. Electricity is available along Woodlands Road and can be utilised to provide a connection to the development. Due to the significant size of the property in conjunction with the minimal impervious area, no issues with stormwater have been identified. A condition has been recommended requiring all stormwater discharge be managed so as not to cause impact or damage to downstream or adjacent properties or infrastructure. Access to the site is via the existing gravel crossover on Woodlands Road. No upgrades are necessary to the existing driveway as the current standard is sufficient to cater for the proposed development.

It is considered the development is compliant with the Code.

#### *Vehicle Access, Parking and On-Site Movement Code*

The development will be accessed via an existing driveway crossover on Woodlands Road approximately 80 metres from the intersection with Manteuffel Road. The crossover is located in close proximity to a sharp bend on Woodlands Road. As part of the application the applicant submitted a statement, *Re: No. 711 Woodlands Road, Woodlands*, Ref No. 23113, prepared by Reid Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd and dated 3 October 2019 to address the vehicle access to demonstrate the sight distances are satisfactory and a number of speed control devices are present, such as sharp turn arrows, to reduce the speed of vehicles. The statement has been considered and accepted by Council's Development Engineer.

Internally the development will be serviced by an existing driveway and car parking area. The applicant submitted turning templates to demonstrate Small Rigid Vehicles (SRV) and B99 Vehicles can sufficiently manoeuvre on site. The Code requires a minimum of 4 car parking spaces be provided on site. The development provides for 4 car parking spaces including 1 accessible space. In addition, due to the significant size of the property additional informal parking on site is available where necessary.

It is considered the development is compliant with the Code.

#### Assessment Benchmarks Pertaining to a Temporary Local Planning Instrument

The subject site contains several overland flow paths as mapped under the TLPI 01/2019. However, the development does not impact upon these overland flow paths, as such no further assessment is required.

#### **Consultation**

##### Referral Agencies

The application did not require referral to any referral agencies.

##### Internal Referrals

The application was internally referred to Council's Building Section, Plumbing Section and Development Engineering Section. The Building Section recommended the inclusion of a condition that the applicant must obtain an approval for building work. The Plumbing Section recommended the inclusion of condition requiring a plumbing permit application to be obtained where there are alterations to, or installation of, plumbing fixtures. The Development Engineering Section provided conditions in relation to stormwater and access.

#### **Public Notification**

The application was publicly notified for 16 business days from 12 December 2019 to 17 January 2020 in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act 2016*. Three (3) properly made submissions were received.

The following table provides a summary of the issues raised by the submitters together with Officers comments on the issues raised. The applicant also provided a response to the submissions, which is attached to this report.

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Submitters have raised concerns in relation to traffic and the increase to vehicles entering and exiting the site given it is located on a corner with limited visibility. There have been several incidents on the corner in recent years. The development increases the risk for further incidents due to more cars including those with trailers, and trucks entering the property. A school bus stop is located immediately adjacent to the property, changed traffic movements will increase the risk for students. A number of residences access Woodlands Road at the same point (699, 711, 744 & 720 Woodlands Road). The intersection at Woodlands and Manteuffel Roads is narrow and the development will result in	<p>As part of the application, the applicant included a Traffic Impact Statement prepared by Reid Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd. This Statement has been prepared by a Registered Professional Engineer Queensland. The Statement demonstrates the access driveway meets the relevant sight distance requirements. In addition, the corner has several existing speed control devices such as sharp turn arrows that reduce the speed of vehicles.</p> <p>There are two advisory signs advising of the school bus stop. Overtaking within the area is limited due to the presence of solid double white lines.</p> <p>There are three properties accessed over a 100m section of Woodlands Road. In addition, the other properties are currently used for residential purposes. As such the number of trips generated by these properties is limited. It is expected that the traffic will increase as a result of</p>

additional heavy vehicles increasing damage to the road. In addition, there have been many accidents on the corner and the development will increase the risk of animals being harmed.	the use, however, due to the rural nature of the area and the sight distance available, the development will not result in increased congestion or traffic safety issues.
A submitter raised concerns that kennels will be constructed in the future should this current application be approved.	The use is proposed to service large animals predominantly cows, goats, alpacas and horses. Dogs will generally not be treated at this veterinary clinic. No kennels have been applied for as part of this application. Any Kennels proposed would be defined as an 'Intensive Animal Industry (Kennel and Cattery)' and require appropriate approvals in accordance with the <i>Gatton Shire Planning Scheme 2007</i> . These approvals would include a code assessable Material Change of Use application if the probable solutions are complied with. If the Kennels cannot comply with the probable solutions, then it would be subject to an impact assessable Material Change of Use.
A submitter raised concerns with the possible contamination from effluent run-off from the proposed use.	The development would be subject to a further Plumbing and Drainage Permit through Council's Plumbing Section. Any on-site effluent disposal system would need to be in accordance with the relevant legislation including ensuring any effluent is disposed of in a manner that does not result in contamination. The permit will need to be obtained prior to commencement of use.
A submitter has raised concerns with the development being inconsistent with the Gatton Planning Scheme. The properties in the area are generally for light grazing. In addition the buildings on site are not suitable for conversion and it is centrally located to neighbouring properties which would diminish the residents' lifestyle. There is insufficient groundwater available. In addition, the University of Queensland Gatton provides for an equine facility.	Whilst it is recognised the use is generally inconsistent with the Rural General Zone, in this instance it is considered to be acceptable due to the Veterinary Surgery largely servicing larger animals. The development will support the existing rural uses within the area by providing for a service to these uses. The existing buildings on site are generally consistent with the surrounding buildings on adjoining properties. In addition, any building that is retrofitted will need to comply with the relevant building legislation. As it is a Veterinary Surgery there are additional requirements to ensure it is compliant with relevant legislation, work place health and safety and insurance. The development is located approximately 130m from the nearest residential dwelling, which is buffered through the existing mature vegetation as well as topography of the land. The University of Queensland Gatton provides for a small animal hospital and the proposed development will generally not service small animals. In addition, the purpose-built equine facility of the University is referral only through veterinarians, such as the applicant. In accordance with the Planning Scheme a minimum of 45,000L of water must be available on site and a condition has been recommended accordingly. If

	there is insufficient groundwater to service the development, the applicant is required to source water from an external source.
A submitter has raised concerns that many horse riders often ride along Woodlands and Manteuffel Roads to the Gatton National Park. A recent incident occurred between a horse rider with unrestrained dogs and the submitters' vehicle. The dogs attacked/chased the vehicle causing the submitters vehicle to swerve on the wrong side of the road.	The use will not result in additional horse riders using the nearby road network. Any injured or sick horses needing care will be brought to the site using a horse float. Generally, if they are needing care it is not possible for the horse to be ridden to the Veterinary Surgery. In addition, the applicant has advised that horses account for approximately 10% of the operation. The applicant has identified that dogs will not be treated as part of the development, as such the development will not result in unrestrained dogs in the area. Council's Local Laws regulate unrestrained dogs.
A submitter raised concerns that the road reserve immediately adjacent to the property is currently well maintained by themselves. As a result of the development it will result in increased motor vehicle, pedestrian and horse traffic making it unsafe to mow and becoming overgrown which becomes less safe.	The Traffic Impact Statement as submitted by the applicant demonstrates that safe sight distance can be achieved. If the road reserve becomes overgrown, safe sight distance can still be achieved as demonstrated in the plans attached to the Traffic Impact Statement. Significant increases in vehicle, pedestrian and horse movements are not anticipated to be caused by the proposal.
A submitter has raised that they currently collect and dispose of litter and illegal dumping along Woodlands Road which has included animal "body bags" containing deceased animals. The increased activity will result in increased littering and illegal dumping. The illegal dumping of industrial waste often occurs along Woodlands Road which is expected to increase with increased traffic to and from the commercial premises. Litter from the property is currently escaping from the property and blowing into neighbouring properties.	Any waste generated by the use will be disposed of through waste bins and collected by different contractors depending on the type of waste. To ensure compliance, conditions have been recommended in relation to disposal of waste. The litter and illegal dumping currently exists without the operation of the Commercial Premises. Any littering or illegal dumping should be reported to either Council or the State Government. Littering or illegal dumping is not anticipated to increase as a result of the proposal.
A submitter raised concerns that the use will result in an increase in feral animal activity as a result of increased animal activity, blood and animal carcasses.	Any deceased large animals will be stored on site for up to 24 hours prior to being collected and a condition has been recommended to ensure deceased animals are collected within these timeframes. This will assist with reducing any potential increase of feral animals. In addition, all waste is required to be disposed of and stored in appropriate waste containers.
A submitter raised concern that the development will require the housing for dogs and cats creating significant noise, particularly at night. Approved dog kennels are located on the northern side of Gatton and not in the region of the	The proposed development is predominantly to service large animals such as cows, goats, alpacas and horses. The development does not incorporate any kennels to house dogs or cats. If Kennels are proposed a further development approval is required in accordance with the <i>Gatton Shire Planning Scheme 2007</i> .



property.	
A submitter raised concerns with at least one collapsed water well on the property in close proximity to the proposed development, which is a danger to people and animals.	The applicant has advised that whilst there are water wells on the property, they are not in proximity of the development, being approximately 400m away. The risk to people and animals from the collapsed water wells is minimal as people and animals associated with the proposed development will not be accessing these areas.
A submitter raised concerns that the proposed animal carcass storage and disposal is located at the front of the building which is unsightly and detracts from the ambiance of the neighbourhood.	The storage area for the large animal carcasses is located at the front of the building. This is buffered from Woodlands Road and adjoining properties due to the existing mature vegetation and topography. Therefore, the impacts to the amenity of the area are minimal. In addition, these large animals will be collected within 24 hours. Due to the size of the animals, they need to be stored in an area that is easily serviceable by vehicles to collect the animals.
A submitter raised concerns that the external fencing of the property is in poor/average condition. In recent months cattle escaped from the property to Woodlands Road creating a traffic danger.	A site visit was undertaken, and the fencing was considered to be in generally good condition. The applicant has advised that animals will generally be kept within the vet surgery building. However, hospitalised animals will be housed in a designated area outside for a short period of time as required by the Vet Surgeons' Board. To ensure the animals are not at risk of escape, a condition has been recommended requiring the designated fenced area to be constructed and maintained. The fence must be a minimum of 1.2m in height to prevent the escape of animals cared for as part of the use.
A submitter raised concerns that the north-western boundary of the property adjoining their property is open with limited vegetation and privacy. A chicken yard has recently been constructed adjacent to the boundary. The structure was made with recycled materials. The building could have been built on the southern side of the property. The submitter raised that they were not consulted when this structure was built.	The chicken yard is not a part of the proposed development and no chicken yards are proposed. In addition, the existing Dwelling House and existing mature vegetation provides buffering between the proposed development and adjoining residences. Should there be any animal nuisance issues as a result of the chicken yard, this can be investigated in accordance with Council's Local Laws. Keeping of chickens is a common rural use, that does not generally require approval.
A submitter raised concerns that the increased traffic and increased animals as a result of the development will increase noise during the day and night and will disturb the submitter and their sleep.	The use on-site will be carried out Monday to Friday between 8am to 4:30pm and Saturday 8am to 12pm. In addition the mobile operation with services offsite will be conducted seven days a week. The impacts to the adjoining neighbours at night is therefore considered to be minimal and not exceeding the noise generated by a Dwelling House. In addition, during the day whilst there would be noise generated by traffic, this would already be a level of noise that is experienced by adjoining residences. The nearest residence is 140m from the

	development and is separated by Woodlands Road. Given the minimal noise generated by the use and significant separation distance it is unlikely that a noise nuisance will occur. However, conditions have been recommended to ensure any noise generated does not exceed the requirements under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .
A submitter raised concerns that the existing building referred to as the existing cottage has significant historical significance to Woodlands and the Lockyer Valley being the original Woodlands State School building and no further alterations should be made to the school building and a sign placed on the building indicating significance.	The building is not heritage listed under the Planning Scheme. As the building is not heritage listed, it is not reasonable or relevant to require this building to be retained in its current form without alterations. However, the materials used for the extension to the existing cottage are generally consistent with the existing built form to ensure consistency with structures in the rural area and reduce the visual impacts of the commercial development.

### Adopted Infrastructure Charges Resolution

There are no existing credits from the subject site as it contains an existing dwelling house (the dwelling house would have cancelled out any credit that existed). The gross floor area calculation includes the vet surgery building and the extension to the cottage. The extension to the cottage includes a laundry and bathroom to be utilised as part of the Veterinary Surgery building. The impervious area includes only the additional impervious areas including the extension to the cottage, footpath from the cottage to the driveway and the waste storage area at the rear of the vet surgery building.

Infrastructure charges are payable in accordance with the following table:

LOCKYER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL				
Charge Type	Description	Demand Units	Rate	TOTAL
PROPOSED DEMAND				
Charge	Commercial (Office) – Other	179.1m <sup>2</sup>	\$69.00 per m <sup>2</sup> of GFA	\$12,357.90
	Commercial (Office) – Stormwater	34.6m <sup>2</sup>	\$10.00 per m <sup>2</sup> of impervious area	\$346.00
TOTAL PROPOSED DEMAND				\$12,703.90
EXISTING DEMAND				
Credit	Nil	-	-	-
TOTAL EXISTING DEMAND CREDIT				\$0.00
TOTAL PAYABLE				\$12,703.90

### 4. Policy and Legal Implications

The legal implications arising from the recommendation provided in this report are that the applicant or submitter/s may choose to appeal the decision to the Planning and Environment Court.

### 5. Financial and Resource Implications

There could be a financial implication should the decision be contested in the Planning and Environment Court.

**6. Delegations/Authorisations**

There are no implications for delegations or authorisations arising from the recommendation provided in this report.

**7. Communication and Engagement**

The decision of Council will be formally communicated to the applicant and all persons who lodged a properly made submission in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act 2016*.

**8. Conclusion**

The proposed development is recommended for approval subject to conditions.

**9. Action/s**

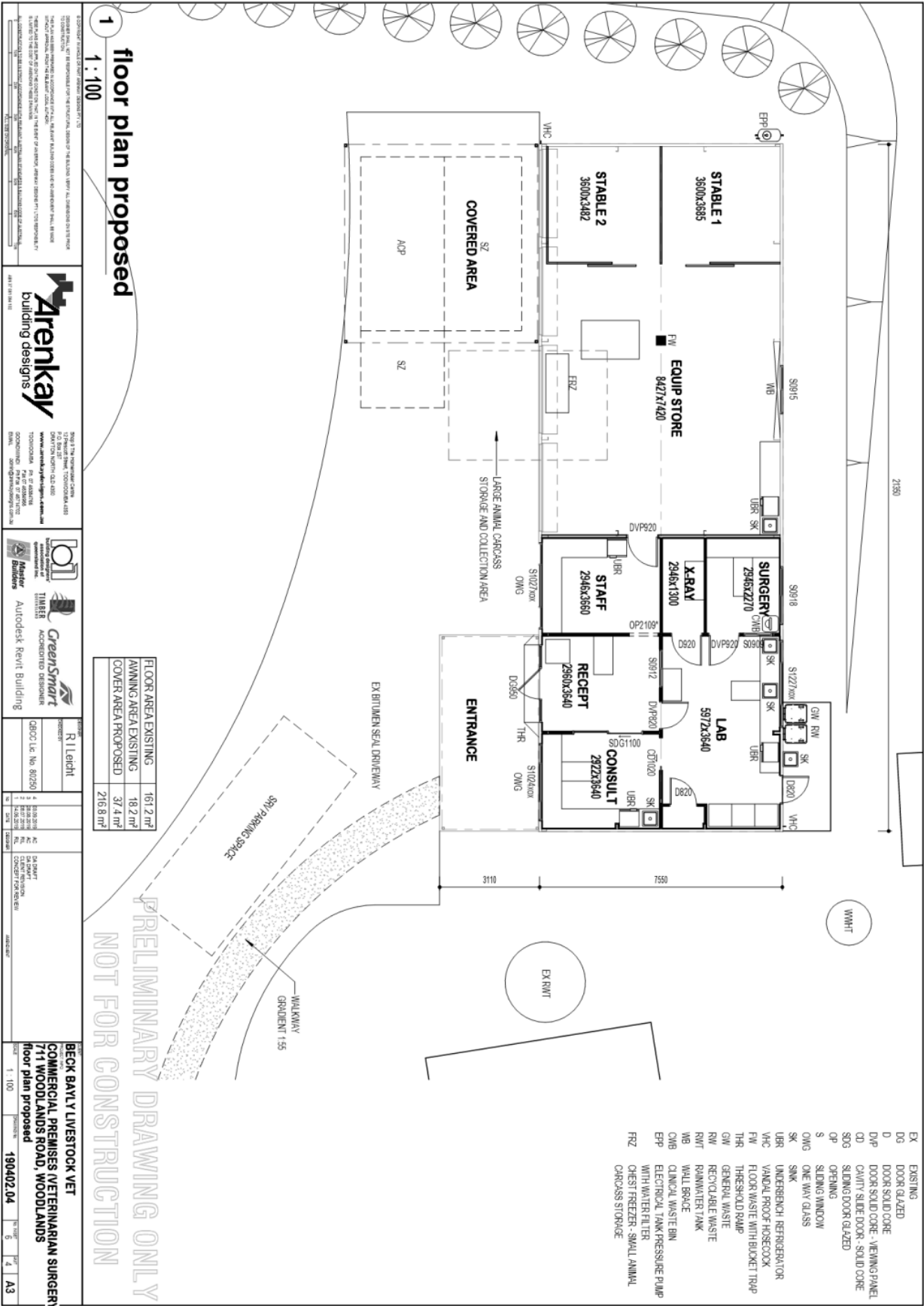
Advise the applicant of Council's decision. Advise the submitter/s of Council's decision when the applicant's appeal period concludes.

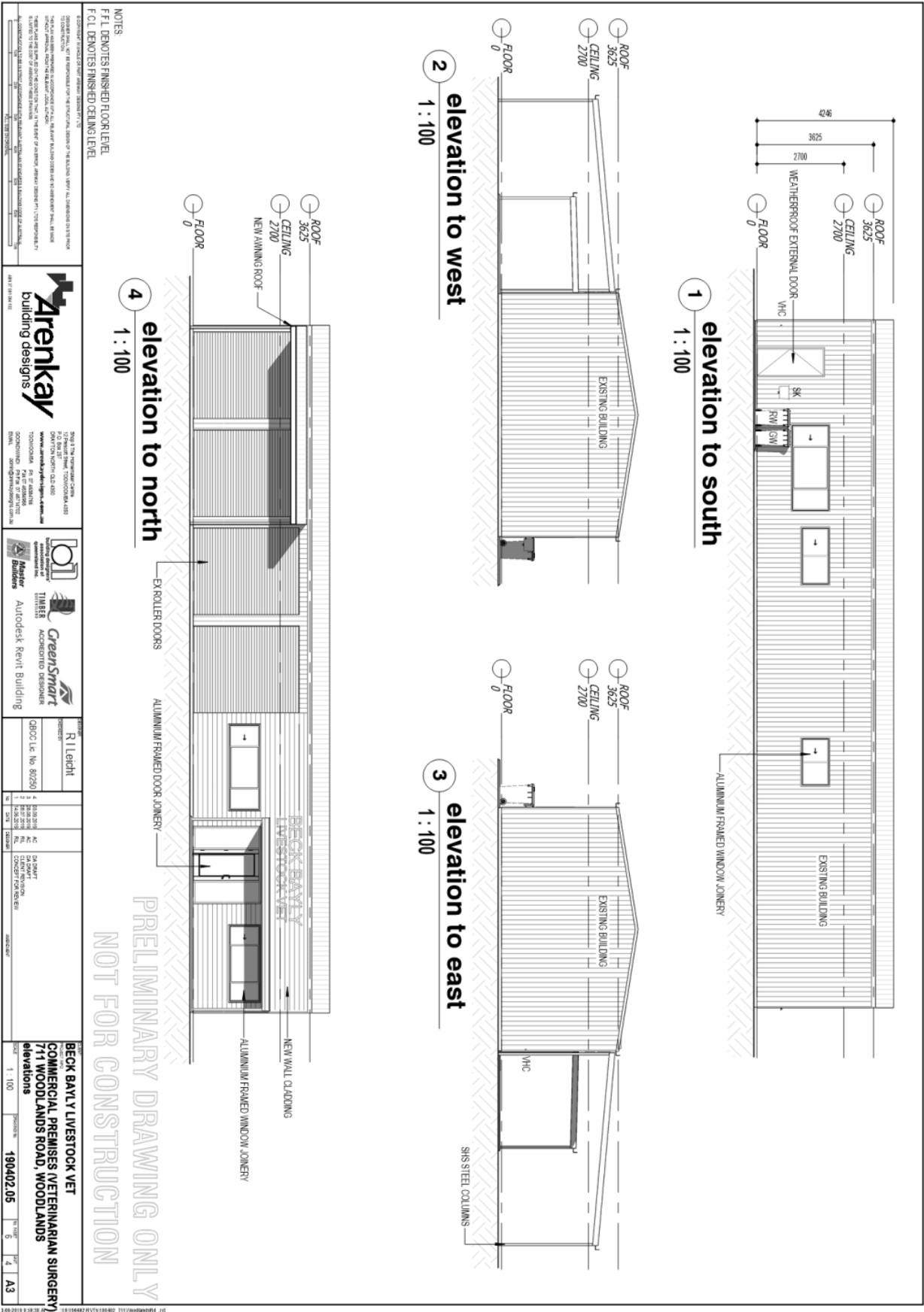
**Attachments**

- |   |                   |  |          |
|---|-------------------|--|----------|
| 1 | <a href="#">↓</a> | MC2019/0073 Proposal Plans                     | 5 Pages  |
| 2 | <a href="#">↓</a> | MC2019/0073 Applicants Response to Submissions | 18 Pages |















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30 January 2020

Chief Executive Officer  
Lockyer Valley Regional Council  
PO Box 82  
Gatton QLD 4343

Email: [mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au)

Attn: Tamme Van Bael – Planning and Development

Dear Tamme,

**Applicant's Response to Written Submissions – Material Change of Use – Impact Assessable – Commercial Premises (Veterinary Surgery) – 711 Woodlands Road, Woodlands QLD 4343 (Lot 1 RP21571) – MC2019/0073.**

Further to the three (3) written submissions received by Council for the subject application, we hereby respond on behalf of the applicant as follows:

**SUBMISSION 1: John and Desleigh Telford**

**1. Traffic**

*"Traffic. An increase in the amount of traffic entering and exiting from a driveway located on a corner of Woodlands Road which has limited visibility and a speed limit of 90km/h. An advisory speed sign of 50km/h is in the vicinity. Note: This is an advisory sign only.*

*There have been 4 reported traffic incidents on the corner and several unreported incidents in the last few years.*

*There is great potential for further incidents due to cars, SUV's towing trailers, and trucks turning across oncoming traffic into the driveway on the apex of the corner.*

*There is no Certified Traffic engineer's report in the application. We recommend that this should be carried out prior to approval of the application.*

*The traffic assessment in the application was not carried out by a certified traffic engineer."*

**RESPONSE**

The proposed use is primarily for a Mobile Livestock Service to operate 7 days a week (only offsite services operate 7 days a week). The proposed service is predominantly off-site with operations expected to be 80% off-site and 20% on-site. Maximum staff number are 2.5 (max.) vets based from the site – 2 vets working 4 days per week with one (1) overlapping day – third (Part-time) Vet required for holiday/sick leave coverage and additional support when required; and 2 – 3 (max.) support staff – veterinary nurses/admin. It is also noted that animals requiring attendance at the site would typically be for surgery for more challenging procedures only and for pre-booked appointments only. No retail

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services will be offered from site and a sign will be placed on a locked electric gate (to be installed at property boundary) to identify the business and advise that the visitation/use of on-site services is by appointment only. Surgery (Appointment/Drop-Off) hours:

- Monday to Friday – 8am to 4.30pm
- Saturday – 8am to 12pm
- Sunday – Closed

It is expected that use of the site for surgery is likely to only occur one to two days a week.

A formal Traffic Impact Statement (TIS) was prepared for, and supported the development application, so as to adequately address Council's concerns raised about the access to the site in the applicant's Prelodgement Meeting. The TIS was attached to the application and it demonstrated that the existing access, its location, its construction (including dimensions and location) and sight distances are acceptable for the proposed use, the traffic that will be generated by the proposed use and existing traffic; and that the proposed use will not have any adverse traffic or safety impacts upon the road network.

The TIS was prepared by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ).

It is considered that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, there have been no accidents in the vicinity of the subject site since the completion of the road upgrade works.

A more detailed and extensive Traffic Impact Assessment has not been prepared as it is considered that the relatively intensity of the proposed use, driveway standards, on-site car parking requirements and provision and the standard of construction of Woodlands Road does not warrant this.

Further to the above, it is noted that the proposed use would not result in traffic numbers/types greater than that of a 'Rural use' consistent with the Zone intent (that could be established on-site without Planning Approval), is provided with large road shoulder widths adjacent to the vehicle entry point and is provided with an extensive 'queuing' area between the pavement edge and the front boundary line (approx. 10 metres). This is more than sufficient area to ensure that vehicles entering the site can be clear of the pavement/traffic when entering the site and/or while awaiting admission to the site.

Although the submitters' concerns regarding traffic safety could generally be considered a 'planning ground', it is considered that the applicant has adequately demonstrated that the proposed use will not result in a notable increase in traffic, will not increase traffic hazards/dangers and will ensure that traffic safety is adequately addressed by the development.

It is also noted that Council can ensure that the proposed use will not result in unacceptable traffic impacts via the imposition of reasonable and relevant conditions of approval consistent with the application details submitted.

## 2. Kennels

*"Kennels. We have concerns about the future construction of dog kennels should approval be given for this application."*

### RESPONSE

It is considered that this is not a legitimate 'Planning Ground' as the proposed use (subject development application) is for a "Commercial Use (Veterinary Surgery)" and not for a "Kennels" use; which is a separately defined use under the Planning Scheme, and therefore would require a separate development application/approval for this separately defined use. It is noted that the applicant is not applying for a "Kennel" use.

## 3. Effluent

*"Effluent run-off. We have concerns about possible contaminated effluent run-off from the proposed surgery and stables. No provision for effluent holding is listed on the application."*

#### RESPONSE

The site is not within Council's reticulated wastewater service area, and the proposed development will be provided with a compliant on-site waste water disposal system (please find attached recently prepared On-site Effluent Disposal Report). Whether via the existing system or via an upgraded system as determined during the Plumbing and Drainage application processes. It is noted that significant available areas exist on site for the system required.

Further to the above it is also noted that the refuse/waste that will be produced by the proposed use and the proposed methods for its disposal are as outlined below:

- Clinical Waste (Category 1 regulated waste under Environmental Protection Act) – waste will be treated/stored disposed of in accordance with Queensland Government (Department of Environment and Science) guidelines on clinical and related waste (ESR/2015/1571, version 4.00, effective July 19). The applicant/operator will ensure, via commercial arrangement, that Containers/ waste bins are supplied and disposed of by Vetra Health, Specialised medical transport services.
- Deceased animals (Carcasses):
  - Small bodies stored in freezer until pick up required by Vetra Health; and
  - Large livestock (equine) picked up within 24hours by Vetra health (Vetra Health service vehicles are medium size vans, with a medium size crane truck for equine, bovine, etc. collections; OR
  - the Cremation (at clients request) by Pets RIP or Pets in Peace (collected via Small pick-up van for small livestock and a small truck (under 4.5 tonne) for large livestock).
- Recyclable Waste – Cardboard - Anuha recycling; and
- General Waste – Council dual bin service.

Although the submitters' concerns regarding effluent and waste disposal could generally be considered a 'planning ground', it is considered that the applicant has adequately demonstrated that the proposed use will not result in pollution and/or adverse impacts upon adjoining/surrounding uses; and that Council can ensure that this does not occur via the imposition of reasonable and relevant conditions of approval consistent with the application details submitted, and the above.

#### **SUBMISSIONS 2 and 3: John and Pamela Pitman (generally identical)**

##### **4. Inconsistency with Gatton Planning Scheme**

*"The area around the Property is zoned General Rural and is largely used for light grazing. The area along Woodlands Road and surrounding area has historically been larger lifestyle land holdings, 100+ acres. It is impossible to create an income from this poor country from rural activities. Neighbouring residences are brick construction and provide an up-market rural lifestyle which represents significant financial outlay to the residents.*

*The house and out-buildings on the Property are old (100+ years) and conversion and modification of these buildings for veterinary purposes is not suitable. The proposed business lies at the centre of all residences and would create a diminished lifestyle for the residents and decrease the value of other properties. Other properties suitable for a veterinary practice are available in the Lockyer Valley with significantly more groundwater available.*

*The University of Queensland Gatton College provides the largest and most technically suitable equine facility in the southern hemi-sphere. A second facility, particularly with limited water is not warranted."*

#### RESPONSE

UQ Gatton is a referral hospital and admittance is through first opinion veterinarians such as the applicant. The equine component of the applicant's business is about 10% as the applicant is predominately a cow and small ruminant (goat, alpaca) livestock practice. Whilst the equine component is 10% the applicant is still required to provide/maintain equine handling infrastructure to comply with vet surgeons' board (VSB), work place health and safety and insurance requirements in order to safely treat said 10%. There is ample water storage for the proposed use, with the proposed use providing well in excess of that required by the Planning Scheme.

The proposed development is within the SEQ Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area, is an urban activity (not Prohibited Development (Shopping Centre), not a Service Station or Biotechnology industry) and does not result in a

gross floor area of more than 800m<sup>2</sup>, and is not unsuitable for development due to other constraints (e.g. slope, flooding, significant biodiversity values or scenic amenity). Therefore, it satisfies the requirements of the SEQ Regional Plan.

The proposed use was assessed against the Strategic Framework of the Planning Scheme within the Planning Report provided with the application as follows:

- **The Rural General zone provides for agricultural production, other rural activities and the maintenance of the Shire's landscape quality that is important to the overall character of the Shire** - Complies – the proposed use is not in conflict as it will not negatively impact on Good Quality Agricultural Land, the potential use of the site and/or surrounding sites for agricultural/rural uses and will not adversely impact upon the 'Shire's landscape quality – all as demonstrated within the report. Furthermore, the proposed use will provide an ancillary function that will support local agricultural and rural uses and strengthen agricultural/rural uses' economic input and viability within the area;
- **The Potential Bushfire Risk Area Overlay ensures appropriate design of development in potential bushfire prone areas so as to minimise the number of people and properties subject to bushfire risk** - Complies – The development site falls under the Potential Bushfire Risk Overlay and has two Medium Risk areas within the south-west corner of the allotment. These areas, and areas identified on surrounding sites, are significantly separated from the development's location within the site, with existing bushfire mitigation measures remaining in place and also unaffected by the proposed development. The proposed uses location on site is significantly separated from areas identified as Bushfire Risk areas on the subject land and adjoining sites, is located in an already cleared area of the site with significant cleared buffer areas surrounding it, is located in an area that is well maintained (eg. fuel loads minimal due to regular mowing) and in close proximity to a large on-site water storage area. The surrounding area generally consists of lands that have been mostly cleared of significant vegetation. The main building, which is existing, is made of metal and has rooflines that generally comply with the Planning Scheme's requirements. Thus, it is considered that no further regard to the Potential Bushfire Risk Overlay matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements.
- **The Steep and Unstable Land Overlay protects the physical and aesthetic integrity of land with steep slopes, particularly along the escarpment forming the western skyline of the Shire. It also ensure that risks to property and people is minimised** - Complies – The development site falls under the Steep and Unstable Land Overlay and contains identified areas to the south-west of the proposed development's location on site. The proposed use is not located within or within close proximity to the identified areas, utilises existing buildings, requires minimal to no earthworks, will not result in the loss of any vegetation and will compliantly discharge stormwater on site away from these identified areas. Therefore, it is considered that no further regard to the Steep and Unstable Land Overlay matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements.

The proposed use was also assessed against the relevant Desired Environmental Outcomes of the Planning Scheme within the Planning Report provided with the application as follows:

- **Gatton Shire's natural environment is protected, so that biodiversity, ecological processes and air, land and water quality are maintained** - Complies – The development site falls under the Areas of Biodiversity/Ecological Significance Overlay and contains some 'Significant Habitat Areas' within the south-west corner of the allotment. This area is significantly separated from the development's location within the site and will remain unaffected by the proposed development. Noting also that the proposed use does not require or propose the removal/clearing of any vegetation from the subject site. As a result, it is considered that no further regard to Biodiversity/Ecological Significance areas and matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements.
- **The disposal of wastes is effectively and sustainably managed** - Complies – refuse/waste that will be produced by the proposed use and the proposed methods for its disposal are as outlined below:
  - Clinical Waste (Category 1 regulated waste under Environmental Protection Act) – waste will be treated/stored/disposed of in accordance with Queensland Government (Department of Environment and Science) guidelines on clinical and related waste (ESR/2015/1571, version 4.00, effective July 19). The applicant/operator will ensure, via commercial arrangement, that Containers/ waste bins are supplied and disposed of by Vetra Health, Specialised medical transport services.
  - Deceased animals (Carcasses):
    - Small bodies stored in freezer until pick up required by Vetra Health; and

- Large livestock (equine) picked up within 24 hours by Vetra health (Vetra Health service vehicles are medium size vans, with a medium size crane truck for equine, bovine, etc. collections; OR
  - the Cremation (at clients request) by Pets RIP or Pets in Peace (collected via Small pick-up van for small livestock and a small truck (under 4.5 tonne) for large livestock).
- Recyclable Waste – Cardboard - Anuha recycling; and
- General Waste – Council dual bin service.
- **Sustainable land management practices are promoted** - Complies – The development site falls under the Good Quality Agricultural Land Overlay and has some Class B – Limited Crop Area within the south-west corner of the allotment. This area is far from the development within the site and will remain unaffected by the proposed development. Furthermore, the proposed use will utilise existing buildings and infrastructure, provides a support service to the rural uses within the area and will not result in a conflict with surrounding rural/agricultural uses. As a result, it is considered that no further regard to the Good Quality Agricultural Land Overlay matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements. The development site falls under the Areas of Biodiversity/Ecological Significance Overlay and contains some 'Significant Habitat Areas' within the south-west corner of the allotment. This area is significantly separated from the development's location within the site and will remain unaffected by the proposed development. Noting also that the proposed use does not require or propose the removal/clearing of any vegetation from the subject site. As a result, it is considered that no further regard to Biodiversity/Ecological Significance areas and matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements.
- **Places, areas or sites identified as being susceptible to land degradation, including erosion, landslide and contamination are protected and further degradation minimised** - Complies – The nature of the development requires little in the way of earthworks, and all reasonable attempts have been made to reduce the extent of required/proposed earthworks, assuring the development's minimal/negligible earthworks will not exceed Planning Scheme requirements. As such earthworks for the proposed use will not result in negative visual amenity impacts on the streetscape or create privacy or overshadowing impacts on adjoining uses. Accordingly, it is considered that no further regard is required to earthworks in the assessment of the application and/or the conditioning of the approval – apart from the inclusion of standard conditions of approval. The development site falls under the Steep and Unstable Land Overlay and contains identified areas to the south-west of the proposed development's location on site. The proposed use is not located within or within close proximity to the identified areas, utilises existing buildings, requires minimal to no earthworks, will not result in the loss of any vegetation and will compliantly discharge stormwater on site away from these identified areas. Therefore, it is considered that no further regard to the Steep and Unstable Land Overlay matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements.
- **The rural character, significant natural features, cultural heritage and landscape values of the Shire are protected and enhanced** – Complies – The proposed development will have a bulk, scale and form consistent with the existing and surrounding uses, particularly given that the proposed buildings are existing and additions are minor and in keeping with the existing built form, bulk, scale and character of the existing and surrounding sites. The overall development will not have an adverse impact upon the streetscape and its visual impact on the surrounding locality will be minimal to nil. The proposed design avoids excessive sealed areas and provides significant articulation and fenestration. It is considered that the proposed design is of a high standard and will positively contribute to the visual amenity and character of the streetscape and surrounding locality. The proposed heights ensure the use's built form is in keeping with the site and surrounding uses' character and assists in minimising the overall bulk and scale of the proposed use. The proposed minimal and consistent heights ensure that potential adverse amenity impacts (eg. overshadowing and overlooking) are adequately mitigated; and that the proposed use does not negatively impact upon the character and amenity of the locality. The buildings are set back from all boundary lines a minimum of 50 metres, which greatly exceeds the Planning Scheme's requirements of 20 metres to front boundary line and 10 metres to side boundary lines. The proposed use's significant setbacks further assist in reducing the overall bulk and scale of the development, as does the setbacks' allowance for the retention of significant areas of landscaping between the use's built form and public places and surrounding uses. Significant areas are available for landscaping throughout the site and within the frontage and setbacks areas. Existing trees and vegetation within the road reserve and within the subject land will be unaffected by the proposed use. The proposed development is for a relatively low intensity commercial use that involves some loading and unloading of livestock. It is situated upon a large allotment within the Rural General Zone and is separated a significant distance from surrounding uses so that acoustic amenity impacts will be adequately mitigated. Furthermore, the proposed uses hours of operation and existing ambient noise levels in the area ensure that adverse acoustic impacts will not occur. The proposed development is unlikely to generate adverse additional

or significant impacts to the existing acoustic amenity of the area and it is not expected to significantly impact upon or exceed desired acoustic/noise levels. The proposed development is for a relatively low intensity commercial use and is unlikely to produce any air emissions/pollutants, due to the nature of the proposed use, proposed waste disposal methods, and the use of bitumen sealed access and driveways to ensure mitigation of dust from vehicle movements. The proposed development is for a relatively low intensity commercial use that will operate during daylight hours and is unlikely to produce any notable lighting impacts or issues for adjoining or adjacent uses.

- ***The town of Gatton retains its role as the primary centre in the Shire for retail services, employment opportunities and higher order community services and facilities, with Helidon, Withcott and Grantham serving as secondary centres*** - Complies – The proposed use, located in close proximity to its customer base, will assist in the achievement of the Planning Scheme's intent and overall outcomes by providing an essential ancillary function to support agricultural production and rural activities in the 'shire'; without compromising the viability of centres due to the proposed use's relatively minor scale. Furthermore, it is considered that the proposed use would not be suitable for location within an urban centre due to the nature of its use (large animals being delivered to and collected from the use).
- ***Planning and design takes into account the potential adverse effects from natural hazards such as bushfire, landslip or flooding*** - Complies – The development site falls under the Potential Bushfire Risk Overlay and has two Medium Risk areas within the south-west corner of the allotment. These areas, and areas identified on surrounding sites, are significantly separated from the development's location within the site, with existing bushfire mitigation measures remaining in place and also unaffected by the proposed development. The proposed uses location on site is significantly separated from areas identified as Bushfire Risk areas on the subject land and adjoining sites, is located in an already cleared area of the site with significant cleared buffer areas surrounding it, is located in an area that is well maintained (eg. fuel loads minimal due to regular mowing) and in close proximity to a large on-site water storage area. The surrounding area generally consists of lands that have been mostly cleared of significant vegetation. The main building, which is existing, is made of metal and has rooflines that generally comply with the Planning Scheme's requirements. Thus, it is considered that no further regard to the Potential Bushfire Risk Overlay matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements. The development site falls under the Steep and Unstable Land Overlay and contains identified areas to the south-west of the proposed development's location on site. The proposed use is not located within or within close proximity to the identified areas, utilises existing buildings, requires minimal to no earthworks, will not result in the loss of any vegetation and will compliantly discharge stormwater on site away from these identified areas. Therefore, it is considered that no further regard to the Steep and Unstable Land Overlay matters is required in the assessment or conditioning of the proposed use; and the proposed use achieves compliance with the Planning Scheme's requirements. The proposed development is covered by the Flood Hazard Overlay with overland flow paths existing within the site. However, these areas are not in close proximity to the developments location on site and thus the proposed use will not be affected by, nor will it affect these overland flow path areas; and the proposed use is not considered to be flood prone and/or likely to affect flood risk/hazard for the site and/or surrounding uses.
- ***Convenient and efficient access to services, facilities and employment opportunities is promoted*** - Complies – the proposed use will provide convenient and efficient access (located in close proximity and away from hazards inherent to urban areas) to a service that will support local agricultural and rural uses within the area.
- ***Gatton Shire's areas or places of cultural heritage significance such as those of indigenous cultural significance, or aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social or technological significant, to the present generation of future generations are managed and their ongoing significance for the community is maintained or enhanced*** – Complies – site is not identified as a place of cultural heritage significance.
- ***A strong and diverse economic base is promoted that builds upon the Shire's established rural strengths, its natural resources, its landscape character, and its location on strategic transport routes; and provides a broad range of employment opportunities*** - Complies – The proposed use, located in close proximity to its customer base, will assist in the achievement of the Planning Scheme's intent and overall outcomes by providing an essential ancillary function to support agricultural production and rural activities in the 'shire'; without compromising the viability of centres due to the proposed use's relatively minor scale. Furthermore, the proposed use's provision of a convenient and efficiently accessible ancillary and essential service will better support local agricultural and rural uses and strengthen agricultural/rural uses' economic input and viability within the area.
- ***Development is encouraged to have regard to the function and effects of existing infrastructure*** - Complies – The existing residential Dwelling House use is connected to the electricity grid and telecommunications, with water supply from on-site rainwater harvesting and storage and effluent disposed



of via on-site effluent disposal system. Stormwater is dealt with via on-site discharge. The proposed use can and will also be provided with the same services. It is considered that the approval can be appropriately conditioned to comply with the Planning Scheme's infrastructure requirements.

The proposed use was also assessed against the Purpose and Intent of the Rural General Zone Code of the Planning Scheme within the Planning Report provided with the application as follows:

- **The overall outcomes sought for the Rural General zone are the following:**
  - **The zone is to provide for agricultural production, other rural activities and the maintenance of the Shire's landscape quality that is important to the overall character of the Shire**  
Complies - The proposed use, located in close proximity to its customer base, will assist in the achievement of the Planning Scheme's intent and overall outcomes by providing an essential ancillary function to support agricultural production and rural activities in the 'shire'; without compromising the viability of centres due to the proposed use's relatively minor scale. Furthermore, the proposed use's provision of a convenient and efficiently accessible ancillary and essential service will better support local agricultural and rural uses and strengthen agricultural/rural uses' economic input and viability within the area. Thus ensuring that the overall outcome for the zone is achieved and the proposed use is not in conflict with it.
  - **Closer settlement, particularly urban and rural residential development, is not consistent with the zone, in accordance with the SEQ Regional Plan.**  
Complies - The proposed use will not increase residential densities or effect settlement patterns. The proposed development is within the SEQ Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area, is an urban activity (not Prohibited Development (Shopping Centre), not a Service Station or Biotechnology industry) and does not result in a gross floor area of more than 800m<sup>2</sup>, and is not unsuitable for development due to other constraints (e.g. slope, flooding, significant biodiversity values or scenic amenity). Therefore, it satisfies the requirements of the SEQ Regional Plan.

It is considered that the proposed use generally complies with the Planning Scheme and will not result in a conflict; and any perceived conflict would be offset by the 'community benefit' achieved by having an essential ancillary rural service in a closer, and more readily accessible location (use in urban areas would be difficult to access and pose a risk – larger animals in urban areas) to the end users (rural activities that rely on such a service).

#### 5. Traffic - Increased Traffic and Type of Traffic

1. "Generally: Woodlands Road has become a common road to travel from Gatton to Ropeley, Forest Hill and Laidley and currently has a speed limit of 90km/hr. The road is very busy during mornings and afternoons. Historically there have been many accidents on this road. Also, due to previous Federal Government "black spot" funding attained by the Lockyer Valley Regional Council (Council), the corner on Woodlands Road near the Property has been subject to significant road works. If the Development Approval is successful, the increased traffic on Woodlands Road is likely to exacerbate the number of accidents.



2. *School Bus Stop:* The school bus stop is located immediately across from the Property. Accordingly, school children, both primary and high school aged, walk on and around the road near the Property. Increased traffic caused by the new use of the Property (New Use) poses higher risks for students, particularly due to the uncertainty of traffic movements with cars travelling at both high and low speeds, changing directions and overtaking.

**NOTE:**

The applicant's children catch the bus to and from school and the bus picks them up and drops them off at the bus stop; which is located on the Eastern side of the Manteuffel Road intersection, and is not located immediately across from the subject site. The applicant themselves has no concerns about their children's future safety in using the bus stop. It is also noted that the applicant's children are the only children dropped off and picked up by the school bus at this bus stop.

3. *Access:* As numerous residences enter Woodlands Road at the same point (699, 711, 714 and 720), increased traffic due to the New Use will increase congestion.

4. *Horse Floats/Trucks:* Traffic caused by the New Use will include an increased amount of trucks and horse floats to enter the Property during the day and the night. Woodlands Road has minimal streetlighting and large, slow-moving vehicles turning into a steep driveway increases the risk of accidents.

*Recommendation:* The speed limit on Woodlands Road should be decreased from 90km/hr to 60km/hr covering 400m in both directions from the Property and a section of Manteuffel Road leading up to Woodlands Road. Large red "REDUCE SPEED" signs should be placed in both directions on the approach to the Property.

5. *Woodlands Road/Manteuffel Road intersection:* The intersection at Woodlands Road and Manteuffel Road is very narrow. I am aware Council has had frequent requests to enlarge and re-engineer the shoulders but Council has indicated it has no funding for these works. Council is required to frequently repair the corner but damage to the road is increasing. The Development Approval at the Property would result in heavy vehicles, such as floats and trucks, using this corner more frequently, increasing the damage to the road.

Also, there have been many vehicle accidents on the corner with cars involved in roll-overs into the neighbouring paddock and motorcycle riders losing control on loose gravel. The risk of the New Use is that animals may also be harmed in such accidents.

*Recommendation:* The corner of Woodlands and Manteuffel Roads should be re-engineered and re-surfaced to allow for larger vehicles and greater volume of traffic.

**RESPONSE**

As highlighted by the submitters above it is noted that significant roadworks have been carried out to the section of road of concern to them. As these works have occurred, in compliance with Federal Black Spot road funding, it is considered that this section of road is safe for its lawful use and the proposed use will not notably increase traffic volumes and certainly not above that if the site were to be used for a consistent 'Rural Zone use'.

It is also noted that the picture above, provided by the submitters and purported to be an example of a traffic accident in front of the subject site was actually the result of illegal activities by the driver (high speed pursuit by Police) and the use of 'tyre spikes' ('Stingers') by the Queensland Police Force to stop the vehicle, which would not obey lawful directions from the police to stop/pullover. This image is misleading and is not a picture of a traffic accident. See below as reproduced from the Noosa News website.

*"Police have charged a 32-year-old man following investigations into an alleged dangerous driving incident that occurred in Gatton this morning.*

*At around 9.42am Ipswich District police were advised that an alleged stolen silver utility was travelling into the Esk area.*

*After a failed attempt to stop the vehicle with stingers on the Brisbane Valley Highway, near the Coominya turn-off, the vehicle continued into the Gatton and Blenheim area.*

*Police from Gatton were in pursuit with the vehicle, when it crashed on Woodlands Road near the intersection of Manteuffel Street.*

*It was then that the male driver allegedly ran from the scene, with a police officer giving chase.*



*After a foot pursuit through the yards of rural properties, the officer caught the offender who allegedly attempted to remove the officer's service firearm from the holster. It was at this stage, the officer deployed OC spray".*  
<https://www.noosanews.com.au/news/man-charged-after-gatton-car-chase/2245396/>

The proposed use is primarily for a Mobile Livestock Service to operate 7 days a week (only offsite services operate 7 days a week). The proposed service is predominantly off-site with operations expected to be 80% off-site and 20% on-site. Maximum staff number are 2.5 (max.) vets based from the site – 2 vets working 4 days per week with one (1) overlapping day – third (Part-time) Vet required for holiday/sick leave coverage and additional support when required; and 2 – 3 (max.) support staff – veterinary nurses/admin. It is also noted that animals requiring attendance at the site would typically only be for surgery for more challenging procedures only and for pre-booked appointments only. No retail services will be offered from site and a sign will be placed on a locked electric gate (to be installed at property boundary) to identify business and advise that the visitation/use of on-site services is by appointment only. Surgery (Appointment/Drop-Off) hours:

- Monday to Friday – 8am to 4.30pm
- Saturday – 8am to 12pm
- Sunday – Closed

It is expected that use of the site for surgery is likely to only occur one to two days a week.

A formal Traffic Impact Statement (TIS) was prepared for, and supported the development so as to adequately address Council's concerns raised about the access to the site in the applicant's Prelodgement Meeting. The TIS was attached to the application and it demonstrated that the existing access, its location, its construction (including dimensions and location) and sight distances are acceptable for the proposed use and the traffic that will be generated by the proposed use; and that the proposed use will not have any adverse traffic or safety impacts upon the road network.

The TIS was prepared by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ).

A more detailed and extensive Traffic Impact Assessment has not been prepared as it is considered that the intensity of the proposed use, driveway standards, on-site car parking requirements and provision and the standard of construction of Woodlands Road does not warrant this.

Further to the above it is noted that the proposed use would not result in traffic numbers/types greater than that of a 'Rural uses' consistent with the Zone intent (that could be established on-site without Planning Approval), is provided with a larger road shoulder widths adjacent to the vehicle entry point and is provided with an extensive 'queuing' area between the pavement edge and the front boundary line (approx. 10 metres).

Although the submitters' concerns regarding traffic safety could generally be considered a 'planning ground', it is considered that the applicant has adequately demonstrated that the proposed use will not result in a notable increase in traffic, will not increase traffic hazards/dangers and will ensure that traffic safety is adequately addressed by the development.

It is also noted that Council can ensure that the proposed use will not result in increased/unacceptable traffic impacts via the imposition of reasonable and relevant conditions of approval consistent with the application details submitted.

*6. Equine Traffic: Horse riders often ride along Woodlands Road and Manteuffel Roads, which have many hill crests, corners and narrow sections of road. The establishment of an equine veterinary clinic in the area will result in an increase in equine traffic.*

*Recently, while returning to my residence from Gatton I travelled over the crest of a steep hill outside my property to be confronted by a female rider and two untethered dogs. The dogs attacked/chased my vehicle at which point I had to swerve onto the wrong side of the road to avoid collision. The rider could only just control the horse. I understand the rider was the Applicant.*

*Many horse riders use the Gatton National Park (previously Woodlands State Forest) for recreational purposes. The New Use may increase riders illegally using the national park."*



*Recommendation: Council, in conjunction with the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing where applicable, should erect:*

- (a) "No Entry" signs for horse riders at the entrance to the National Park;*
- (b) "Beware of Horses / Riders" or "No Riding" signs along Woodlands and Manteuffel Roads.*

#### **RESPONSE**

Sick or injured horses that need to visit the site would only need to visit the site for more complex medical procedures/surgery, and thus, would not be transported to the site by riding them or walking them to or from the site.

It is also noted that the applicant has advised that they are not the person riding the horse in the photograph provided and the dogs are also not their dogs. However, the applicant too is concerned about the unrestrained dogs.

This is obviously not a legitimate planning ground, as per the above; and also, as there is no nexus between the proposed use and the National Park or the proposed use and the use of local roads by horses. Something that is a common occurrence in rural areas.

The submitters' recommendations are not relevant to the application and their implementation, via conditioning of the approval, would not constitute lawful conditioning of the approval (not a reasonable or relevant imposition on the use).

#### **6. Environmental Impacts**

##### *"Road Reserve Maintenance*

*7. Mowing/Road Maintenance: The road reserve adjacent to 699, 711, 714, 720 Woodlands Road and Manteuffel Road is currently well mowed, neat and tidy. By mowing the vegetation, the corner has become safer. I currently mow and remove brush at my cost with Council's consent. If the Development Application is approved, I will be unable to continue this service due to increased motor vehicle, pedestrian and horse traffic, in turn, increasing potential risk and liability. Accordingly, the corner will become over-grown and less safe.*

*Recommendation: Council should include and enforce a development condition for the Applicant to pay \$200/week for Council to maintain the road reserve to a similar high standard."*

#### RESPONSE

As already discussed there will be no additional horse or pedestrian traffic and the increase in vehicular traffic would be relatively minimal, particularly given existing traffic volumes, as acknowledged by the submitters; and the fact that the section of road has been adequately upgraded as part of the Federally funded "Black Spot Program" (as also acknowledged by the submitters) would mean that there would be no reduction in safety on the road.

Although traffic safety concerns can be a legitimate planning ground, this is obviously not a legitimate planning ground, as per the above; and also, as there is no nexus between the proposed use and the need or desire to maintain the road reserve. Something that is a common occurrence in rural areas.

The submitters' recommendations are not relevant to the application and their implementation, via conditioning of the approval, would not constitute lawful conditioning of the approval (not a reasonable or relevant imposition on the use).

#### *"Litter and Waste Management"*

8. *Litter: I currently collect and dispose of the litter and attend to illegal dumping along Woodlands Road which, unfortunately, has included animal "body bags" containing dead animals. The area generally looks very presentable. Increased activity will result in increased littering and illegal dumping.*

9. *Illegal Dumping: The illegal dumping of industrial waste often occurs along Woodlands Road which is expected to increase with increased traffic to and from a commercial premises.*

*Recommendation: Council should:*

- (a) control littering by installing cameras and highly visible and reflective "Do Not Litter" signs along Woodlands Road; and*
- (b) include and enforce a development condition that the Applicant make a \$2,000 payment to implement measures to limit littering.*

10. *Waste Management: Litter from the property is currently escaping from the Property and blowing into neighbouring properties.*

*Recommendation: Council should include and enforce a development condition for waste management and securing of waste and litter from the Property. A dedicated wind/weather proof waste management building to be constructed."*

#### RESPONSE

As already discussed there will be no additional horse or pedestrian traffic and the increase in vehicular traffic would be relatively minimal, particularly given existing traffic volumes.

Increases in litter from commercial uses in a locality are typically only found around food and drink outlets and some retail uses – particularly those that attract clientele that would consume their purchases in close proximity to the site. The proposed use in no way could be characterized in this manner and the submitters' arguments are somewhat puzzling. As noted by the submitters dead animals and litter have been dumped in the area without the existence of the proposed use and without the existence of a commercial use in the local area. In fact one of the photographs supplied by the submitters shows the rubbish being addressed to a commercial premises in Toowoomba.

Although refuse and waste generation can be a legitimate planning ground, in this instance it is not and certainly can be adequately addressed by the proposed use as proposed; and Council can ensure compliance via the imposition of reasonable and relevant conditions of approval.

As for the submitters' claims that refuse is already 'escaping' from the subject site. There is also no way that the submitters can accurately determine the source of refuse in the area. Particularly given the pictures provided, one showing unaddressed litter and the other showing litter addressed to a commercial use in Toowoomba.

The submitters' recommendations are not relevant to the application and their implementation, via conditioning of the approval, would not constitute lawful conditioning of the approval (not a reasonable or relevant imposition on the use).

Appropriate refuse containers (with functioning/appropriate lids) will ensure waste is contained on site and the recommendation for a separate building is unnecessary and excessive; and would not be considered a reasonable and relevant condition.

*"Animals*

11. & 12. *Feral Animals: Feral animals such as pigs and dingoes are a significant problem in the Woodlands Road area. On a recent inspection for Giant Rat's Tail Grass on 699 Woodlands Road, Council's officer was extremely concerned with the scrub at the Property and the associated "pig tunnels" through the dense lantana. The New Use will increase animal activity, blood and animal carcasses which will increase feral animal activity.*

*Recommendation: A pest animal control measure should be established for the Property. The lantana to the west of the Property should be cleared and maintained to limit habitation by feral animals.*

**RESPONSE**

The imposition of conditions of approval ensuring the management of waste on site as proposed by the applicant would ensure that pest issues are adequately mitigated. For example the provision and use of appropriate refuse containers (with functioning/appropriate lids) will ensure waste is contained on site and that pests cannot access the waste.

Otherwise there is no nexus between the existence of feral pests on the subject land or on adjoining sites. The imposition of conditions requiring the clearing of vegetation or a pest control program would not be a reasonable or relevant imposition on the proposed use.

This matter is a matter for Council under its local laws and the State government under relevant legislation and not the Planning Scheme and/or the proposed use – other than the provision of appropriate waste storage containers and waste storage and collection procedures.

*"Ground Collapse*

14. *Dangerous Water Wells: At least one collapsed water well exists on the Property located close to the proposed buildings. The crater is wide and deep, unfenced and uncovered, and poses significant danger to people and animals.*

*Recommendations: The water well to be back filled and other possible wells be identified and filled as required*

**RESPONSE**

An inspection of the site between the proposed Veterinary Surgery building (shed) and the front boundary revealed that there are no such dangers in close proximity to the proposed use and associated ancillary areas (eg. car parking) and buildings; and therefore, even if such things were to exist on the subject land, they do not pose a danger to the proposed use, its staff or its clientele; and therefore, there is no nexus between the proposed use and this issue. It is considered that this scenario only exists on site some 400 metres away from the development area.

**7. Impact on Residential Amenity and Character**

*"Animals*

15. *Animal carcass storage/disposal: Based on the proposed plan, animal carcass storage and disposal is located at the front of the building. This is unsightly and detracts from the ambiance of the neighbourhood.*

*Recommendation: Amend the plans to require rear doors on the shed for animal carcass storage away from the front on the building with loading at the rear.*

**RESPONSE**

Proposed refuse/waste storage areas are within the building and behind the building and therefore will not be visible from the street and/or adjoining uses. It is also noted that these areas are located more than 100 metres from the road and or any adjoining use.

*"Fencing*

*External Fencing: The external fencing of the Property is in poor/average condition. In recent months cattle escaped from the Property to Woodlands Road creating a danger to traffic.*

*Recommendation: Council should impose and enforce a development condition to ensure external fencing Woodlands and Manteuffel Roads is sufficient to contain large animals.*

**RESPONSE**

Animals for the proposed use will be housed within the secure building (and small outdoor fenced enclosure); and therefore there is no nexus between the proposed use and the boundary fencing of the subject land.

Hospitalized animals will be contained in the building and they will have 'toilet time' in a fenced designated area (as per VSB requirements) during daylight hours. The application could be conditioned to provide amended plans showing this areas' location and proposed fencing and requiring said fencing to be constructed and maintained at all times.

*17. Privacy: The north-western boundary of the Property adjoining my property is open with limited vegetation and privacy screening. A chicken yard has recently been built adjacent to the boundary between the Property and my property. The "structure" is made from recycled materials and "patchwork" recycled corrugated iron. This building could have been built on the southern side of the proposed vet surgery improving the aesthetics of the area and reducing noise from a "vocal" rooster. I was not consulted when this structure was built.*

*Recommendation: The chicken coup to be removed and a line of trees (such as Moreton Bay Figs) should be planted along the boundary as a privacy screen and to reduce noise and dust.*

**RESPONSE**

The existing Chicken Coup is an ancillary component of the existing Dwelling House use and if there are any issues with this then this must be dealt with in relation to the Dwelling House use and under the Council's Local Laws.

The proposed use does not include the use of the existing or any other Chicken Coup as noted by the Planning Report and proposal plans.

The proposed use involves the use of existing buildings and sealed areas and is provided with separation distances well in excess of that required by the Planning Scheme. This, combined with the topography of the site and existing vegetation, will ensure that no additional impacts and no adverse visual and/or privacy impacts would occur as a result of the proposed use.

*Noise*

*Traffic: The increased traffic as a result of the New Use (described above) will increase noise during the day and night which will disturb me and my sleep.*

*Animal noise: The increased noise from animals both generally and those animals that may be housed above and in the paddocks, both during the day and at night, will disturb me and my sleep.*

**RESPONSE**

As already discussed there will be no additional horse or pedestrian traffic and the increase in vehicular traffic would be relatively minimal, particularly given existing traffic volumes, as acknowledged by the submitters. Therefore, they are also highlighting an existing ambient noise level unlikely to be affected/increased by the proposed use and its limited traffic. It is also noted that the hours of operation would also ensure that noise amenity is not adversely affected by the approval of the proposed use.

The animals would be kept in the shed/building and only outside for 'toilet time' ; and the animals' housing in an enclosed building, combined with the type and small number of animals (cattle and horses – in very small numbers – 2 max), the



existence of the same animals on the subject site and adjoining properties (cattle kept on the submitters' site) that aren't kept in enclosures at night (and aren't associated with the proposed use), and the significant separation distances of the proposed surgery building from the surrounding uses means that both daytime and nighttime ambient noise levels are highly unlikely to be exceeded/increased at nearby sensitive receptors.

Hospitalized animals will be contained in the building and they will have toilet time in a fenced designated area (as per VSB requirements) during daylight hours.

Although noise concerns can be a legitimate planning ground it is considered that the applicant has adequately addressed this potential issue and that Council can ensure that adverse noise impacts can be avoided via the imposition of 'general' reasonable and relevant conditions (eg. noise levels from use must not exceed certain level at nearest sensitive receptor, approved hours of operation etc.).

*"Other Structures*

*Historic School Building: The building referred to as the "ex-cottage" in the proposed plan has significant historical significance to Woodlands and the Lockyer Valley. This building is the original Woodlands State School. Members of community would remember the previous building which was moved to the Blenheim School. The "ex-cottage" pre-dates this second building.*

*Recommendation: No further alterations be permitted to the school building and a sign be placed on the building indicating the historical significance.*

**RESPONSE**

The subject building is not heritage listed and is not identified by the Planning Scheme as a historically/culturally significant building/place. The extension is minor, is generally in keeping with the existing architectural form and would be likely to occur even if the proposed use was not to occur (for the existing Annexed Unit use).

This is not a legitimate Planning Ground.

**Conclusion**

It is considered that the applicant has now adequately responded to all of the issues raised by the submissions received by Council and has demonstrated that the proposed use complies with the Planning Scheme and will not result in any adverse impacts; and that Council can ensure that this occurs via the imposition of reasonable and relevant conditions of approval consistent with the details provided with the application and/or herein.

It is trusted that the information provided in this response is considered sufficient, and it is requested that Council issue its Decision Notice (Approval) as soon as possible, as per the proposal/application submitted to Council. If Council does not agree to any of the responses provided herein, it is respectfully requested that Council advises us in writing (email is sufficient) as soon as possible. If any additional information is required, or if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0439 373 414 or by email at [andrew@alphaplanning.com.au](mailto:andrew@alphaplanning.com.au).

Yours faithfully



**Andrew Hill**  
**Managing Director**

  
**Urban and Regional Planning and Development Consultants**

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – On-site Effluent Disposal Report

# **Attachment A**

## **On-site Effluent Disposal**

### **Report**



Designer: Shane Parchert  
Phone: 0422207488  
Email: valleywastewater@gmail.com  
Drainer License No: 28606  
QBCC Licence No: 1205962

### ON-SITE SEWERAGE DESIGN/REPORT

Local Authority: **Lockyer Valley Regional Council**

Prepared for: **B. Bayly**

Property Location: **711 Woodlands Road,  
Woodlands**

Treatment: **Advanced Secondary (Disinfected)**

Brand: **SuperTreat**      Model: **IT-AST**      TPA No: **02/2019**

LAA Size: **(AS/NZS 1547:2012)**

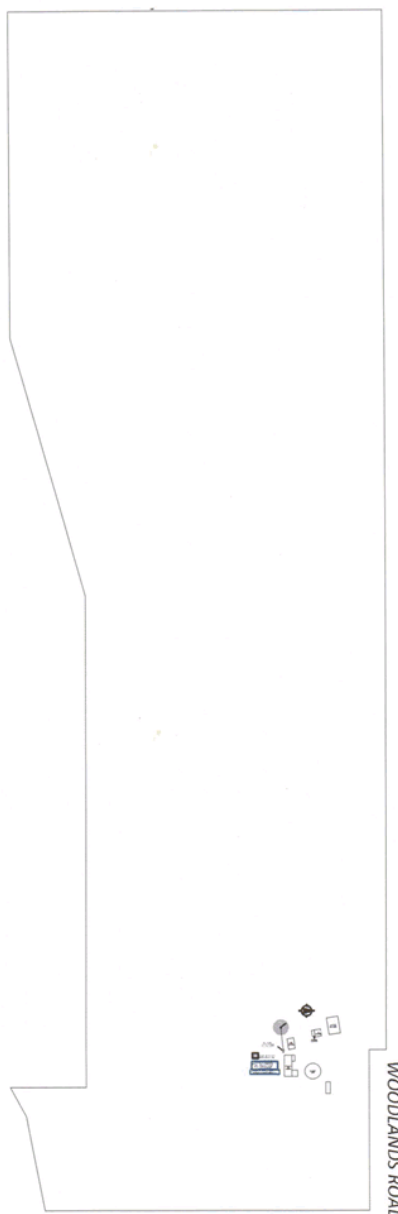

Bore Log: **DIR 3**      Staff: **4 People**

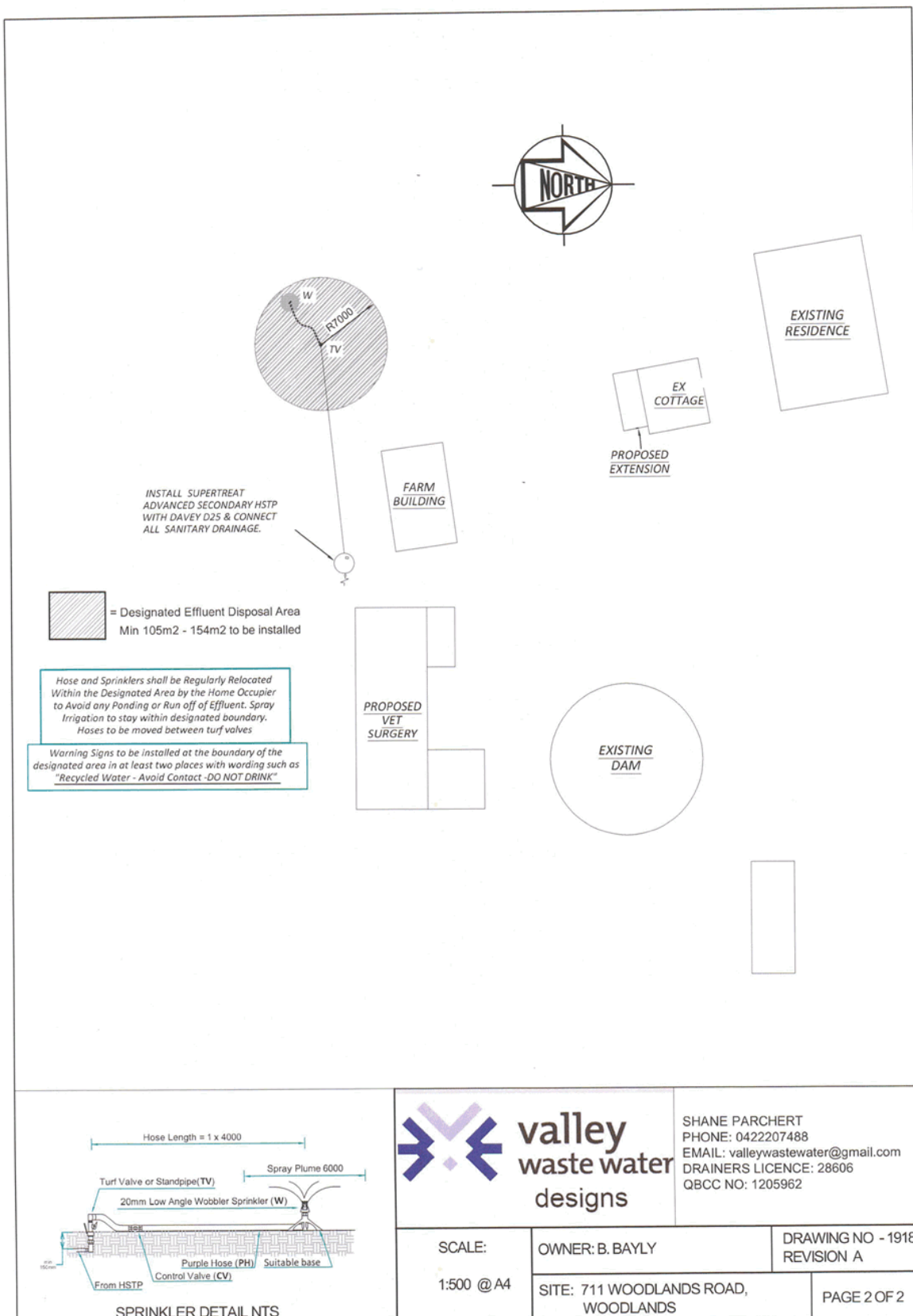
Area Size Calculations: **50L x 4 people**  
**200L washdown week ÷ 7 = 29L**  
**50L + 29L = 79L**  
**79L x 4 ÷ DIR 3**  
**= 105m<sup>2</sup>**

Land Application Area Type: **Surface Irrigation Over Grass**

Date: **November 23, 2019**



 <p style="text-align: center;">MANTEUFFEL ROAD</p> <p style="text-align: right;">WOODLANDS ROAD</p>			
<p><b>NOTES:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Install an approved Advanced Secondary Quality Producing Household Sewerage Treatment Plant (HSTP) with disinfection. The position is indicative only but shall be located a minimum 4 metres from all footings and 6m from in ground rainwater tanks. Some installations require riser rings.</li> <li>2. The Land Application Area (LAA) shall be no closer than 2m from dwellings or retaining wall, 2m from all boundaries, and 10m from watercourse, dam or bore.</li> <li>3. Surface waters shall be directed away from the installed HSTP and the effluent disposal area.</li> <li>4. Two Warning signs shall be posted at each disposal area.</li> <li>5. The drainage layout &amp; HSTP location is to be determined on site by the licensed Plumber/Drainer in consultation with the builder and owner.</li> <li>6. The owner is responsible for maintaining the HSTP and disposal area at intervals not exceeding those set out by The Department of Infrastructure and Planning. The owner shall ensure even distribution of the effluent within the dedicated area, the area shall not be relocated without Council approval.</li> </ol>	 <p><b>valley waste water designs</b></p>		<p>SHANE PARCHERT PHONE: 0422207488 EMAIL: valleywastewater@gmail.com DRAINERS LICENCE: 28606 QBCC NO: 1205962</p>
	<p>SCALE:</p> <p>1:6000 @ A4</p>	<p>OWNER: B. BAYLY</p> <p>SITE: 711 WOODLANDS ROAD WOODLANDS</p>	<p>DRAWING NO - 1918 REVISION A</p> <p>PAGE 1 OF 2</p>



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**12.2 Road Naming Request - Scott Place Kensington Grove - Fairways East (Stages 1-5)**

**Date:** 07 February 2020  
**Author:** Tammie Davidson, Development Support Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** David Lewis, Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity

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**Summary:**

This report seeks Council's approval to name 5 new roads within the rural residential subdivision located at Scott Place, Kensington Grove (Fairways East Stages 1-5).

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**THAT Council approve the following road names as shown on details plan BRRM7289-000-108-1 dated 3 February 2020:**

- Road 1 as Sundew Crescent
- Road 2 as Parkdale Place
- Road 3 as Camberwell Crescent
- Road 4 as Cardomon Court
- Road 5 as Berkley Close

**RESOLUTION**

**THAT Council approve the following road names as shown on details plan BRRM7289-000-108-1 dated 3 February 2020:**

- Road 1 as Sundew Crescent
- Road 2 as Parkdale Place
- Road 3 as Camberwell Crescent
- Road 4 as Cardomon Court
- Road 5 as Berkley Close

**Moved By:** Cr Vela **Seconded By:** Cr Holstein  
**Resolution Number: 16-20/1667**

**CARRIED**  
**7/0**

**Report**

**1. Introduction**

The report refers to a request made by LandPartners on behalf of the developer of a rural residential subdivision located at Scott Place, Kensington Grove.

**2. Background**

Council is responsible for assigning an official name to every gazetted road that is used to access properties. Council accepts requests from the public to name roads. All requests are considered in accordance with Council's Naming of Roads, Park, Landmarks & Facilities Policy and ASNZ Standard 4819:201.

### 3. Report

The request to name 5 new roads was received on 3 February 2020. The applicant is requesting on behalf of the developers to name the 5 new roads. The applicant has provided three preferences to name each proposed road. The applicant has not followed a theme and has provided preferences that are pleasant sounding and easy to spell.

<b>Proposed Road 1</b>	
1. <b>Sundew Crescent</b>	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
2. Lyndhurst Crescent	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
3. Avondale Crescent	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
<b>Proposed Road 2</b>	
1. <b>Parkdale Place</b>	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
2. Beresford Place	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
3. Trinity Place	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
<b>Proposed Road 3</b>	
1. <b>Camberwell Crescent</b>	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
2. Lonsdale Crescent	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
3. Sandford Crescent	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
<b>Proposed Road 4</b>	
1. <b>Cardomon Court</b>	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
2. Dewhurst Court	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
3. Fairmead Court	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
<b>Proposed Road 5</b>	
1. <b>Berkley Close</b>	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
2. Kingfield Close	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley
3. Roxbury Close	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley

A search of roads and streets within the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area has confirmed that the preferences are not pre-existing and where they are similar or existing, this is noted.

### 4. Policy and Legal Implications

The suggested names provide a clear identification for the roads and do not contravene the Australian standard. Where there is a conflict with Council's Naming of Roads, Park, Landmarks & Facilities Policy, alternate name preferences will be utilised.

### 5. Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of this decision.

### 6. Delegations/Authorisations

No further delegations are required to manage the issues raised in this report.

**7. Communication and Engagement**

Council will notify the applicant of the outcome of their request for road naming.

**8. Conclusion**

Council officers have assessed the request for naming and conclude that the suggested names are in keeping with the policy pertaining to road naming within the Lockyer Valley Regional Council.

**9. Action/s**

1. The applicant will be notified of the outcome of their request.
2. Council's records will be updated to reflect the approved names.

**Attachments**

- 1 [↓](#) Road Name Application of Fairways East - Stages 1-5 on Lot 850 on SP297470 1 Page



**Date:** 11 February 2020  
**Author:** Tammie Davidson, Development Support Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** David Lewis, Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity

This report seeks Council's approval to name Unnamed Road 7 (Road No. 4079) located off Meadows Road Withcott.

**THAT Council approve to name Unnamed Road 7 (Road No. 4079), Withcott:**

- **Honan Street**

**THAT Council approve to name Unnamed Road 7 (Road No. 4079), Withcott:**

- **Honan Street**

**Moved By:** Cr Holstein      **Seconded By:** Cr Hagan  
**Resolution Number:** 16-20/1668

**CARRIED**  
**7/0**

## 1. Introduction

This report refers to a request for street numbering for L240 SP145207 located at Withcott. Due to the location of the driveway access to the property via the unnamed road, the road requires naming to issue an appropriate address.

## 2. Background

Council is responsible for assigning an official name to every gazetted road that is used to access properties. Council accepts requests from the public and internal departments to name roads. All requests are considered in accordance with Council's Naming of Roads, Park, Landmarks and Facilities Policy and ASNZ Standard 4819:201.

### 3. Report

The request to issue a street number for L240 SP145207 was received on 15 January 2020. Access to L240 SP145207 is via Unnamed Road 7, Withcott. In accordance with ASNZ4819:201 properties must be addressed for their access. For officers to issue a street address to the property, Council must name the unnamed road.



The theme of the proposed names is historical families who owned land in the Withcott area in 1876 and the names have been sourced from a historic survey plan.

1. Honan Street	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley.
2. Pentecost Street	No other instances of this name in the Lockyer Valley.

A search of roads and streets within the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area has confirmed that the preference is not pre-existing.



Figure 1. Extent of Unnamed Road 7

#### 4. Policy and Legal Implications

The suggested name provides a clear identification for the road and does not contravene the Australian Standard. Where there is a conflict with Council's Naming of Roads, Park, Landmarks & Facilities Policy, alternate name preferences will be utilised.

#### 5. Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of this decision.

#### 6. Delegations/Authorisations

No further delegations are required to manage the issues raised in this report.



**7. Communication and Engagement**

Property owners will be informed of Council's decision by formal letter.

**8. Conclusion**

Council officers have assessed the request for naming and conclude that the suggested names are in keeping with the policy pertaining to road naming within the Lockyer Valley Regional Council.

**9. Action/s**

1. The property owners are to be notified of the Council resolution.
2. Council's records will be updated to reflect the approved name.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

**Date:** 19 February 2020  
**Author:** Trent Nibbs, Sports, Recreation & Community Grants Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** David Lewis, Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity

Since mid-2019 Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council, has undertaken significant community engagement related to the development of the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26 (Master Plan) with a remit to explore emerging mountain bike opportunities and how shared mountain bike escarpments and locations could potentially enable the region to become a nationally significant mountain biking destination. A thorough master planning process has now been completed. Works undertaken have incorporated detailed background research, site analysis and various broad ranging community and key stakeholder engagement.

**THAT Council endorse the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26.**

**THAT Council endorse the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26, as attached to these Minutes.**

**CARRIED**  
**7/0**

## 1. Introduction

Toowoomba Regional Council in association with the Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club (the Club) currently provides 25-30kms of mountain bike trails within the Toowoomba Region primarily located in Jubilee Park. Existing mountain biking trail networks provide a regionally significant mountain bike destination serving mostly local users.

Since mid-2019, significant community consultation and engagement related to the development of the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26 has been undertaken (Master Plan) with a remit to explore emerging mountain bike opportunities and how shared mountain bike escarpments and locations could potentially enable the region to become a nationally significant mountain biking destination. A thorough master planning process has now been completed. Works undertaken have incorporated detailed background research, site analysis and various broad ranging community and key stakeholder engagement.

Key recommendations of the Master Plan include developing an additional 68.4kms of mountain bike trails (24 new trails) in Jubilee and Redwood Parks, along with a primary access node at the Bridge Street Quarry site and the second hub located within the Withcott Township.

The Master Plan provides a framework for the ongoing development and establishment of additional mountain biking trails in the Toowoomba Region. The Master Plan outlines the potential joint economic benefits for Toowoomba Regional Council and Lockyer Valley Regional Council if the mountain biking trail network expands to be a nationally significant mountain biking destination (economic gain estimated at \$20M to the region each year).

Approval of the Master Plan will allow Council to work closely with the various partnership groups and progress, as funding allows, with the staged implementation of mountain bike improvement works.

## **2. Background**

A joint Lockyer Valley Regional Council/Toowoomba Regional Council working group was established in mid-2018 to consider and explore escarpment trail opportunities. There has been ongoing and significant engagement and regular meetings held by the working group to consider emerging opportunities. Toowoomba Regional Council were awarded finances to develop a Mountain Bike Master Plan and on the back of the joint working group Lockyer Valley Regional Council was approached to see if we would like to partner with them in the development of a master plan that could benefit both regions.

Through a tender process run by Toowoomba Regional Council, and assessment panel including Lockyer Valley Regional Council's Sports, Recreation and Community Grants Officer, Dirt Art were awarded the contract to undertake this planning process. The master plan identified the need to continue developing the mountain bike trail network, explore opportunities to capitalise on the growing adventure tourism market, and aim to deliver iconic trail experiences in the region. It was identified that significant potential existed to develop the Toowoomba escarpment into a premier, nationally significant mountain bike destination due to the elevation opportunities, high-quality views and natural environments, availability of services and amenities, proximity to major population areas and temperate climate available.

## **3. Report**

The Master Plan has been developed to respond to proposed investigations identified in the Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy, to investigate how the region could become a nationally significant mountain biking destination and to identify a way forward to capitalise on the potential for mountain biking expansion.

Key recommendations of the Master Plan include:

- Developing an additional 68.4kms of mountain bike trails (24 new trails) in Jubilee and Redwood Parks (focusing on beginner (green) and advanced level (black and double black) trails), to achieve the trail volume and mix required of a nationally significant mountain bike destination (100kms), together with required supportive infrastructure.
- Developing a site within the Withcott hub as a primary access node in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area to enter the trail network through Redwood Park.

Through this master planning project, the following outcomes were also achieved:

- A clear approvals process and guiding principles for Council/the community to follow when considering developing new mountain bike trails.
- A high-level review of the current mountain bike trail network in Jubilee Park with regards to sustainability, ride experience, broad market appeal, environmental experience and compatibility, value to the network, environmental and social compatibility, lifecycle cost rating and emergency access.
- A review of uplift (shuttle) options and a proposed framework for managing uplift (shuttle service) providers.
- High-level economic impact assessment (potential indirect economic impact of \$20M each year identified).
- High-level concepts for a potential 'mountain bike hub' at the Bridge Street Quarry site and the Withcott township area

The Master Plan has been developed during 2019 and been informed and developed following extensive community consultation.

Understandably the Master Plan is largely focused on the Toowoomba Regional Council area this is due to the topography of the land being favourable and allowing for the change in elevation that is needed to create trails that people are willing to travel too.

With downhill mountain biking there is a general consensus that starting at the bottom of the track is ideal as this allows for the rider/s to finish with a downhill ride instead of an uphill and with that the group sees the Withcott Hub becoming very important to help with the promotion of the entire trails network.

The Master Plan presents an agreed position between all groups involved namely Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Toowoomba Regional Council, State Government, various sport, recreation and environmental groups/park users and the general community. To deliver on the vision and objectives of the Master Plan a partnership approach between all groups, Councils and various levels of government will be required.

The public release and further promotion of the Master Plan, if endorsed, is expected to continue to generate community interest and stimulate discussion around some of the Master Plan recommendations, particularly the development of mountain bike trails in Redwood Park, which is a direct neighbouring parcel of land to the Lockyer Valley Regional Council boundary and how this land will link in with the trail to the Withcott Hub. The majority of input and feedback received on the overall Master Plan to date from community members and key stakeholders has been positive, and significant efforts have been made to consult with various stakeholders regarding environmental concerns and update the Master Plan accordingly.

The Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club currently undertakes all activities associated with trail installations and maintenance. As the trail network continues to expand from the current availability of 25-30kms of trail it is considered that Toowoomba Regional Council will need to provide either maintenance support funding to the Club or to engage directly in trail maintenance with a contractor.

The Master Plan suggests a requirement of an annual maintenance budget allocation of \$1,500 per km of trail maintained to ensure trails are offered in a safe and presentable manner.

Proposals to develop an extensive range of new mountain bike trails, along with the Withcott site hub will require Council involvement and funding support. As implementation of the Master Plan progresses Council may be required to consider provision of funding for trail, hub construction and maintenance works.

A Master Plan is a high level, yet aspirational, concept style document. The identification of potential future infrastructure and improvements are provided for design direction, forward planning of development, and to inform future budgets/funding through Council's capital works programs, funding grants and other forms of external State and/or Federal funding/in-kind assistance. Any future stages of the Master Plan will be implemented subject to Council's approval and funding availability.

**4. Policy and Legal Implications**

No policy or legal implications arise from this report.

**5. Financial and Resource Implications**

The development of the Master Plan was jointly funded by Toowoomba Regional Council (\$20,000), Lockyer Valley Regional Council (\$20,000) and by a State Government grant (\$25,000).

An order of costs for trails development has been completed by the consultant (Dirt Art Pty Ltd). The overall potential costs identified for Toowoomba Regional Council elements of the Master Plan are in the order of \$5.3M. The total estimated cost including proposed works by Lockyer Valley Regional Council is approximately \$6.2M. Costs are indicative only, pending more detailed design, consultation and detailed planning and cost analysis.

A staged program of works for the development of the Master Plan will be progressed subject to the availability of funding.

The Master Plan suggests a requirement of an annual maintenance budget allocation of \$1,500 per km of trail maintained to ensure trails are offered in a safe and presentable manner. With less than 3km within the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area, the ongoing maintenance budget will be under \$4,500 per year.

Subject to Council endorsement of the Master Plan, revision of Council's ten (10) year capital works plan and operational budgets to include key Master Plan objectives will progress in the normal manner as part of the annual capital and operational submissions for years 2021/22 and beyond.

**6. Delegations/Authorisations**

No further delegations are required to manage the issues raised in this report. The Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity will manage the requirements of this plan in line with existing delegations.

**7. Communication and Engagement**

A copy of the Master Plan will be printed out for all sport and recreation clubs/groups as well as copies available at Council offices.

The Master Plan will be available on the Council website.

**8. Conclusion**

The Master Plan provides a framework and implementation plan development, upgrade and management of the Toowoomba escarpment to support more locals and visitors participating in mountain biking in the future.

The additional mountain biking opportunities provided through delivering the Master Plan could bring not only new sport and recreational pursuits, but also significant economic gain of an estimated \$20M to the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley regions each year.

Through implementing the Master Plan, the Toowoomba Region has an opportunity to become one (1) of a limited number of nationally significant mountain biking destinations in the country, and the only one within Queensland.

**9. Action/s**

Update Council's website with the new Master Plan.

**Attachments**

- 1 [🔗](#) Toowoomba & Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26 156 Pages



**Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment  
Mountain Bike Master Plan**

Toowoomba Regional Council & Lockyer Valley Regional Council  
November 2019





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### Document Overview

Version	Date	Author	Notes
Prelim Draft	18 September 2019	Simon French	Not for distribution
Draft	27 September 2019	Simon French	Not for distribution
Final Draft	4 October 2019	Simon French	For distribution
Final Report	14 November 2019	Simon French	N/A
Final Report	18 November 2019	Jason Lam	Amendments
Final Report	26 November 2019	Jason Lam	Further Amendments

## 1 Executive Summary

Over the past several years, mountain bike riding has continued to experience exponential growth; including significant growth in mountain bike tourism across Australia. Despite this growth, the supply of high-quality, formal mountain bike infrastructure development has failed to pace with growing user numbers, with many riders turning to informal trail development as a way of accessing the volume and style of trails they wish to ride.

*Dirt Art* has been engaged by the Toowoomba Regional (TRC) and Lockyer Valley Regional (LVR) Council's to undertake a consultancy and design project, investigating the potential for further mountain bike trail development on the Toowoomba Escarpment. The project has investigated existing formal and informal trails, trail usage patterns, and has undertaken extensive consultation to establish current demand and usage patterns. Land manager, stakeholder and community consultation has formed a significant component of the project, with the final recommended developments reflecting community wants and needs.

Key project tasks included:

- Identify, assess, ground-truth and GIS map trails (through review of existing network and proposing new trails) and supportive infrastructure required to enable region to become a nationally significant mountain biking destination
- Identify potential sites for, along with a high-level concept plan for a major 'bike hub' at Withcott
- Identify, assess, ground-truth and GIS map the TET trail (and b-line where appropriate) along the Toowoomba urban fringe
- Undertake a high-level economic feasibility for mountain bike tourism
- Develop a set of guiding principles and a standard process for developing and maintaining trails
- Develop recommendations / solutions for creating a crossing over the Warrego Highway
- Identify and review of uplift shuttling options
- Identify and review options for accessing non-Council land (e.g. acquisition, leasing, easement or other forms of tenure)
- Develop project cost estimates
- Undertake community consultation
- Undertake TRC Councillor Information Session and LVR Councillor Workshop presentations on draft report



The Toowoomba Escarpment area offers a compelling opportunity for development as a major mountain bike destination, with a range of key attributes that would contribute to the potential success of the project, including but not limited to;

- Elevation opportunities
- High-quality views and natural environments
- Availability of services and amenities
- Proximity to major population areas
- Climate

A glaring lack of high-quality mountain bike destinations in Queensland (particularly South East Queensland), is a major contributor to the potential of the project. Unlike most other states, Queensland arguably does not have any mountain bike destinations that would be considered genuinely nationally-significant.

The project has targeted the development of a wide range of new trail projects, focusing on the following key trail types;

- Stacked loop trail opportunities
- Trails maximising vertical descent
- Trails that cater for beginner and advanced audiences
- Trails that provide potential for the hosting of a wide range of local, state, national and international events

The project proposes to develop a network of new trails and corresponding infrastructure that will establish the Toowoomba Escarpment as a nationally-significant mountain bike destination. With the correct delivery approach and supported by a high-quality marketing campaign, *Dirt Art* believe Toowoomba has the potential to attract significant mountain bike visitation.

*Dirt Art* has carefully considered the present and future expectations, wants, and needs of the mountain bike visitor market to determine trail types, access nodes and recommended amenities and facilities that will maximise visitation and length of stay. The proposed master plan has been structured to provide maximum economic benefit opportunities to both TRC and LVRC municipal areas, and principally the towns of Toowoomba and Withcott. This has been achieved through the proposed development of;

- A diverse network of high-quality trails
- Enough trail volume to attract multi-day stays
- In demand trail experiences
- Visitor access nodes that directly interface with commercial services such as food and beverage and accommodation suppliers
- Showcasing strong natural values and appealing environments

The estimated economic impact of the project is as follows;

VISITOR TYPE	SPEND	VOLUME	TOTAL
Day	\$ 40.00	25000	\$ 1,000,000.00
Visitor nights	\$ 190.00	50000	\$ 9,500.00
<b>Direct Impact</b>			\$ 10,500,000.00
<b>Indirect Impact (1.9x multiplier)</b>			\$ 20,055,000.00

The report proposes a clear pathway towards developing a truly world-class network of trails, that will elevate Toowoomba to one of Australia's most recognised mountain bike destinations.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Project Overview

*Dirt Art* has been engaged by TRC and LVRC to develop a mountain bike trail master plan ('the plan') that will guide the future management and development of mountain bike and shared use trails on the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment. The plan aims to provide a pathway towards development of a broad range of mountain bike experiences that will cater to local wants and needs, while also attracting significant interest and visitation from non-local riders.

### 2.2 Key Objectives

The key objective of this report is to develop a mountain bike plan that;

- Defines Toowoomba and Locker Valley's current place within the Queensland mountain bike destination industry
- Considers the social and community values of the target area
- Is environmentally sensitive and sustainable
- Provides cost-effective construction conditions
- Minimises land tenure complexity, and streamlines assessments and statutory approvals
- Maximises direct and indirect economic opportunities and benefits
- Provides maximal community benefit and engagement

## 2.3 Methodology

The project has engaged the following methodology;

### 2.3.1 Literature Review

A summary of all reports and relevant literature reviewed can be found in Section 3.2. The following reports were reviewed;

- Toowoomba Regional Council - 2010 Regional Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan
- Toowoomba Regional Council - Draft Sport, Active Recreation & Healthy Living Plan 2019-26
- Toowoomba Regional Council - Framework for Ecologically Sensitive Development of Natural Areas in the Toowoomba Region
- LVRC Sport & Recreation Plan
- Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club Strategic Plan
- Toowoomba Jubilee Park Protected Flora Report
- Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy

### 2.3.2 Consultation

*Dirt Art* has undertaken significant consultation through the project. A list of groups, organisations and individuals consulted with can be found below.

Consultation included;

- A public survey
- Community workshops
- Stakeholder workshops
- Stakeholder site visits
- One-on-one workshops

A detailed consultation summary can be found in Section 11.

### 2.3.3 Field investigation

#### 2.3.3.1 Overview

Field investigation of existing and potential development areas was undertaken by *Dirt Art* staff between the 26<sup>th</sup> June and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This field investigation included ground truthing of new proposed trails.

This field investigation involved the assessment of existing trails, including, formal mountain bike trails, informal mountain bike trails, and walking trails.

Field inspection has also been undertaken to develop concept trail alignments, which has involved the assessment of a number of potential development sites.

A detailed summary of existing trails can be found in Section 10.

#### *2.3.3.2 Concept trail development*

Using a comprehensive opportunities and gap analysis, a number of concept trail alignment have been prepared. These alignments aim to address key network gaps, as well as opportunities for establishment of high-quality trail experiences. Concept trail alignments have been developed in areas that provide the lowest possible conflicts with environmental, historical and cultural values.

*Dirt Art* utilised extensive desktop analysis and in field investigation to where possible avoid areas with high environmental values, including the avoidance of mapped areas of dry rainforest.

A detailed summary of the concept development process can be found in section 10.

#### *2.3.3.3 Ground truthing*

Ground truthing of all trails has been completed to establish the viability and quality of all proposed trails. The ground truthing process was completed between 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November.

The ground truthing process involved the adjustment of some initially proposed trail concepts.

### 3 Background Analysis

#### 3.1 Overview

Dirt Art has undertaken a comprehensive background analysis for the project. This analysis has included review of a wide range of existing documents, plans and survey data.

#### 3.2 Previous Key Reports

##### 3.2.1 Toowoomba Regional Council- Regional Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan

Report title	Toowoomba Regional Council- Regional Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan
Author/s	Ross Planning
Date	May 2010

The project recommends a terrain park be developed within Jubilee Park; the park is proposed to service mountain bike trails and parkour users. While Dirt Art support the ongoing development of Jubilee Park as a major mountain bike hub, the proposed development caters for an incredibly small audience and is not considered a development priority for the site.

##### 3.2.2 Toowoomba Regional Council - Draft Sport, Active Recreation & Healthy Living Plan 2019-26

Report title	Toowoomba Regional Council - Draft Sport, Active Recreation & Healthy Living Plan 2019-26
Author/s	Otium Planning Group
Date	2019

The Sport, Active Recreation & Healthy Living (SARHL) Plan 2019-26 identifies mountain biking as one of the top 10 outdoor recreation pursuits across most ages and genders. The SARHL Plan 2019-26 also identifies that Jubilee Park and Redwood Park 'meets the criteria', and are suitable parks for mountain biking to occur.

##### 3.2.3 Toowoomba MTB Club Strategic Plan

Report title	Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club Strategic Plan
Author/s	Various
Date	2019

The Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club have a long history of supporting trail development and maintenance within the target area. The club has developed a strategic plan, which outlines key objectives for trail development across the next 5+ years.

*Dirt Art* has reviewed the plan and broadly supports the concepts proposed by the club, with some minor revisions to improve network functionality in a tourism context. In the interests of developing a consistent strategic approach, the proposed concepts have been incorporated into this master plan.

### 3.2.4 Toowoomba Jubilee Park Protected Flora Report

Report title	Toowoomba Jubilee Park Protected Flora Report
Author/s	Red Leaf Environmental
Date	May 2018

The Toowoomba MTB Club engaged Red Leaf Environmental to undertake a flora report for the Jubilee Park as requirement for proposed future trail development.

The report notes that the Jubilee (and Redwood) Park areas fall within the Protected Areas Trigger Map, and as such require additional flora studies and legislated processes prior to commencing trail construction. The report notes that there were no protected flora species found within the area of the proposed trail and as such, no further action (beyond formal notification) was required.

### 3.2.5 Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy

Report title	Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy
Author/s	Common Ground Trails
Date	May 2018

In 2018, Mountain Bike Australia (MTBA) commissioned a state strategy to provide a framework for ongoing mountain bike development and management in Queensland.

The report notes that mountain bike trails in South East Queensland trail networks have received between 50-300% growth across the past three years, showing the significant demand for mountain bike trail opportunities.

The report discusses the concept and requirements of a trail town. Notably, all recommended requirements and attributes of a trail town are readily available for the Toowoomba Escarpment project.

The report notes that the Toowoomba Escarpment and the broader region has good opportunity and deliverability for future mountain bike trail development. Notably, the report and project were high-level in nature, and did not move to the level of assessing specific on-site opportunities or characteristics.

### 3.2.6 TRC Open Space Strategy 2016

Report title	Toowoomba Regional Council Open Space Strategy
Author/s	Toowoomba Regional Council
Date	February 2016

The report provides a strategy document for the management of open space within the Toowoomba Region. Key extracts from the report include;



- Recreation: Open Space supports both passive and active recreation and leisure providing an opportunity to experience and appreciate nature
- Bushland areas: The report notes; *Bushland parks offer a recreation function that can be supported through the integration of basic facilities such as parking, signage, trail establishment etc. There are also active recreation roles that integrate well with retention of bushland such as mountain bike trails and endurance orienteering.*

### 3.2.7 TRC Trails Network Strategy 2016

Report title	Trails Network Strategy
Author/s	Tredwell
Date	August 2016

The report provides a high-level regional trails strategy for the Toowoomba Region. Key extracts from the report include;

- Benefit of trails: the report notes the significant community benefits associated with trail networks
- Extreme to mainstream: The report notes a shift of adventure-based sports (such as mountain biking) from extreme to mainstream
- Trail access: the report notes that 50km of trails are currently accessible to mountain bikes in the Toowoomba Region
- Point-of-difference: the report notes that the regions point of difference for mountain biking is its terrain, which is suitable for all styles of riding (including downhill)
- The Toowoomba Escarpment Trail (TET): the report recommends progressing the TET, beginning with trail sections that are easiest to implement

### 3.2.8 TRC Framework for Development of Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Toowoomba Region

Report title	Framework for Development of Ecologically Sensitive Areas
Author/s	Redleaf Environmental
Date	August 2016

The report provides a framework for assisting in the development of ecologically sensitive areas. Key extracts from the report include;

- Objective: The objective of the framework is to ensure that natural areas are managed and developed in a way that maintains their ecological integrity while allowing for low impact or nature-based recreation opportunities for the community
- Natural values assessment: the report notes the importance of comprehensive natural values assessments prior to undertaking development

### 3.2.9 LVRC Sport and Recreation Plan

Report title	Lockyer Valley Sport and Recreation Plan
Author/s	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Date	Current

The report provides a high-level regional recreational plan for the Lockyer Valley Region. Key extracts from the report include;

- BMX: the report notes that there are currently no BMX racing facilities in the municipality, and that there is a group hoping to form a club in the region to undertake this type of racing. Should this club be formed, they will require an appropriate facility to undertake this activity.
- Withcott: the report notes a number of recreational assets in the town of Withcott. While none of these existing or proposed facilities is mountain bike-focused, none of these facilities will be adversely affected by the proposed mountain bike trail development.

## 4 The Mountain Bike Market Overview

### 4.1 The Mountain Bike Market - National and Local

#### 4.1.1 Overview

The following market profile draws upon research and anecdotal observations from a wide range of sources. The information draws heavily upon the Australian Mountain Bike Market Profile Survey, undertaken by *Dirt Art* in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

#### 4.1.2 History

Mountain biking has been well established in Australia since the early 90's, though the sport only really began to prosper in the mid-late 90's, which saw a period of some of the first purpose-built mountain bike infrastructure in Australia. In 2004 some of Australia's first large-scale mountain bike parks were developed, namely Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park in Tasmania and Mount Stromlo in Canberra. Prior to these developments, mountain biking was taking place largely on existing walking trails and on informal trails created by the riders themselves.

Between 2005 and present day there have been significant advances in mountain bike technology, which is contributing to defining the type of riding experience achievable for and desired by riders. While some trends in riding have come and gone, the disciplines of downhill and cross-country have remained albeit with some blurring between these styles of riding with the emergence of the all-mountain and enduro bicycle.

#### 4.1.3 Current market

The current mountain bike market is dominated by longer travel, dual suspension mountain bikes, broadly referred to as all-mountain, trail, or enduro bicycles. This style of bike is incredibly capable at both climbing and descending and has effectively increased the capability of the average rider.

Currently riders are seeking a broad range of experiences from local urban and peri-urban trails through to remote wilderness style longer distance riding experiences. Generally speaking, the mountain bike tourist market is seeking adventure experiences in more remote natural environments, involving longer distance loops or point-to-point trails. Trails proximate to urban areas are typically most popular with local riders because of their accessibility and convenience, though may be ridden by visitors drawn to an area for other experiences.

Research indicates that the current demographic of riders is predominately male, with an age of 25-45 years and a high disposable income.<sup>1</sup> This market is a key target for tourism as they are seeking longer, 'destination-based' stays and typically seek out high quality dining and accommodation options.

#### 4.1.4 Current participation and economic data- Australia

Current participation data for mountain biking in Australia is distinctly lacking due, in the main, to the nature of the activity itself. However, as new commercial venues emerge more data is becoming available. Traditionally the recording of trail usage numbers has been a relatively rare practice, though in a current climate often characterised by particularly frugal government and corporate investment this practice is increasing being used to justify investment in trails. Sample data from some of Australia's key mountain bike destinations can be found below;

**Maydena Bike Park (Tasmania)** Maydena Bike Park is Australia's largest gravity-focused bike park, with 80km of trails suiting a predominantly enduro market. The park has hosted 25,000 uplift days and brought an estimate total 35,000 visitors to the town in its first year of operation. With a broadening focus towards trail-based riding and beginner friendly trails, visitation at the park is likely to increase significantly through later years.

**Blue Derby (Tasmania)** Blue Derby is Australia's highest profile mountain bike trail destination, with a focus on intermediate trail riding with limited up-lift opportunities. Derby has been in operation for close to 5 years, and reportedly hosted over 30,000 riders in 2018. The town is seeing a dramatic transformation, with several new business opening across tour, retail and food and beverage sectors.

**Mount Buller (Victoria)** have invested over \$2m over a four-year period in developing predominantly all-mountain and cross-country mountain bike trails. Data for the resort (as of June 2014) recorded a total rider count of 40,000 – 50,000 visitors over a nine-month period.<sup>2</sup>

**You Yangs (Victoria)** have recorded rider numbers of approximately 150,000 per annum in 2011, though a higher true count is expected due to the various entry points used for the park.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Koepke, J. (2005) Exploring the Market Potential for Yukon Mountain Bike Tourism, Cycling Association of Yukon, Canada, page 5.

<sup>2</sup> September to May, private communication

<sup>3</sup> Data provided by Parks Victoria staff July 2011.

#### 4.1.5 Current Participation and economic data - Southern Hemisphere

Internationally, New Zealand is Australia's closest competitor in the mountain bike tourism market. While New Zealand offers a significant volume of trails, not all trails are necessarily of a world-class standard, often involving poorly constructed volunteer-built trails, fire trails and access roads to add volume to trail distances. Examples of participation in an international context can be seen below;

**Rotorua (North Island, New Zealand)** is perhaps New Zealand's most recognised and loved mountain bike destination. The 150km+ trail network is regarded around the world for its fast, flowing trails through a working pine forest. Research by APR consulting found that approximately 33% of visitors to the forest in 2007 were Australian.<sup>4</sup> It was recently reported that mountain bike activity in Rotorua is generating \$10.2m per annum, as opposed to the \$4.6m (one time) in export revenue potentially generated by logging the forest.<sup>5</sup>

**Queenstown (South Island, New Zealand)** is one of the Southern Hemisphere's leading mountain bike destination. Queenstown has a gravity-based bike park (Skyline Queenstown), along with a number of other regional cross country and all mountain trails. The region is renowned for its iconic long-format descending trails, such as Rude Rock, Corrotown and Skippers Canyon.

A 2017 report by TRC Tourism found that mountain biking contributed over \$25m per year to the local economy.

#### 4.1.6 Current participation and economic data - Northern Hemisphere

**Whistler Mountain Bike Park (Canada)** is arguably the world's most recognised mountain bike park, offering one of the highest volumes of trail in one venue anywhere in the world. The Whistler Bike Park received approximately 200,000 riders per year (through its green season), but it is estimated that a similar volume of users rides the surrounding valley trail network annually.

A 2016 report commissioned by the Whistler Off Road Cycling Association (WORCA) found that mountain biking contributed over \$79m p.a. to the regional economy of British Columbia. The report also found that over 500,000 individual rides were undertaken in the region in 2016.<sup>6</sup>

**Park City, Utah (United States of America)** offers hundreds of miles of single-track across a number of riding areas. All riding styles are catered for across public trails, and commercial gravity-based bike parks. This IMBA Gold level mountain bike destination received over 1m visits in 2014.

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<sup>4</sup> Recreational Use and Economic Impact of Whakarewarewa Forest (2009 Update), APR Consultants

<sup>5</sup> The New Zealand Herald January 17th 2012, Bikes bring more money than wood from Rotorua forest

<sup>6</sup> CSTA Economic Impact of Mountain Biking 2016

**Oregon (United States of America)** has a significant cycle tourism industry. Cycle tourism (predominantly mountain biking) was worth over \$400m to the state in 2013, with cycle tourist spending on average 20% more than general tourists.<sup>7</sup>

#### 4.1.7 The future

##### 4.1.7.1 General

The sport of mountain biking has continued to see sustained and exponential growth both in Australia and overseas. With current demand for high-quality riding opportunities still far exceeding supply, there exists significant potential to see excellent return on investment when developing world-class mountain bike trails and facilities.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the all-mountain category of riding will continue to grow, resulting in an increasing demand for more challenging, descending-focused riding. *Dirt Art* suggests that the next five years will see a huge increase in demand for chairlift or shuttle accessed descending cross-country and all-mountain trail experiences. Many of the major recent and underway mountain biking trail developments focus on these experiences (e.g. Mt Buller Epic, Hollybank Juggernaut, Blue Tier, Derby's Black Stump Shuttle Trails, Thredbo AM Descent and Valley Trail) which are reflective of the increasing demand for this style of descending cross-country / all-mountain trail.

##### 4.1.7.2 E-bikes

While traditional bike technology is likely to continue to stabilise, the rapid emergence of the E-bike is likely to have a significant impact on the sport. In *Dirt Art's* view, E-bikes will never replace the traditional mountain bike, but as technology improves the bikes will become a much more common feature on the trails. E-bikes make the sport more accessible to newer and less-capable riders and increase the ride duration and the accessible elevation range for more experienced riders.

The growth in use of E-bikes will have a distinct benefit to areas such as the West Coast, as vast landscapes and large mountains will typically result in longer climbs and commutes. E-bikes will allow riders to access significant elevation ranges without the need for vehicle shuttles (most E-bikes will provide pedal assistance for up to 2,000 metres of climbing).

It is important to recognise the distinction in E-bikes between high-powered throttle assisted bikes and lower-powered pedal-assisted bikes. Pedal assisted bikes have no additional impacts on trails, whereas throttle powered bikes are illegal in most public areas and will cause significant additional damage to trails.

The trail network proposed for the Toowoomba project has been developed to cater for E bikes, future proofing the trail network should this category of bikes continue to grow.

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<sup>7</sup> Information provided by Destination Oregon.



With numerous sustained climbs and descents, the proposed network will have strong appeal for E-bike riders.

## 4.2 Mountain bike tourism

### 4.2.1 Mountain bike tourism markets

Tourists engaging in mountain biking can be divided into two distinct categories, the 'complementary market'; those who engage in mountain biking as a complementary activity (not as a primary motivator or sole purpose for travel), and the 'enthusiast market' those who have travelled with mountain biking being the primary or sole reason for their trip.

### 4.2.2 Complementary mountain bike tourism markets

Mountain bike riding as a complementary activity has risen dramatically in popularity in recent years, as the sport has moved beyond the 'extreme sport' image of the past, and more towards the accurate perception of the sport as a safe, inclusive and fun 'adventure' activity.

Complementary visitation is a key component of a successful government-backed mountain bike destination as it allows the capture of a much larger target audience, and promotes longer stays, and increased travel party size. Complementary tourists include valuable family markets, who will often stay longer and spend more than solo and small group tourists.

The emergence of mountain biking as a commercially viable complementary activity has been driven largely through the development of safer, more beginner-friendly trails, and by the growing number of commercial operators including the sport in their activity programs. Commercial viability of mountain biking as a complementary activity requires a lower volume of trail than for the enthusiast market, though the required quality and maintenance demand of trails will be higher. As a complementary activity, mountain biking offers genuine avenues for commercial return, while also potentially lengthening the duration of stay for existing guests. In addition to this, targeted marketing may draw in guests that may otherwise have travelled to an alternative location.

Successfully targeting the complementary tourism market involves careful consideration and delivery against the following key areas;

- High-quality beginner-friendly trails
- A structured progression in difficulty through trail types
- A good volume of smoother flow style trails
- Access to high-quality hire bikes
- Comprehensive and easily interpreted trail signage
- Access to a variety of formal and informal non-riding activities

- Access to a good range of accommodation and food and beverage opportunities.

The proposed new trails network at Toowoomba has significant potential to cater for a complementary audience, with a number of trail and uplift trail opportunities suitable to beginner riders.

#### 4.2.3 Enthusiast tourist market

The enthusiast market is defined as mountain bike tourists for whom mountain biking is the primary motivator/purpose for their travel. The enthusiast market seeks out new and exciting mountain bike destinations, and typically travel multiple times annually to engage in mountain biking.

The mountain bike enthusiast market is typically populated by 25-45-year-old males with a high disposable income, who are seeking opportunities to travel to destinations with the primary purpose of going mountain bike riding.

While mountain bike riding may be the primary travel motivator, the availability of alternative activities will still influence this traveler as they will often look for destinations where they can viably travel with family, their spouse or non-enthusiast travelling companion/s.

The mountain bike enthusiast is typically travelling for multi-day stays and is seeking unique and high-quality trail experiences. These users will typically seek higher volumes of trail, as they will often ride 30-40km+ per day.

Successfully targeting the enthusiast tourism market involves careful consideration and delivery against the following key areas;

- High quality trails
- Unique and iconic environments
- Iconic signature trail experiences
- High volumes of trails
- A good supply of intermediate to advanced trails

*Dirt Art* suggests that the Toowoomba Escarpment trails will be well suited to an enthusiast rider audience, for the following reasons;

- Existing and proposed new trails target an intermediate-advanced audience  
Landscape, terrain and elevation are better suited to an intermediate-advanced audience



## 5 The Queensland Mountain Bike Destination Market

### 5.1 Overview

Queensland currently has limited destination mountain bike infrastructure development, with all but two destinations (Atherton Forest MTB Park and Hiddenvale Adventure Park) essentially developed with a focus on servicing a predominantly local audience.

The South East of Queensland is one of the largest continuous urban developments in Australia, housing a population of approximately 3.6m people. Despite this large and growing population base, the development of high-quality riding destinations servicing this regional market remains minimal.

When looking to a potential audience outside of Queensland, the state has a number of appealing attributes for the visiting rider, including but not limited to;

- Climate
- Proximity to major population areas (ease of access on eastern sea board)
- Mountainous areas
- High quality natural environments

The state is currently lacking high-quality, destination-focused developments, providing a key opportunity to capture regional, state, national and potentially international rider visitation.

### 5.2 Key Destinations

#### 5.2.1 Nerang

Location	Nerang, Queensland
Development status	Open
Trail volume	~60km (~20km formal/40km informal)
Trail types	Trail, enduro
Estimated visitation	75,000

Nerang is one of the busiest trail networks in South East Queensland, servicing a large audience of riders with a relatively minimal trail volume, which remains largely driven through volunteers.

Trail quality and consistency in the area varies greatly, and generally becomes even less consistent the further trails are away from the main entry portal at Hope Street.

A general lack of elevation (~180m maximum, but less than 90m uninterrupted) limits the potential future development of the area as a major trail destination, though the area does possess a number of areas that would facilitate high quality trail development.

### 5.2.2 Atherton

Location	Atherton, Queensland
Development status	Open
Trail volume	60km
Trail types	Trail, enduro
Estimated visitation	25,000

Atherton was and remains Queensland's first and only public mountain bike destination that has been developed with a focus on tourism and economic development. The destination was developed as a nationally-significant trail destination, though appears to be achieving a more regional level of visitation. The reasons for this visitation result are likely; relatively generic environments and natural values, general lack of utilization of maximum uplift opportunities, lack of trail volume.

### 5.2.3 Daisy Hill

Location	Daisy Hill Brisbane
Development status	Open
Trail volume	24km
Trail types	Trail, enduro
Estimated visitation	55,000

Daisy Hill is the primary trail network servicing the Greater Brisbane area, with a population of 3 million people. The trail network at Daisy Hill focuses on a beginner to intermediate trail riding audience, and is generally lacking the style and difficulty of trails to attract a regional or state audience.

### 5.2.4 Boomerang Bike Park

Location	Mudgeeraba
Development status	Open
Trail volume	11km
Trail types	Downhill, jump, enduro
Estimated visitation	Unknown

Boomerang Bike Park is Queensland's most recognised gravity-focused commercial bike park. The park is open periodically on a pay-for-use basis, and also includes a commercial uplift service. The park caters for a predominantly advanced audience, and is renowned for its large jump features.

### 5.2.5 Smithfield

Location	Smithfield, Cairns
Development status	Open
Trail volume	20km
Trail types	Trail, enduro, downhill
Estimated visitation	20,000

Smithfield MTB Park is one of Australia's original formal mountain bike destinations. The park has been developed utilising a combination of volunteer and professional construction. The network is difficult to navigate for visiting riders, and suffers from inconsistencies in trail quality and grading. While offering a number of fantastic riding trails, the park lacks the trail volume and general quality to operate a state-significant level.

### 5.2.6 Hiddenvale Adventure Park

Location	Grandchester
Development status	Open
Trail volume	110km
Trail types	Trail, enduro
Estimated visitation	20,000

Hiddenvale Adventure Park is one of Queensland's most recognised and high-profile commercial bike parks. Offering a mix of enduro and trail focused riding, the park also provides an uplift service for some trails.

### 5.2.7 Mount Joyce

Location	Wyaralong Dam, Queensland
Development status	Open
Trail volume	60km
Trail types	Enduro, trail, downhill
Estimated visitation	15,000

Mount Joyce was developed as part of the Wyaralong Dam Project, and includes a large network of trails catering to a broad riding audience. The destination appears popular with local and regional riders, though does not have the trail volume, and quality, nor the ancillary facilities required to attract a state-significant audience.

## 6 Mountain Bike Destination Hierarchy

### 6.1 Overview

Mountain biking has been driving visitation into small regional areas for several years now, though the focus on mountain biking as an effective driver of tourism and economic development is relatively new. Destinations such as Blue Derby (Tasmania) have proven that small towns can be reinvigorated with mountain biking spearheading this change.

The below hierarchy has been developed by *Dirt Art* to assist in positioning trail developments to an appropriate audience, providing clarity on funding and operational models for land managers.

Notably, the benchmark for mountain bike destinations is not a static or quantitative benchmark. With some \$100m+ set to be invested in mountain bike trail development in Australia across the next 2-3 years, benchmarks are likely to increase.

*Dirt Art* suggest recognition of the following considerations;

- Trail quality will always be more important than trail quantity
- Gravity-based trail networks are a rarer commodity and as such, the trail volume benchmark for these trail destination types is lower
- Travelling riders have a strong preference for riding in high-quality natural environments
- Elevation opportunities are extremely important, and often provide an insurmountable point-of-difference against other more urban-based trail destinations

*Dirt Art* recommend that ~100km of trails be developed at the Toowoomba Escarpment (including existing trails), ensuring that trail volume meets expectations for a nationally-significant destination.

### 6.2 Nationally-Significant Destination

The idea of a nationally-significant mountain bike destination is relatively new, with the first destinations notionally meeting this benchmark only in the past three years. A nationally-significant mountain bike destination generally possesses the following key characteristics;

- 80+km trail volume
- Trails catering for green circle to double black diamond difficulty
- Capacity to host national and/or world-level events
- High-quality, comprehensive trail signage system
- A high-quality entry gateway (quality signage, pump track etc.)
- 300m+ elevation opportunity

- Uplift opportunity
- Very high-quality natural environments
- A local bike store/s
- A minimum of two market-appropriate food outlets within 10 min drive from trails
- Market-appropriate accommodation meeting supply demands during peak season
- A funded formal trail maintenance program with specific, trained human resources

### 6.3 State-significant Destination

State-significant trail destinations cater for a more state-wide audience, though notably will generally attract national visitation, particularly when other regional or other high-quality trail opportunities are available nearby. A state-significant mountain bike destination generally possesses the following key characteristics;

- 60+km trail volume
- Capacity to host national or regional level events
- Uplift opportunity
- Trails catering for green circle to black diamond difficulty
- High-quality, comprehensive trail signage system
- 200m+ elevation opportunity
- Good quality natural environments

### 6.4 Regionally-Significant Destination

Regionally-significant trail destinations cater for a more regionally-focused audience, though notably will generally attract national visitation, particularly when other regional or other high-quality trail opportunities are available nearby. A regionally-significant mountain bike destination generally possesses the following key characteristics;

- 20+km trail volume
- Capacity to regional level events
- Trails catering for green circle to black diamond difficulty
- High-quality, comprehensive trail signage system
- 100m+ elevation opportunity

### 6.5 Local-Level Destination

A local-level mountain bike destination services a smaller, local market, and will generally hold low appeal for visiting riders. These destinations are generally constructed utilising primarily local volunteer labour. A locally-significant mountain bike destination generally possesses the following key characteristics;

- <20km of trails
- Capacity to hold local-level (club) events
- A functional signage system

## 7 Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment's Position as a Mountain Bike Destination

### 7.1 Overview

Toowoomba currently operates at a level that would be considered a regionally-significant mountain bike destination. The current trail network offers a number of attributes not currently available at other regional level mountain bike destinations (such as Nerang), including;

- Elevation opportunity
- Uplift opportunity

Despite this, the trail network does not currently provide a high enough trail volume or quality to attract significant outside visitation.

The location and key attributes of the Toowoomba Escarpment provide a significant opportunity for development of a major mountain bike destination, which would service a regional, state and national audience. If the correct development approach is enacted, *Dirt Art* believe Toowoomba has significant potential for establishment of a nationally-significant trail destination.

### 7.2 Current mountain bike tourism behaviours in South East Queensland

Mountain bike tourism is currently a very immature market in South East Queensland, with little to no major mountain bike destinations. In comparison to states such as Tasmania and Victoria, Queensland has little established trail product that would attract visiting riders.

While data surrounding intrastate mountain bike tourism is unavailable, it is likely that reasonable levels of visitation are being achieved from outside of the immediate surrounding areas, for a number of destinations such as but not limited to; Atherton, Hiddenvale Adventure Park, Boomerang Farm and Nerang.

*Dirt Art* believe interstate and any international destination visitation would currently be extremely limited, with a current likely focus around North Queensland (Cairns and Atherton), particularly during the winter season.

### 7.3 Local usage patterns

*Dirt Art* has anecdotally assessed local usage patterns through the assessment of existing trail usage volumes and observed behavior during site visits. It would appear that based

on trail difficulty breakdowns of existing trail, that upper level intermediate riding is the local user focus, though notably, local riders have voiced a strong desire for a greater volume of easy (green circle) and much harder (black and double black) trail development. It is likely that trail development to date has been undertaken to cater to the largest possible rider audience, resulting in a very high percentage of intermediate (blue square) trails.

## 8 Site Analysis

### 8.1 Location

The Toowoomba/Lockyer Valley region is located to the west of the city of Brisbane within a 90-minute drive.

The proposed potential development area resides on the eastern face of the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment and includes a number of predominantly council-owned and managed bushland areas.



### 8.2 Land Tenure

The vast majority of the project area is held under management of the TRC. The land tenure for the project is unique in a mountain bike trail development context, where high-quality development sites are typically managed by parks agencies.

The land tenure for the project provides for a potentially simplified development pathway, that in most cases will not require the establishment of access agreements, leases and licenses.



### 8.3 Topography

Average slopes	20-40%
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The topography across much of the site is conducive to high-quality, cost-effective trail development. Areas of the site do feature steep to extremely steep slopes (60%+), which have been avoided for any new proposed trail development.

### 8.4 Geology

The predominant soil type on site features a very high clay content. The soils on site are relatively friable, and do not tend to perform well in wet conditions. It is likely that some trail sections will require imported surfacing to allow for year-round riding where required. *Dirt Art* suggest that beginner-focused trails close to the Bridge Street trail head will benefit from surfacing, ensuring a smooth riding experience for beginner riders, and an all-weather riding opportunity for all riders. Any imported gravel material should be from a formal quarry and be certified weed free.

Surrounding the ex-quarry area, large tracts of quarry rock spoils are evident, lying in most cases on extreme slopes. These areas have been avoided for any proposed new trail development.

### 8.5 Climate

Average annual rainfall	724mm ( <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a> )
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Toowoomba has a temperate climate, which results in generally dry winters and summer periods with periodic heavy to extremely heavy rain. Dry periods in summer will often lead to extremely dusty trail conditions with corresponding trail damage, while wet summer conditions currently render some areas of the trail network un-rideable.

### 8.6 Elevation Opportunity

Total elevation range	~275m
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The total elevation range at Toowoomba Escarpment provides an excellent range of elevation opportunities, which are spread across the eastern face of the Toowoomba Escarpment.

The elevation opportunities available allow for a broad range of recreational and racing-focused trails, which include all riding and racing categories. While the elevation range is on the cusp of capacity to host national and world-level downhill events, with the right planning and construction approach, *Dirt Art* believe the venue does have this capacity.

## 8.7 Values

The Toowoomba Escarpment is a popular public land asset, which is utilised actively and passively by a wide range of users. The escarpment has areas of strong natural value, particularly in dark, shaded areas of the site.

Located directly on the urban fringe, the area has a range of competing values and a diverse range of user groups. For the most part there appears to be limited conflict between user groups, though some instances of user conflict have been reported to TRC.

It will notably be important to ensure that future mountain bike trail development proceeds in a way that is sensitive to the values of the site.

### 8.7.1 Natural Values

Areas of the existing and proposed project area feature high natural values (flora and fauna), particularly in dark, shaded areas, and in riparian areas. The project area includes pockets of dry rainforest. A number of native fauna species are also known to inhabit the Escarpment area.

*Dirt Art* has carefully considered the natural values of the site when choosing trail alignments and potential development areas. *Dirt Art* has worked to sensitively and sustainably showcase the higher value natural areas of the project site, without compromising their values. The inclusion of these high-value, more visually appealing areas is highly-important to the creation of a high-quality experience that will attract visiting riders. Many of these areas also typically feature soil types that will provide increased sustainability and trail surface functionality.

*Dirt Art* has utilised GIS environmental data and comprehensive site inspections to develop trail corridors that minimise impacts on natural values. Notably, the trail corridors proposed allow for flexibility to adjust final trail tread locations to avoid areas of higher natural values, or specific habitats for flora and fauna species. An *Environmental Constraints Map* is available at Appendix 4, which details areas of high environmental sensitivity – predominately remnant ecosystems.

*Dirt Art* recommend that areas of higher natural value are included in the new trails network where possible without compromising environmental values, which will add significant appeal for visiting riders.

During the next phase of the project, a natural values assessment will be completed by appropriately qualified professionals. As a result of this process any proposed trail alignments may be adjusted as required to further minimise impacts on natural values. An environmental assessment has previously been undertaken for the Jubilee Park area; this assessment may require extension and/or amendment based on the proposed trail network. A new assessment will be required for the proposed trail network in the Redwood Park area.

### 8.7.2 Social Values

Toowoomba Escarpment site holds strong social values for a significant portion of the local and regional communities. The area is popular for a wide range of active and passive uses, including but not limited to;

- Walking
- Mountain biking
- Horse riding
- Trail running
- Sightseeing
- Geocaching
- Orienteering

The values held can be conflicting at times, particularly in the view of polar opposing values such as the respect of the escarpment for its untouched areas and quiet spaces, versus the desire to recreate in the area via more active means (such as mountain biking).

*Dirt Art* has worked to avoid conflict with existing users through the following key methodology;

- Extensive stakeholder group consultation
- Locating the bulk of proposed new trails in areas with extensive pre-established mountain bike use (Jubilee Park)
- Minimising trail volume in Redwood Park
- Locating trails in Redwood Park away from focus areas of known ecological sensitivity and conservation groups
- Proposing shared-use only on appropriate trails (climbing and some contouring trails)

Notably, the proposed trail network provides opportunities for walking on a number of proposed trails, providing a significant expansion of walking trail opportunities. All ascending trails in the proposed new trails network are proposed to allow for walking.

### 8.7.3 Cultural Values

#### 8.7.3.1 Indigenous Cultural Values

While it is likely that there will be areas of Indigenous Cultural Heritage significance within the target area, detailed information was not available at the time of preparing this report.

Tabletop Mountain is notable for its recognised significance to the Indigenous community. This area is not proposed for any new trail development.

Consultation and formal assessments will form part of the final approvals process for the project.

#### 8.7.3.2 European Cultural Values

Data and information area limited regarding the European heritage values of the site. It is known that an ex-depression camp is located in Redwood Park; during detailed trail design, this area will be avoided. Further investigation will be required as a component of the approvals process.

### 8.8 Bushfire Management

Bushfire management is of increasing concern across Australia, and notably conditions in the project area were extremely dry during the preparation of this report.

Construction of the proposed trail network will not generally involve the removal of canopy trees and will have no marked impact on the canopy structure. *Dirt Art* suggest that no tree above 150mm diameter at breast height (DBH) be removed, as such it is suggested that the project is unlikely to have a significant impact on bushfire management. **All efforts are to be made to retain as many trees as possible, particularly native trees.**

*Dirt Art* suggest that fire management be assessed by appropriately qualified persons/organisation during the assessments and approvals phase of the project.

### 8.9 Proposed Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Commercial Bike Park

At the time of preparing this report, a group of local riders are in the process of proposing a commercial bike park. It is understood that this bike park intends to focus on uplift-assisted, gravity-focused riding, and will offer trails of high difficulty level.

Such a project would complement this proposed development by catering for a broader market of riding opportunities within the region.

### 8.10 Potential New Development Areas

*Dirt Art* has assessed a number of council-managed areas across the eastern face of the Toowoomba Escarpment for potential mountain bike trail development. As a result of this analysis, Jubilee Park and Redwood Park are considered to offer the best potential for trail development that will cater to a tourist and local audience. The old quarry at Bridge Road is perfectly located to service these two trail areas with a range of potential trails, parking and related infrastructure.

*Dirt Art* has also assessed the potential for trail development on private land parcels, which will be explored further in appendix three.

Detailed analysis of key potential development areas can be found below.

An overview map of key potential development sites can be found over the page.





### 8.10.1 Jubilee Park

Jubilee Park is the current focus for trail development on the Toowoomba Escarpment, with the bulk of trails developed being driven by the Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club (TMBC), with assistance from trail contractors. The focus of trail development in the past has been lower on the escarpment close to Amos Rd, though more recent trail development has provided better connectivity to the primary access node at Bridge Road.

The area towards Amos Road is highly congested with trails, though a number of other adjacent areas have good potential for future trail development.

The TMBC have developed a strategic plan for a range of new trails in the Jubilee Park area- these concepts have been notionally included in this plan. *Dirt Art* has added a number of new trails to the TMBC's proposal, further diversifying and adding volume and quality to the trail network.

While Jubilee Park has strong potential for future trail development, it should be noted that the area does not have the scope to develop the volume of trail required to successfully establish the Toowoomba Escarpment as a nationally-significant mountain bike destination.

Jubilee Park is suitable for the following trail-based infrastructure development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

Jubilee Park also does not have a viable shuttle uplift access route.



### 8.10.2 Bridge Street Quarry

The old quarry area off Bridge Street provides an appealing opportunity for mountain bike destination development. The site has a number of strategic advantages, including but not limited to;

- Proximity to current and future proposed trails
- Proximity to Toowoomba
- Adjacent to the current major access node for trails
- Significantly disturbed site (reduced natural values conflicts)
- Appealing views
- Significant parking and other non-trail infrastructure potential
- Minimal residential conflicts
- Uplift drop off capacity

The quarry area has significant potential as an event hosting space, with all key characteristics required to stage large, world-level events (including Olympic level cross country and Enduro World Series).

The Bridge Street Quarry is suitable for the following trail development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

### 8.10.3 Redwood Park

Redwood Park is situated immediately adjacent to Jubilee Park and represents a significant opportunity for future trail development. The site has a number of strategic advantages, including but not limited to;

- Proximity and connectivity to current and future proposed trails
- Proximity to Toowoomba
- Significant opportunity to connect to Withcott and provide the town with economic benefit
- Adjacent to the current major access node for trails
- Significant elevation opportunity
- Uplift opportunities
- Areas showcasing stronger natural values
- Appealing views



- Minimal residential conflicts

*Dirt Art* understands that the site is highly-valued for its natural values, particularly to a number of conservation-focused community groups. While some trail development has been proposed, it is suggested that with the right design and construction approach, this development can be completed sensitively and sustainably. There are several excellent examples in Australia of mountain bike trails in sensitive areas, which manage to showcase these higher quality vegetated areas with minimal impact on their natural values. It should also be noted that the destination mountain bike rider does seek trail in high-quality environments, as shown in essentially all Australia's top mountain bike destinations.

The Redwood Park site has the potential to directly integrate into the Jubilee Park trail network, creating one large and vibrant trail destination.

Importantly, the Redwood Park site allows essentially direct connectivity to the township of Withcott, maximising economic impact to the LVRC area.

As an uplift shuttle opportunity, the Redwood Park site provides the most direct transport opportunity. Uplift opportunities will be analysed in section 36.

The Redwood Park site is suitable for the following trail development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

*Dirt Art* recommend that the success of the Toowoomba Escarpment as a nationally-significant mountain bike destination will require a volume of trail development in Redwood Park.

#### 8.10.4 Picnic Point

The Picnic Point area is a popular destination for locals and visitors and includes a large visitor centre and restaurant. The area is constrained by a number of competing values, and as such, *Dirt Art* do not suggest it forms a major component in the proposed trail development.

Picnic Point is an important link in the Toowoomba Escarpment Trail (TET), and may also facilitate a smaller network of trails, which are separated from other trails and reserve users.

The Picnic Point area is suitable for the following trail development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

#### 8.10.5 Murrumba Road Park

This site does not possess potential for mountain bike trail development. This recommendation is based on the following key considerations;

- Limited space
- Limited elevation opportunity
- Lack of suitable connectivity with existing and proposed mountain bike trails

#### 8.10.6 Barry Griffiths park

This site does not possess potential for mountain bike trail development. This recommendation is based on the following key considerations;

- Limited space
- Limited elevation opportunity
- Lack of suitable connectivity with existing and proposed mountain bike trails

#### 8.10.7 Lions Park

This site does not possess potential for mountain bike trail development. This recommendation is based on the following key considerations;

- Limited space

- Limited elevation opportunity
- Lack of suitable connectivity with existing and proposed mountain bike trails

#### 8.10.8 McKnight Park

McKnight Park is not recommended for the development of new mountain bike trail infrastructure, though notably the area forms a critical component of the TET trail alignment.

The McKnight Park area is suitable for the following trail development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

#### 8.10.9 Culliford Drive park

This site does not possess potential for mountain bike trail development. This recommendation is based on the following key considerations;

- Limited space
- Limited elevation opportunity
- Lack of suitable connectivity with existing and proposed mountain bike trails

#### 8.10.10 Doilibi Bushland Park

This site does not possess potential for mountain bike trail development. This recommendation is based on the following key considerations;

- Limited space
- Limited elevation opportunity
- Lack of suitable connectivity with existing and proposed mountain bike trails

#### 8.10.11 J.E Duggan Park

J.E. Duggan Park is not recommended for the development of new mountain bike trail infrastructure, though notably the area forms a critical component of the TET trail alignment.

The J.E Duggan Park area is suitable for the following trail development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

#### 8.10.12 Glen Lomond Park

Glen Lomond Park is somewhat distanced from the main trail area, though provides a range of natural values that would contribute significantly to the proposed trail network expansion. The area includes a large waterfall, which would be a very positive inclusion into the mountain bike trail network. The area also forms a valuable component of the Toowoomba Escarpment Trail.

The Glen Lomond area is suitable for the following trail development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

#### 8.10.13 Tabletop Bushland Reserve

Tabletop Bushland Reserve offers a unique site, which provides value to the potential trail network expansion through its stunning views and unique topography. Notably, the reserve holds significant Indigenous cultural values.

This site does not possess potential for mountain bike trail development. This recommendation is based on the following key considerations;

- Indigenous cultural values
- Lack of suitable connectivity with existing and proposed mountain bike trails

#### 8.10.14 Withcott

Withcott is a small town within the LVRC shire. The town borders TRC tenure and provides theoretical access into the lower areas of the current and potential future trail network. Limitations on the area achieving success as a major entry node for the trail network relate primarily to land tenure, with private tenure acting as a current barrier between the town at the bushland areas managed by TRC.

*Dirt Art* has proposed direct integration via trail to Withcott into the proposed Redwood Park trail system, and via vehicle utilising existing road easements.

The Withcott area is suitable for the following trail development;

Trail Type	Suitability	Recommended
Trail/XC trail development		
Enduro trail development		
Downhill trail development		
Pump Track		
Skills Park		
Shared-use trail/s		

*Dirt Art* recommend that the most optimal connectivity from the trail network into Withcott is via the south eastern corner of Redwood Park.

## 9 Access Nodes

### 9.1 Overview

A number of nodes areas are currently utilised by local and visiting riders. It would appear that the access on Bridge Street in Toowoomba is currently the most popular access, with rider volumes appearing to be spread fairly evenly across the other access points immediately adjacent to residential areas of Toowoomba. The access from the lower escarpment into Amos Road is utilised for events and appears popular (likely particularly for visiting riders travelling from the east).

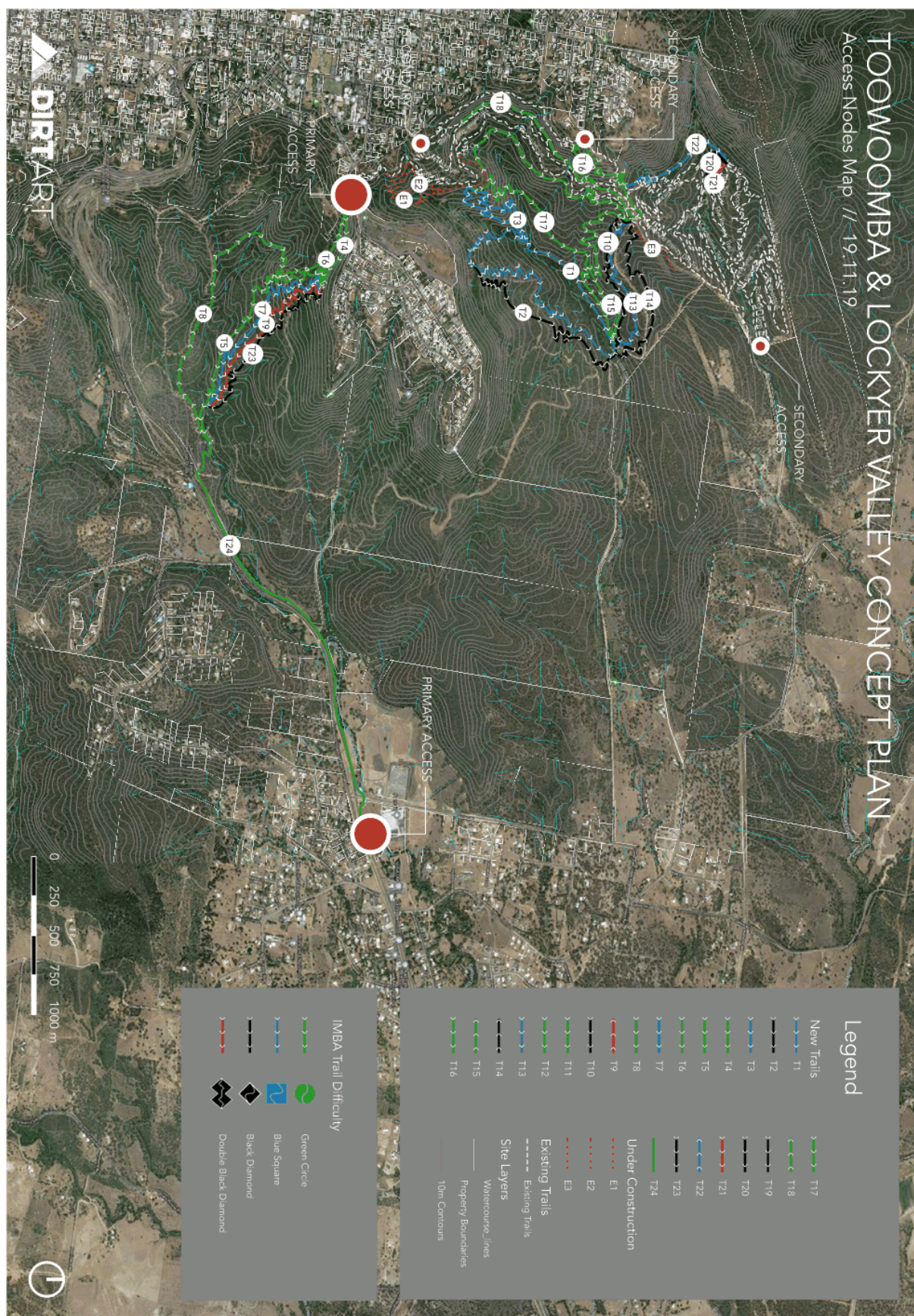
The proposed primary access node at Amos Road has been extensively considered and subsequently not recommended for further development. *Dirt Art* recommend that Amos Road not be considered as a major access node for the trail network.

Many current and potential access nodes have potential constraints and impacts relating to residential areas, particularly those immediately adjacent to residential areas in Toowoomba.

A detailed analysis of access nodes can be found in Section 9.2.

An access nodes map can be found over the page.







## 9.2 Primary access node opportunities

### 9.2.1 Overview

A summary of primary access node opportunities can be found over the page.

When proposing primary access nodes, *Dirt Art* has utilised the following considerations;

- Emergency management: Major access nodes need to provide opportunities to evacuate users quickly and easily should it be required (such as in a fire situation)
- Minimise residential conflict: Major access nodes must be located in areas that can provide access and parking via vehicle and bicycle, without causing unreasonable levels of residential conflict
- Convenient access: Major access nodes need to be convenient and functional access routes for the majority of trail users
- Connectivity from urban areas: Major access nodes will ideally provide direct connections via off-road trails to urban areas and amenities
- Viability with existing user patterns: Major access nodes need to consider existing user patterns and behaviours
- Access at upper and lower escarpment areas: A major entry portal at the top (Toowoomba) and bottom (Withcott) of the escarpment is essential
- Maximise economic benefits: Major access nodes must support tourism and economic benefit
- Access nodes must provide uplift accessibility: Major access nodes must allow for uplift opportunity
- Event capability: Major entry portals need to allow for the provision of major events
- Support local riders: Major entry nodes need to cater to local wants and needs, while meeting the expectations of the visiting rider

*Dirt Art* recommends that Bridge Road Quarry and Withcott form the two major access nodes for the project.

### 9.2.2 Major Access Node 1- Bridge Street Quarry

Bridge Street is the primary access node into the current trail network. At the time of the report it would appear that the area is under strain for parking during peak periods, though there does appear to be few (if any) obvious residential conflicts.

The Bridge Road Quarry access node provides the easiest, most functional access point into the trail network for most riders, and represents an obvious opportunity for future development as a primary trail entry node.

The area has the following current and proposed new infrastructure;



Infrastructure	Current	Proposed
Parking		
Shelter		
Signage		
Bike Wash		
Seating		
Toilets		
Drinking water		

A high-level concept for the Bridge Street Quarry area can be found over the page. This concept will need to consider the recommendation of the Bridge Street Quarry Feasibility Study 2018.



### 9.2.3 Major Access Node 2- Withcott

The development of a major access node connected to Withcott is a fundamental component of the project, ensuring that potential economic benefit is spread between the two municipalities. *Dirt Art* has proposed a major access node for the Withcott area, which provides near-direct connectivity with the town at a low elevation point, allowing trails to provide a maximum descending opportunity.

A proposed ~3km access trail connects the township to the proposed Redwood Park trail network. The option provides the most direct connectivity possible with the town, ensuring functionality for trail users and maximum potential economic benefit for the town.

The proposed Withcott entry node combined with the Bridge Street entry node provide functional major entry points at both the top and bottom of the escarpment.

A potential sites map for this proposed facility can be found over the page.



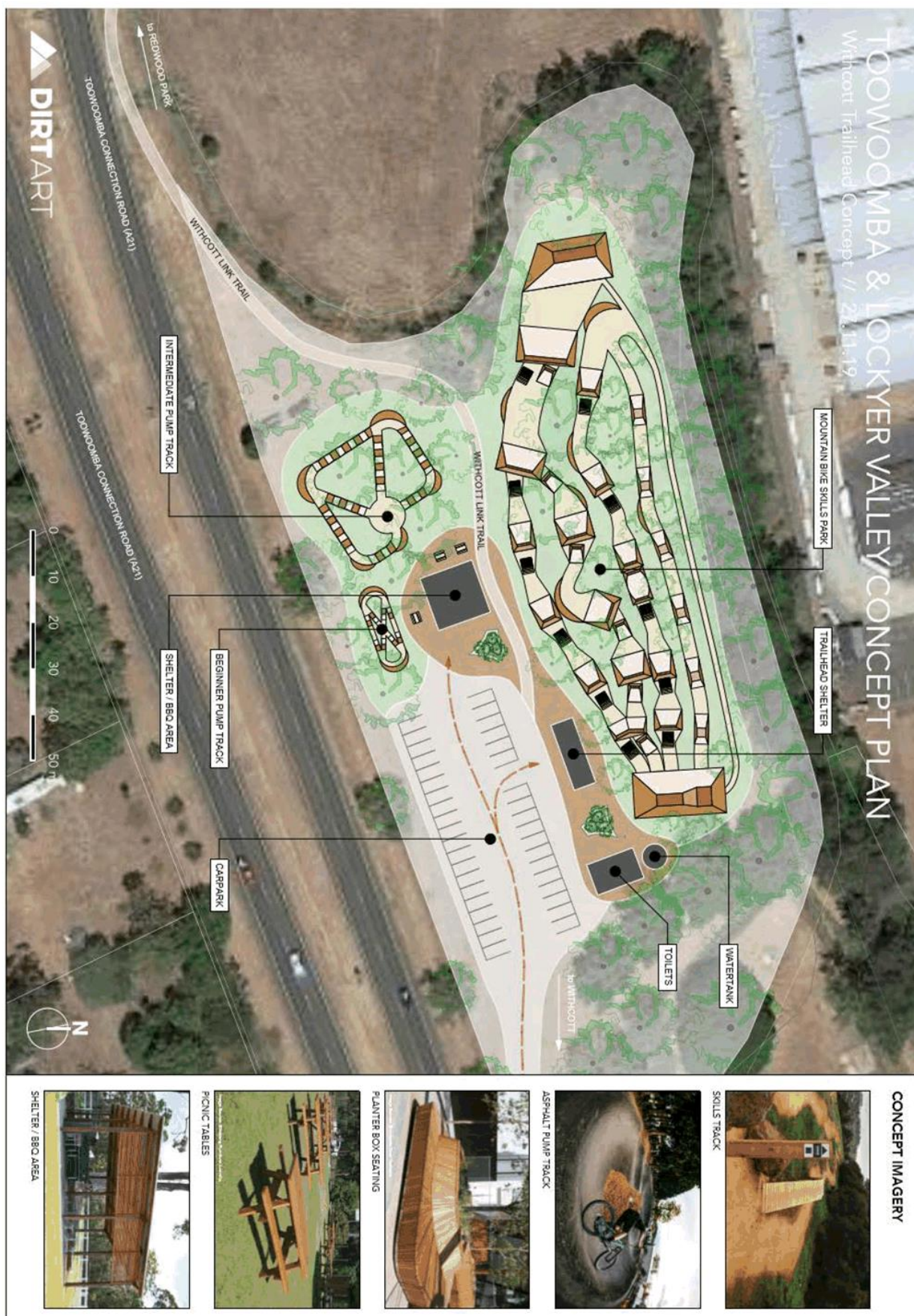


Infrastructure	Current	Proposed
Parking		
Shelter		
Signage		
Bike Wash		
Seating		
Toilets		
Drinking water		

Within the Withcott entry node, *Dirt Art* recommend developing an urban pocket park as close to the township as possible. This should if possible be located immediately adjacent to the highway to establish a 'street presence' for the trails. The site should look to develop a pump track, skills park, and major access trail and signage for the trail network, as well as providing for parking

A high-level concept for the Withcott Hub site area can be found over the page.





### 9.3 Secondary access nodes

A number of secondary access nodes exist across the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment. In most cases these access nodes are located at the end of quiet residential streets with limited scope for parking, and notable potential residential conflict issues. These access nodes include, but are not limited to;

- Amos Road
- Harvey Street
- Wooldridge Street

*Dirt Art* recommend careful consideration of major trail development and related infrastructure in these areas due to the risk of significant access growth causing residential conflict. In most cases these are very small, quiet streets, where even minor increases in parking and access may cause significant issues. While new connecting trail is appropriate in some cases to facilitate more local access, *Dirt Art* do not recommend installing infrastructure such as pump and skills tracks in these areas where appropriate parking is not available, and/or where residential conflicts are likely.

*Dirt Art* suggest the following infrastructure at secondary access hubs;

- Parking
- Seating
- Shelter
- Drinking water

## 10 Existing Trails Overview

### 10.1 Overview

The target area currently has a network of purpose-built mountain bike trails, with the focus on formal trails being in Jubilee Park. The trails were developed by TMBC volunteers and by local trail contractors. Current trail condition varies greatly, ranging from very good condition through to very poor condition. A general overview of audit findings can be found in section 11.6.

### 10.2 Auditing Process

*Dirt Art* employ the below methodology to assess all trails. The step-by-step process provides a board analysis of the trails key characteristics and includes both a desktop and in field assessment.

1. Desktop analysis- This stage involves a desktop analysis of the trail, with the view to establishing environmental values, gradients, and fit within the broader trail network (if relevant). Desktop analysis will generally establish larger, more fundamental flaws in the trail.
2. In field analysis- All trails are reviewed in detail during a field assessment. The assessment may be completed on foot or on bicycle. The in-field analysis aims to establish trail issues such as; alignment, drainage issues and safety concerns.
3. Network analysis- Using desktop and in field analysis, *Dirt Art* will assess the trails value to the broader trail network.
4. Signage analysis- *Dirt Art* will assess the adequacy and appropriateness of trail signage during in field analysis.
5. Budget scope of works- The trail audit will conclude with an overview of key works and a suggested market rate budget for these works

### 10.3 Aims and Objectives

In undertaking any trail audit, *Dirt Art* are working to the following key objectives;

1. Improve user safety-
2. Improve the trail experience-
3. Improve environmental performance of the trail-
4. Provide objective advice around trail closure/s and network rationalisation-
5. Provide advice that allows land managers to effectively invest in priority trail projects



## 10.4 Ranking Criteria

### 10.4.1 Overview

To provide objectivity and clarity to the trail audit process, *Dirt Art* has developed an attribute ranking system for trail auditing. Each trail audited is ranked against 10 key criteria, which assess its performance against a wide range of qualitative and quantitative metrics. These 10 criteria are provided a score of 1-5, which results in a total score from 50 for each trail. *Dirt Art* recommend that trails scoring less than 25 should not be included in a formalised trail network.

### 10.5 Overview of Ranking Criteria

**Sustainability:** This criteria refers to the sustainability of the trail in the short, mid and long term. The trail is assessed for its capacity to manage water and rider traffic, with a focus on gradient versus soil type and rider behaviour. The capacity of the site to manage the trail use in the local climate is also considered. A low sustainability score does not necessarily mean that a trail should be closed, rather the sustainability issues in some cases may be easily and cost effectively addressed.

**Ride Experience:** This criteria refers to the trails capacity to provide a high-quality riding experience. This qualitative criteria assesses the ride quality across a wide range of trail types- no one trail style is considered to provide a higher quality experience than any other trail style.

**Broad market appeal:** This criteria refers to the capacity for the trail to cater for a broad market of riders. A low score for this criteria does not necessarily mean a trail is low quality, rather that the trail will cater only for a smaller market segment (notably small market segments may translate to strong visitation if that market segment is poorly catered for in the market)

**Environmental Experience:** This criteria refers to the environmental experience that the trail provides for the user. A strong environmental experience may include unique and appealing vegetation, views points and vistas, rivers and creeks and related attributes. A weaker environmental experience may include heavily disturbed areas, generic vegetation types and logged areas.

**Value to Network:** This criteria ranks the trail on the value it adds to the broader trail network. Trails that provide key connectivity and/or provide diversity in the network will score higher, whereas trails that are duplicated in alignment and style will generally score lower.

**Environmental compatibility:** This criteria refers to the compatibility of the trail with the environmental values of the site. Trails that have a significant detrimental impact on natural values will score low, whereas trails that do not impact on natural values will score higher.

This criteria also analyses a broad spectrum of natural values, including rare and endangered flora and fauna on site.

**Social Compatibility:** This criteria assesses the trails impact on the social values of the site. Trails that negatively impact on other trails and user groups, and/or trails that impact negatively on local residences will score low. Trails that do not negatively affect any other users or residents will score highly.

**Heritage Compatibility:** This criteria assesses the impact the trail may have on any known Indigenous or European cultural heritage values of the site. Importantly, this criteria only assesses against known rather than potential values.

**Lifecycle Cost Rating:** This criteria assesses the lifecycle costs of the trail. Trails will score low where lifecycle costs are higher, which may be due to a number of factors such as poor soil types, poor maintenance access and climatic factors.

**Emergency Access:** This criteria assesses the complexity of emergency access to the site, should it be required. A range of access methodologies are considered, including on trail, road and via air.

## 10.6 General Overview

The existing trail network is focused on the Jubilee Park area, where the TMBC has utilised volunteer and professional labour to develop a network of approximately 25km of purpose-built mountain bike trails. Generally speaking, these trails are in good functional condition, though this condition varies greatly between trails.

A number of key issues are evident relatively consistently throughout the existing trail network. These issues are summarised below;

- **Lack of network structure:** The existing trail network lacks core structure, including a lack of clear loop riding options, and a lack of obvious arterial climbs and descents.
- **Confused trail heads and intersections:** Most intersections and major trail heads feature a confusing network of trails, that in some cases also features significant braiding and duplication. While this is unlikely to be an issue for local riders, it is highly-problematic for visiting riders.
- **Inconsistent quality and style:** The existing trail network is highly varied, which is a positive attribute for the trail system. Within this though there is significant variability within trails, which is generally not seen as a positive attribute.
- **Lack of capitalisation on sustained climbing and descending:** The current trail network generally fails to take full advantage of sustained climbing and descending opportunities.

## 10.7 Trails Assessed

### 10.7.1 Easy Rider

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	42/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	500m
TDRS	Green Circle
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formalised
Recommendation	Retain- nil major works
Weather notes	Dry winter conditions

### Trail Overview

Easy Rider is the trail that the majority of riders begin their ride with. Accessed from the Bridge Street trail head, the trail is a short, simple loop that caters to a beginner rider audience.

Aside from some gradients slightly exceeding those technically suitable for a Green Circle trail, the trail does not require any notable works.

### 10.7.2 Defibrillator

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	39/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	1600m
TDRS	Green Circle
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain- nil major works
Weather notes	Dry winter conditions

### Trail Overview

Defibrillator is a beginner standard flow trail that provides one of the major pieces of connectivity in the current trail network. The trail does feature some steeper corners that may challenge beginner riders, though is otherwise in good functional condition.

No significant works are recommended.

With the proposed addition of a new trail adjacent to Defibrillator, the trail is proposed to be changed to a single directional trail.

### 10.7.3 Cheeseburger

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	36/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	600m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Style	Flow/Jump
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry Spring conditions

### Trail Overview

Cheeseburger is a steep, technical alignment suitable for advanced riders. *Dirt Art* recommends retaining the trail with no major works required.

#### 10.7.4 Fries

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	36/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	340m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Style	Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

#### Trail Overview

Fries is a steep, technical alignment suitable for advanced riders. *Dirt Art* recommends retaining the trail with no major works required.

### 10.7.5 Hyperlink

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	39/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	1500m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

### Trail Overview

Hyperlink provides essential connectivity between the major trail hub at Bridge Road with the current focus of the trail network closer to Amos Road.

*Dirt Art* suggests retaining the trail with no major works required.

#### 10.7.6 D Ex.

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	33/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	215m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Style	Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

#### Trail Overview

D Ex is a short, advanced level trail that provides an optional diversion for more experienced riders.

*Dirt Art* suggests retaining the trail with no major works required.



### 10.7.7 Anonymous

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	40/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	1900m
TDRS	Green Circle
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

### Trail Overview

Anonymous provides essential connectivity between the major trail hub at Bridge Road with the current focus of the trail network closer to Amos Road.

*Dirt Art* suggests retaining the trail with no major works required.

#### 10.7.8 Mckenzie Frenzy

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	35/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	1700m
TDRS	Double Black Diamond
Style	Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

#### Trail Overview

Mckenzie Frenzy provides the areas only currently available downhill race trail. The double black diamond trail is only suitable for advanced riders.

*Dirt Art* recommend retaining the trail with no major works required.

### 10.7.9 Canyonero

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	38/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	1400m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

### Trail Overview

Canyonero provides an intermediate descending trail into the Amos Road area trails.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.10 Dirty Granny

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	1400m
TDRS	Green Circle
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Dirty Granny provides dual direction connectivity into and out of the Amos Road trail network for beginner riders. The trail operates in a dual directional fashion.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.11 Road Rage

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	221m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Road Rage is a short linking trail providing access to the bottom of McKenzie Frenzy.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.12 Turkey Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	40/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	2300m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Turkey Trail is a gradually descending trail suitable for intermediate riders.

Given the generally gentle gradients and lack of a beginner descent in the area, *Dirt Art* suggests that consideration be given to upgrading and converting this trail to a green circle difficulty level. The TMBC have expressed an interest in retaining the trail at its current difficulty level. Should this be the preferred approach, an alternative beginner-friendly alignment down to Amos Road could be investigated.

### 10.7.13 Centrelink Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	39/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	900m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

### Trail Overview

Centrelink Trail is a descending trail suitable for intermediate riders.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.



#### 10.7.14 The Reaper Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	546m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Technical/Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

#### Trail Overview

The Reaper provides an intermediate descent into the Amos Road trail area.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.15 Ida Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	35/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	757m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Style	Technical/Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

### Trail Overview

Ida Trail provides one of the few black diamond trail experiences in the current trail network.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.16 Calibre Loop

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	1700m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Technical/Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Calibre Loop Trail provides an intermediate loop ride in the Amos Road trail area.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required

10.7.17 Calibre Connection

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	40/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	32m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow/Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Calibre Connection is a short link trail.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required

10.7.18 Highlife Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	723m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Technical/Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

High Life Trail provides one of the major intermediate descending trails in the trail network.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.19 Rock n Roll Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	36/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	1000m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Technical/Flow
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Rock n Roll Trail provides a partial loop intermediate trail.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.20 Giblets Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	250m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow/Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Giblets Trail provides a short linking trail suitable for intermediate riders.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.



10.7.21 Viper Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	311m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow/Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

**Trail Overview**

Giblets Trail provides a short linking trail suitable for intermediate riders.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

10.7.22 RC Shortcut Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	37/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	62m
TDRS	Green Circle
Style	Flow/Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

### Trail Overview

RC Shortcut Trail is a short linking trail.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

### 10.7.23 RollerCat Loop Trail

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	38/50
--------------------	-------

	Key Stats
Length	2300m
TDRS	Blue Square
Style	Flow/Technical
Formalisation status	Formal
Recommendation	Retain
Weather notes	Dry spring conditions

### Trail Overview

RollerCat Trail provides one of the longer loop trails in the network.

*Dirt Art* suggest that the trail is retained with no major works required.

#### 10.7.24 Additional informal trails

There are a number of other informal trails across Jubilee Park, Redwood Park and Picnic Point, a number of which have been inspected at a high level during the formation of this report. In general terms these trails are providing a higher-level trail experience that is more technical and demanding than the formal trails in the area.

*Dirt Art* suggest that further consultation with the TMBC be undertaken regarding these trails and their long-term viability. Notably, the trails in most cases provide potential for inclusion into the formal trail network, but would require works to ensure sustainability and functionality, along with a safety assessment.

## 11 Consultation

### 11.1 Overview

During the development of this project, a number of groups, organisations, individuals and the broader community have been consulted with. Consultation included the below key groups;

- Toowoomba Regional Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Toowoomba MTB Club
- Local businesses
- Tour and transport businesses

Consultation has been undertaken in face-to-face meetings, via phone and email, and via online survey. A summary of consultation can be found below.

### 11.2 Consultation summary

#### 11.2.1 Toowoomba Regional Council

TRC have been consulted at various stages of the project and in-principally support the project. The following key points have been raised during consultation;

- Support for the revised concept removing Amos Rd as a major access node
- Support the inclusion of Redwood Park if environmental values can be protected
- Support for the establishment of Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley regions as a major mountain bike destination
- Support for the inclusion of the Bridge Street Quarry as a major access node

#### 11.2.2 Lockyer Valley Regional Council

- Support for the revised concept removing Amos Rd as a major access node
- Support for the proposed major access node within Withcott township
- Support for the establishment of Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley regions as a major mountain bike destination

#### 11.2.3 Local Businesses

A number of local businesses have attended the various consultations for the project. The following key points have been raised by local businesses;

- Strong support for the project

- Strong support for the inclusion of uplift shuttle accessed trails and entry nodes suitable for this service

#### 11.2.4 Interest Groups

A number of community interest groups were consulted through the project, both through key stakeholder workshops, one on one meetings, and onsite meetings. These groups included;

- Friends of Escarpment Parks (FEP)
- Toowoomba Bird Observers Club
- Toowoomba Field Naturalist
- Householder Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE)
- Lockyer Uplands Catchment Incorporated (LUCI)
- Darling Downs Environmental Council (DDEC)

#### 11.2.5 Broader Community

A community workshop and online survey was undertaken to gauge broad community feedback on the proposed development. The survey was also utilised to gather demographic and usage information. The community workshop attracted approximately 50 attendees, while a total of 389 respondents participated in the online survey.

Key data from the survey included;

- 25% female respondents (a higher than average female response rate)
- Most respondents visit the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment parks 'a few times per week' (28%)
- Jubilee Park is the most popular Escarpment Park (75%)
- Mountain biking was the predominant activity in Escarpment Parks (75%), followed by walking (40%) and trail running (10%)
- 85% of respondents support future trail development on the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment
- 75% of respondents identified as a mountain bike rider
- 82% of riders have an interest in uplift-assisted riding
- 61% of respondents fully support the proposal, 8% of respondents do not support the proposal

The complete survey data can be found at Appendix 6.

## 12 Policy

### 12.1 Overview

The following report section provides a wide range of recommendations around policy and guiding frameworks for the future management and development of mountain bike riding in the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Area.

*Dirt Art* suggests that the region should work collectively to develop and utilise a consistent set of guiding principles and management plans, ensuring consistent, high-quality development and management of trails.

### 12.2 Relevant Standards and Guidelines

#### 12.2.1 Overview

There is no 'standard' for the development of mountain bike trails in Australia, with no Australian Standard or other official standard for construction in place. While walking trail development does have an Australian Standard (AS 2156), this standard relates directly to walking trails, and has little to no relevance to mountain bike trail development.

It is generally accepted within the industry from both a supplier and land manager point of view, that the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) guidelines will be utilised for trail difficulty rating, and as a guide for construction methodology. Over the years, a number of projects have attempted to develop alternative difficulty rating systems and construction guidelines, though none of these projects has been able to develop a system that has been universally accepted.

In New Zealand, a numerical grading system is used for trail difficulty. *Dirt Art* do not recommend this system as it is inconsistent with the vast majority of other Australian destinations and has little international relevance beyond New Zealand.

#### 12.2.2 IMBA Guidelines

The IMBA guidelines (see Appendix 5) provide a near-universally accepted high-level framework for trail development and management.

*Dirt Art* recommend the IMBA trail difficulty rating system be utilised to determine and advertise the difficulty ratings of all trails. The rating system from Green Circle to Double Black Diamond should be utilised. In some commercial bike parks, a higher, pro-line difficulty grading is utilised, though this grading is not generally applicable in a public trail setting.



*Dirt Art* recommend using core IMBA trail design and construction principles for managing trail development. These core recommend principles are;

- **The half rule:** This principle states that a trail gradient should never exceed 50% of the side slope the trail is developed upon. For example, a 20% side slope should not feature a trail gradient beyond 10%. There are many ways to sustainably contravene this rule (such as by installing rock armouring), though it is a sound principle that should in most cases be adhered to.
- **Maximum 10% average gradient rule:** In most cases, trails beyond an average gradient of 10% are difficult to develop sustainably. There are many ways to sustainably contravene this rule (such as by installing rock armouring), though it is a sound principle that should in most cases be adhered to. Notably, for this project, some of the black and double diamond trails proposed will exceed this rule.
- **Frequent grade reversals:** The installation of frequent grade reversals is the single best, and simplest way to manage trail drainage and rider speeds. Grade reversals should be genuinely installed (not just water bars), and should feature minimum lengths of 4,000mm and minimum depths of 500mm.

There are a number of IMBA principles that are outdated and should not be applied to this project:

- **Outsloping trail:** IMBA guidelines specify that the majority of trail should be outsloped by ~3% to allow for functional drainage. *Dirt Art* suggest that frequent grade reversals are a far more effective way of managing drainage.

### 12.3 Guiding Principals

When pursuing any large-scale destination project, a set of guiding principles assists in the provision of a consistent, high-quality product. *Dirt Art* has developed the following guiding principles for the project;

1. Recognise and respect natural, social and cultural values
2. Sustainably and sensitively showcase high-quality natural areas
3. Focus on an enduro/trail audience
4. Develop trails in areas conducive to cost effective construction
5. Capitalise on maximum elevation opportunities
6. Develop stacked loop trail concepts where possible
7. Allow for the provision of uplift opportunities

### 12.4 Strategic Planning

This document has been developed to provide a multi-year master plan for the development and management of mountain biking in Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley. The concepts and designs in this report should be utilised to manage the ongoing master planning for the projects.

## 12.5 Approvals Framework

The majority of the proposed development area is land owned and managed by TRC or LVRC. This land tenure provides a relatively simple approvals process, without the need for leasing, licensing and separate agency approvals.

A summary of the potential approvals process can be found in Section 19- Implementation Plan.

## 12.6 Private Land Opportunities

### 12.6.1 Lease and licensing

Property and/or trail corridor leasing and licensing is a common occurrence in most current destination trails networks. The bulk of the project area does not require private leasing or licensing, though notably there are some private land areas that may assist in facilitating the broader mountain bike development vision for the area.

A more detailed summary of private land opportunities can be found at Appendix 3.

### 12.6.2 Land Acquisition

A number of parcels of land have potential to provide additional development area for the proposed trail network. Due to sensitivities around land sales and acquisition, this is detailed separately in Appendix 3.

## 13 Gap and Opportunities Analysis

### 13.1 Overview

Queensland arguably has one mountain bike trail network that is functioning as a destination trail network in the broader national context, Atherton Forest MTB Park. Atherton provides a 60km+ network of trail riding opportunities, with a number of direct and indirect up-lift opportunities. Atherton lacks many of the key aspects required to remain competitive in a national context, and as such does not appear to achieve significant destination visitation. There is no other trail network in the state that achieves the key metrics required to be considered a major mountain bike destination.

With the lack of any significant statewide competition, the marketplace remains non-competitive and rich in opportunity in Queensland.

A comprehensive opportunities analysis has been undertaken, assessing areas with the key characteristics required for cost effective trail development, which is compatible with environmental, heritage and social values.

*Dirt Art* believe that Toowoomba's key competitive advantages are as follows;

- Elevation opportunity
- Proximity to major population areas
- Reasonably high natural values
- Uncomplicated land tenure
- Shuttle uplift opportunities
- Climate

A summary of the gap and opportunities analysis can be found below.

### 13.2 Gap Analysis

A number of significant gaps are evident in the Toowoomba Escarpment trail network. Primary gaps are listed below;

1. Lack of beginner friendly trails
2. Lack of stacked loop trail structure
3. Lack of arterial trails
4. Lack of black diamond and double black diamond trails

### 13.3 Opportunities Analysis

A comprehensive opportunities analysis has sought to determine potential trail development areas where conditions are conducive to cost-effective, high quality trail development, and feature a low constraints profile.

Opportunities have been proposed with the view to catering to the wants and needs of local riders, but also with the view to establish the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment as a nationally-significant mountain bike destination.

*Dirt Art* has placed a focus on the following opportunities

- Longer format stacked loop trails
- Descents utilising maximum available elevation
- Showcasing viewpoints and higher quality natural environments

## 14 New Trail Concepts

### 14.1 Overview

Approximately 68.4km of new trails have been proposed (excluding the TET Trail), which seek to address trail network gaps, while capitalising on areas with generally low development constraints. The new proposed trails provide a diverse range of trail experiences, which cater for riders of all abilities.

While the proposed trail network represents a relatively large volume of new trails, the network does allow for development staging. Importantly, the proposed network represents the minimum recommended trail volume required to establish the area as a nationally-significant mountain bike destination.

The Toowoomba Escarpment Trail (TET) is a major strategic trail development priority for TRC. This trail is discussed in detail, including development of concept trail alignments at Appendix 1.

### 14.2 Key Objectives

Key objectives when analysing priority new trail developments were as follows;

1. Address key network gaps
2. Develop a stacked loop trail system where possible
3. Provide opportunities for a wide range of riding styles, including shuttle uplift riding
4. Increase trail diversity
5. Place trails in areas with lower environmental values
6. Place trails in areas with reduced social conflicts
7. Place trails in areas that eliminate or reduce heritage conflicts
8. Place trails in areas that provide cost effective construction conditions

### 14.3 Trail Breakdown

*Dirt Art* has worked to develop a diverse trail network that caters to a broad market of riders. An initial focus has been placed on beginner and advanced trails, in keeping with the project scope.

A breakdown of trail types and difficulties can be found below;

Green	Blue	Black	Double Black
34.8km	21.1km	10km	2.5km

Total trail volume proposed also includes a network of ~5km of trails proposed to be developed in the Bridge Street Quarry, along with approximately 1km of trails proposed to

be developed at the Withcott Entry Node. The total trail volume, including the 5km of skills trails is approximately 73.4km.

#### 14.4 Event Capacity

An important component of the project is the capacity of the expanded trail network to cater for a wide range of local, national and potentially international events. The site characteristics and constraints allow for the following potential events to be hosted (all with new trail infrastructure);

- Olympic Cross Country (XCO)- Local, state, national and world level (world cup/championships, Commonwealth and/or Olympic Games)
- Enduro- Local, state, national or world-level (Enduro World Series)
- Downhill- Local, state and national level (potential for world-level if strongly desired though this is not the strongest event type for the site)
- Multi day stage racing and festivals- a range of (likely private promoter) stage and multi-day event formats would be possible
- Marathon cross country- Marathon cross country at a local, state, national and world level

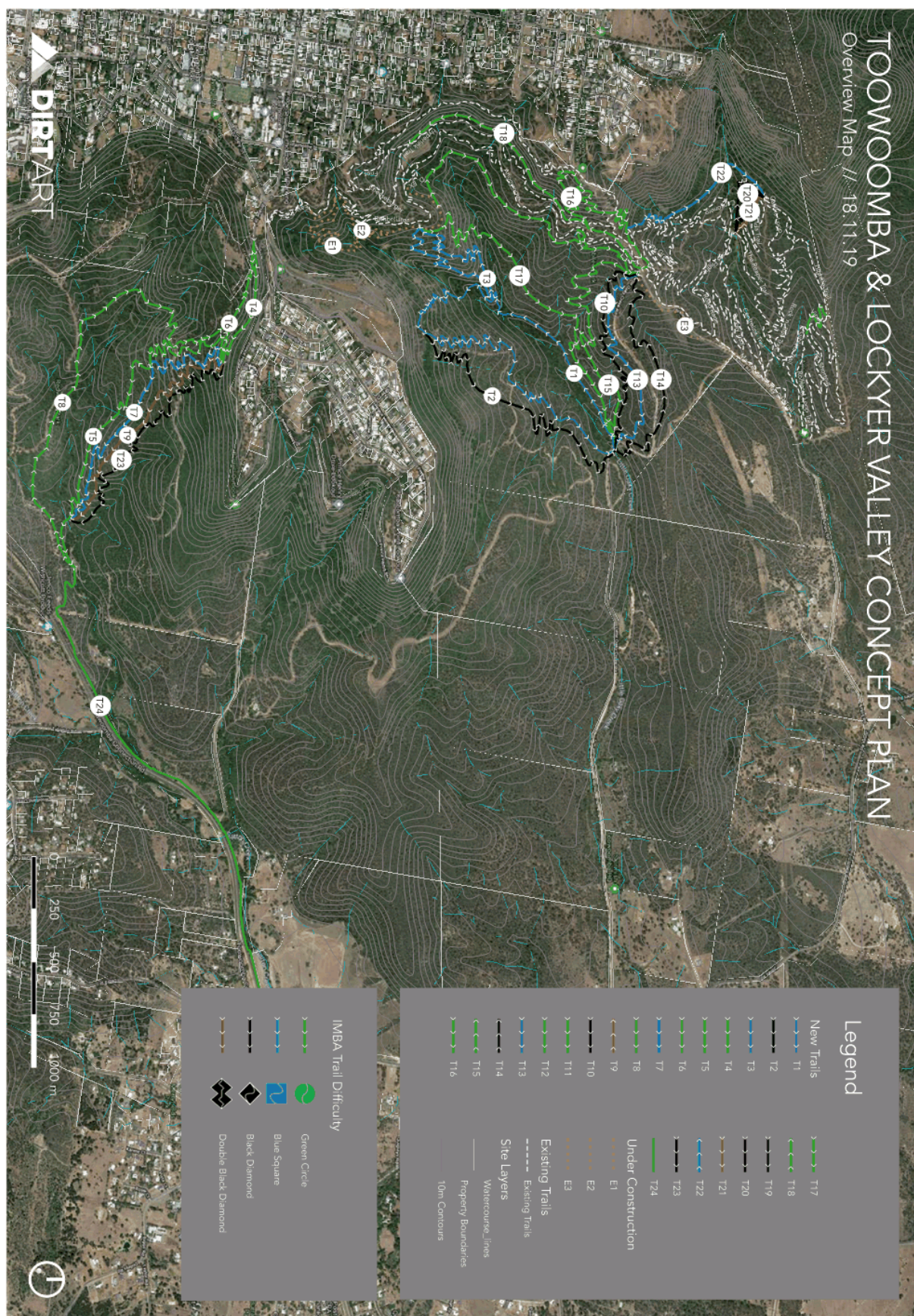
The above event types have been factored into the proposed new trails network. Adjustment to the proposed prioritisation of trails may be required to align with particular event opportunities.

*Dirt Art* recommend that a focus is placed on facilitating enduro-focused events.

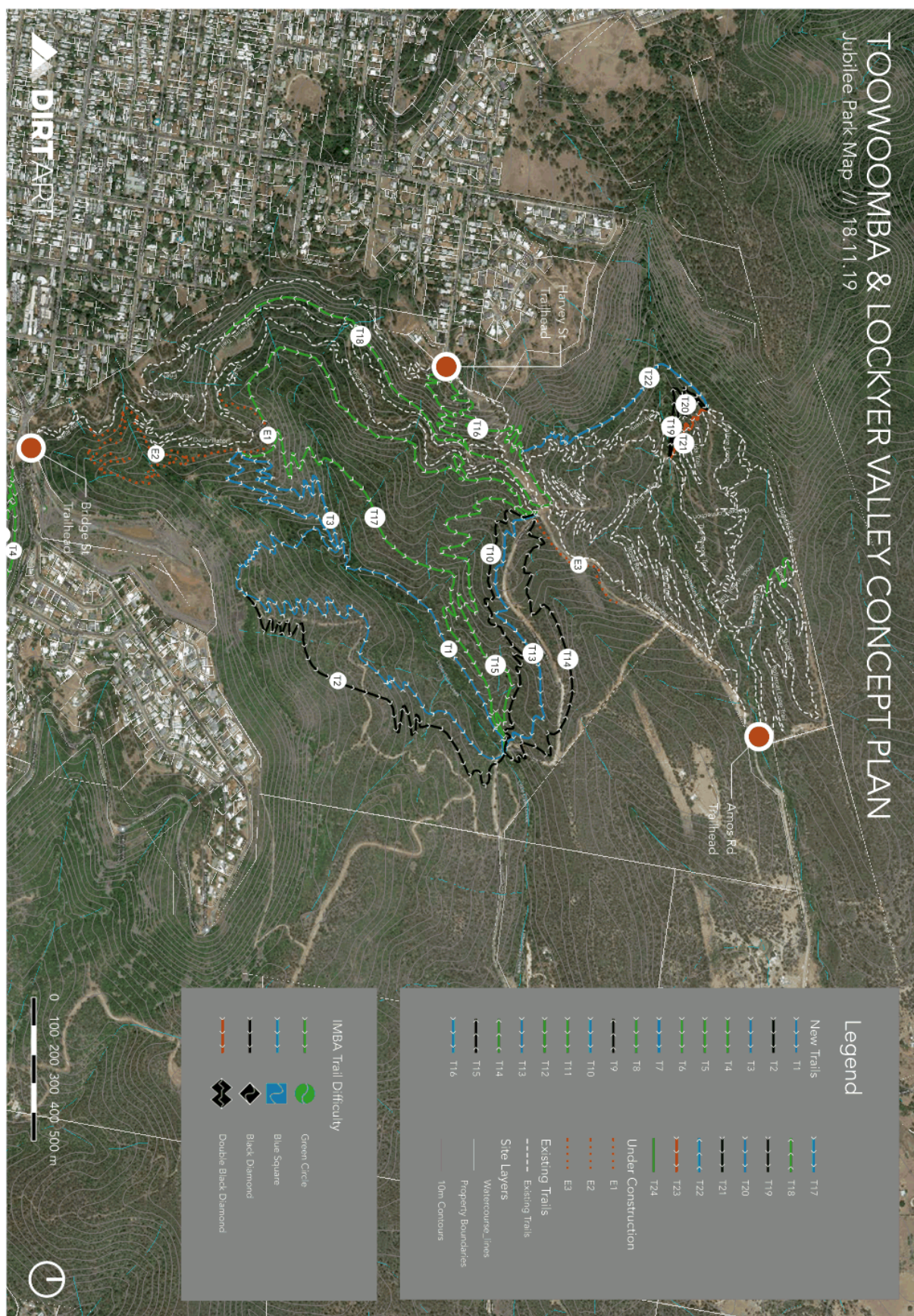
#### 14.5 Proposed New Trails Maps

Trail maps for all proposed new trails can be found over the page.

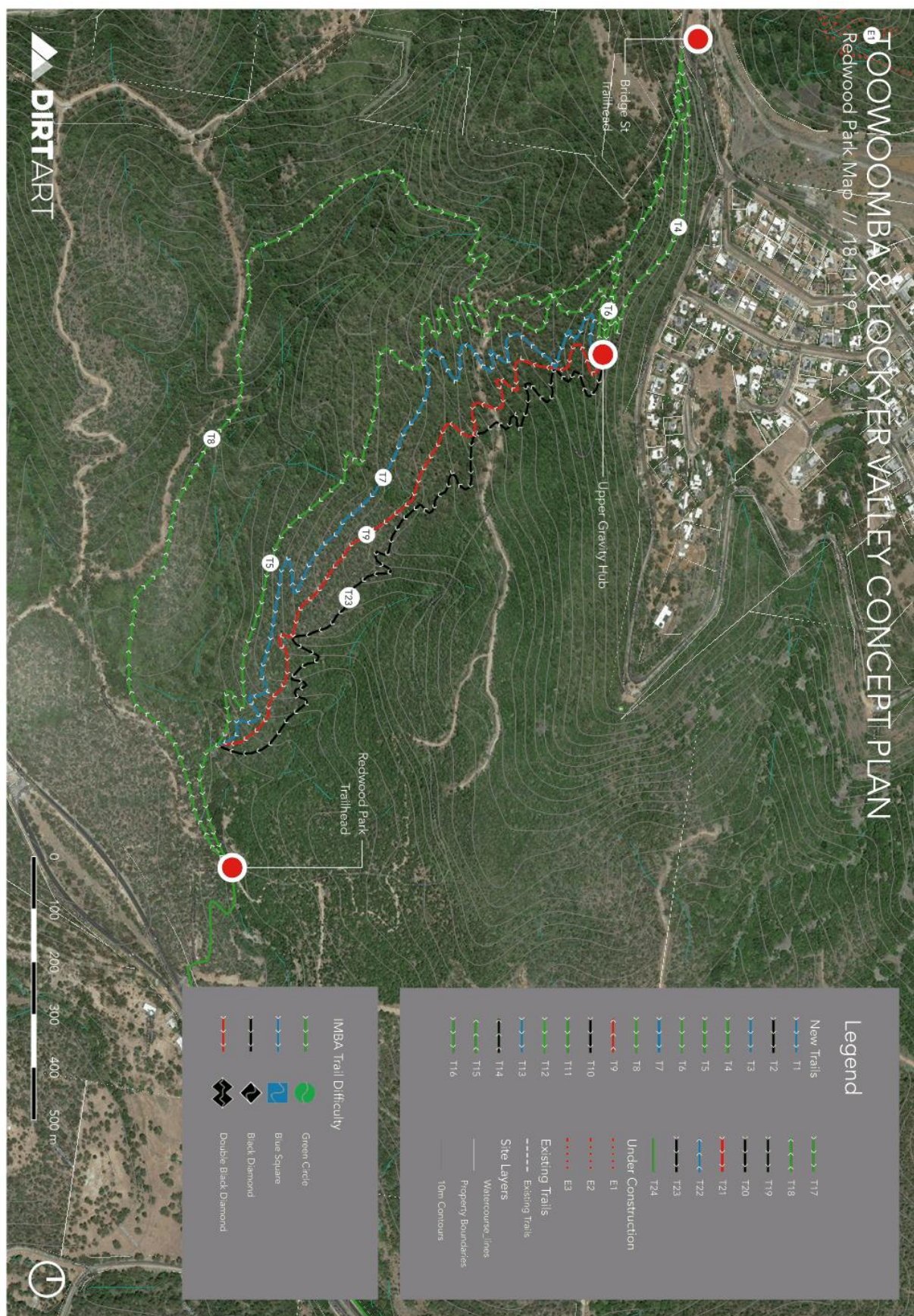












#### 14.6 Trail One

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	42/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	8,000m
TDRS	Blue Square
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/- 205m

#### Trail Overview

Trail One is an arterial loop trail, opening up a new zone of the riding area. The trail provides a gently descending alignment, which provides an opportunity for a range of more advanced trail features.

The trail is accessed via Trail Three.

The ascending portion of the trail ascends gently, and also provides climbing access for a range of other proposed trails.

## 14.7 Trail Two

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	39/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	3500
TDRS	Black Diamond
Construction Style	Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-155m

### Trail Overview

Trail Two is proposed as an advanced descent, providing an alternative descending option from Trail two.

The trail is proposed to feature both excavator and hand-built sections, which maximise the rock in the area and the natural terrain features.



### 14.8 Trail Three

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	42/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	5,000m
TDRS	Blue Square
Construction Style	Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/-145m

#### Trail Overview

Trail three is a technical intermediate trail loop, utilising a more pronounced ridgeline. The trail is proposed to be machine built, and to feature a range of technical rock trail features.

The trail provides connectivity to a range of other trails in the network.

#### 14.9 Trail Four

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	42/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	1,200m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-65m

#### Trail Overview

Trail Four is an arterial link trail, providing a link into the Redwood park descending trails.

The trail is proposed as a beginner-friendly Green Circle difficulty trail to provide connectivity for all abilities.

#### 14.10 Trail Five

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	42/50
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Key Stats	
Length	5,000m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-240m

#### Trail Overview

Trail Five is proposed as a beginner flow trail descent, that will be one of the most iconic trails in the network. Featuring an appealing, darker forest type and a range of flow-focused trail features, the trail provides a large vertical descent opportunity, which will appeal to a broad market of riders.

The trail operates as a loop with Trail Eight, or as a shuttle-accessed trail.

#### 14.11 Trail Six

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	39/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	500m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+50m

#### Trail Overview

Trail Six is short link trail, providing climbing access into the main descending trail junction in Redwood Park.

The trail is proposed as a beginner-friendly Green Circle difficulty trail to provide connectivity for all abilities.



#### 14.12 Trail Seven

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	40/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	4,500m
TDRS	Blue Square
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-245m

#### Trail Overview

Trail Seven provides one of the longer uninterrupted intermediate descents in the trail network, offering a world-class flow trail through 245m of elevation loss.

The trail operates as a loop with Trail Eight, or as a shuttle-accessed trail.

#### 14.13 Trail Eight

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	43/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	5,000m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+245m

#### Trail Overview

Trail Eight provides a highly-valuable climbing link, servicing the proposed descending trails in Redwood Park. The trail is proposed as a gently climbing experience, through an average gradient of less than 5%.

#### 14.14 Trail Nine

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	38/50
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Key Stats	
Length	2,000m
TDRS	Double Black Diamond
Construction Style	Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	- 245m

#### Trail Overview

Trail Nine is a double black diamond descending trail, capitalising on 245m elevation loss through Redwood Park. The trail is proposed to feature a steeper, more technical trail alignment, utilising rock paving and features to ensure sustainability.

#### 14.15 Trail Ten

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	42/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	2,000m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Construction Style	Flow/Jump Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-145m

#### Trail Overview

Trail Ten is proposed as an advanced level jump and flow trail, utilising the shadier area of the site to develop a trail style that requires better soil stability. The trail is proposed to feature a range of larger jumps and bermed corners.

The trail will feature a wider tread width of up to 2,500mm.

#### 14.16 Trail Eleven

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	44/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	3,000m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/- 100m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 11 is proposed as a beginner friendly flow trail that will combine with E1 and E2, which are currently being developed by the TMBC to provide a range of loop riding options for all riding abilities.

#### 14.17 Trail Twelve

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	43/50
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Key Stats	
Length	1,250m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/- 50m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 12 is a short contouring link trail that closes a loop with the existing Anonymous Trail.

The trail improves network functionality, and allows existing trails to be converted to single direction.

#### 14.18 Trail Thirteen

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	45/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	2,250m
TDRS	Blue Square
Construction Style	Jump/Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-145m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 13 is proposed as an intermediate jump trail. The trail capitalises on improved shade and soil conditions to create a trail experience with larger table top jumps. There is an opportunity to utilise split take offs to cater for a broader rider audience.

The trail will feature a larger tread and construction footprint, and will likely be constructed with a larger (up to 2.5t) excavator pending approval conditions.



#### 14.19 Trail Fourteen

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	45/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	2,000m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Construction Style	Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-140m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 14 is proposed as an advanced technical trail, with a range of trail features at an IMBA Black Diamond standard. The trail is proposed as a machine built trail but with a range of natural and rock sections.

#### 14.20 Trail Fifteen

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	46/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	3,000m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow/Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+140m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 15 is proposed as a beginner-friendly climbing trail, that gently climbs, providing a return trail for multiple proposed descending trails. Technical features will be provided as optional diversions, such as allowing riders to climb rock paved sections between switchbacks.

The trail provides climbing access for trails 10, 13 and 14.

#### 14.22 Trail Sixteen

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	46/50
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Key Stats	
Length	6,000m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/- 170m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 16 is proposed as a beginner friendly loop trail, providing ascending and descending trail access from the Harvey Street access point at an IMBA Green Circle Standard. The trail is proposed as a flow trail with gently climbing and descending alignments and wide open, in-sloped corners.

#### 14.23 Trail Seventeen

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	46/50
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Key Stats	
Length	4,000m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-200m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 17 is proposed as a beginner-friendly descending trail that features a gently descending gradient. The trail provides an introduction to gravity riding for beginner riders, while also forming as link to a range of loop riding options.

#### 14.24 Trail Eighteen

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	45/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	2,500m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/-120m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 18 is proposed as a beginner-friendly flow trail, which forms a loop with the existing Top Shelf Trail.

#### 14.25 Trail Nineteen

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	38/50
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Key Stats	
Length	1,000m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Construction Style	Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+60m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 19 is proposed as an advanced level technical climbing trail, which accesses a number of advanced descending trails. The trail is proposed for machine construction, but should include a range of technical trail features, including rock features.

#### 14.26 Trail Twenty

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	36/50
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Key Stats	
Length	500m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Construction Style	Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-600m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 20 is proposed as one of the most advanced trails in the network, featuring a hand-built alignment, which will include a range of rock trail features.



#### 14.27 Trail Twenty-One

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	38/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	500m
TDRS	Double Black Diamond
Construction Style	Technical Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-60m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 21 is one of the most challenging trails in the network, and is proposed as a double black diamond technical trail, which would be hand built.

#### 14.28 Trail Twenty-Two

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	43/50
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Key Stats	
Length	1,500m
TDRS	Blue Square
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/- 20m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 22 is proposed as a contouring connecting trail, which opens up a range of riding opportunities within the trail network. The trail will require a minor (<50m) realignment of the existing Canyonero Trail to create space into the trail head at the southern end of the trail.

#### 14.29 Trail Twenty-Three

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	36/50
--------------------	-------

Key Stats	
Length	2,000m
TDRS	Black Diamond
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	-225m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 23 is proposed as one of the most advanced trails in the network, featuring a hand-built alignment, which will include a range of rock trail features.

#### 14.30 Trail Twenty-Four

Criteria	Rating				
Sustainability					
Ride Experience					
Broad Market Appeal					
Environmental Experience					
Value to Network					
Environmental Compatibility					
Social Compatibility					
Heritage Compatibility					
Life Cycle Cost Rating					
Emergency Access					

<b>Total Score</b>	42/50
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Key Stats	
Length	3,000m
TDRS	Green Circle
Construction Style	Flow Trail
Total elevation gain/loss	+/-100m

#### Trail Overview

Trail 24 is proposed as an arterial link trail, connecting Redwood Park with Withcott. The trail is beginner-friendly and suitable for shared-use.

It is expected that approximately 200m of elevated platform will be required to managed wet and flood-prone areas along the alignment.

## 15 Potential Future Concepts

### 15.1 Overview

While the proposed trail network will deliver a total trail network size of approximately 100km, it is important to note that further expansion of the trail network is possible should it be desired in the mid-long term.

The below future concepts are beyond the current scope yet represent important longer term strategic aims for mountain bike trail development on the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment area.

### 15.2 Redwood Park and Jubilee Park

Should there be a desire to establish additional trail within Jubilee and Redwood Parks on council land tenure, *Dirt Art* suggests that a further 20-30km of trail could potentially be developed without any significant effect on natural values.

### 15.3 Private Land Opportunities

Potential future concepts for the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment generally involve additional trails developed on private land. These opportunities will be explored further in Appendix 3.

## 16 Tourism and Economic Development

### 16.1 Overview

Mountain bike tourism is a relatively new industry in Australia, with the first high-quality mountain bike destinations coming on line in the past five years. Despite this, mountain bike tourism is well-established internationally, with many regional towns across the world showing vibrant mountain bike tourism industries for a number of years (Including Finale Ligure- Italy, and Whistler- Canada).

Australian mountain bikers have a propensity to travel regularly and for long durations (the average Australian mountain bike holiday is seven days<sup>8</sup>). Beyond this, Australia is gaining popularity with visiting international riders, particularly from New Zealand and North America.

In a current Australian mountain bike tourism context, Tasmania is arguably the market leader, with a number of new trail destinations coming on line recently, and a significant investment into more trail development planned across the next several years.

### 16.2 Economic Impact

#### 16.2.1 Overview

The below economic modelling has been developed to explore the current and potential economic impact of the trail network. While no accurate trail usage is available based on visitor type, *Dirt Art* has made estimates regarding current usage based on the size and scope of the facility.

In developing this economic modelling, *Dirt Art* has made a number of assumptions, including;

- The current trail network is achieving very minimal visitor nights
- The proposed trail network proceeds in its entirety
- The proposed trail network is completed within the next 5 years

#### 16.2.2 The Queensland opportunity

The potential for intrastate visitation within Queensland is profound. South East Queensland has limited current mountain bike destination of note. There is significant unmet demand in the state and SE Queensland region that could be met by this project.

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<sup>8</sup> Dirt Art 2018, Mountain Bike Market Profile Survey

### 16.2.3 Visitor spending benchmarks

*Dirt Art* has proposed visitor spending as follows;

Day visitor- \$45/day

Overnight visitor- \$190/day<sup>9</sup>

Projected overnight spending has been based on Tasmanian Tourism Visitor Survey (TVS) Data. Tasmanian data is utilised for this purpose as Tasmania is the only state with an accurate TVS survey due to the states non-porous borders.

### 16.2.4 Multipliers

*Dirt Art* has applied a multiplier of 1.91x, which is the generally accepted economic impact multiplier for determining indirect economic impact for tourism-related activities<sup>10</sup>.

### 16.2.5 Estimated Current Visitation and Economic Impact

The Toowoomba trail network is currently operating at a local or regional level facility, and as such is not receiving large numbers of visitors from beyond the region.

*Dirt Art* estimates the economic impact of the trails is as follows;

Current			
Visitor Type	Spend	Volume	Total
Day	\$ 40.00	5,000	\$ 200,000.00
Visitor nights	\$ 190.00	1,000	\$ 190,000.00
Direct Impact			\$ 390,000.00
Direct & Indirect impact			\$ 744,900.00

### 16.2.6 Estimated Potential Economic Impact

The proposed new trail network would establish Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley as a Nationally-significant mountain bike trail destination. This change when combined with effective marketing and promotion, would deliver significant visitation from outside the local and regional area.

<sup>9</sup> Tourism Visitor Survey Tasmania, 2012

<sup>10</sup> Tourism Research Australia, 2010



Future			
Visitor type	Spend	Volume	Total
Day	\$ 40.00	25000	\$ 1,000,000.00
Visitor nights	\$ 190.00	50,000	\$ 9,500,000.00
Direct Impact			\$ 10,500,000.00
Direct & Indirect Impact			\$ 20,055,000.00

Of the above visitor nights, it is estimated that the average overnight visitor stay will be three nights, resulting in a total unique overnight visitor volume of 16,666 per annum. The three-night stay estimate is based on the trail volume and predicted regional, national and international visitor behaviours.

### 16.3 Visitation benchmarks

*Dirt Art* has conservatively estimated visitation on a broad range of factors, including but not limited to;

- Regional and statewide trail supply
- Alternative Queensland destinations
- Alternative Australian destinations

### 16.4 Business development

#### 16.4.1 Overview

When undertaking mountain bike infrastructure development with a focus on tourism and economic development, it is critically important that the development and operational planning for the facility provide clear avenues and support networks for commercial activity and business development.

*Dirt Art* has developed the proposed trail network to facilitate a wide range of direct and indirect business opportunities.

### 16.5 Employment Impacts

Every \$1m spent on tourism supports 11.4 FTE jobs<sup>11</sup>. Utilising this data, the completed project has the potential to create 100+ new jobs across the region.

*Dirt Art* conservatively predict that the completed project will deliver over 50 new jobs for the region, which will be across a diverse range of specialist, skilled and unskilled positions.

<sup>11</sup> Tourism Research Australia

The trail development has been proposed to directly deliver the highest possible employment impacts. This has been achieved through a range of methodologies, including the provision of commercial uplift opportunities, and a trail network size and design that encourages multi-day stays.

#### 16.5.1 Potential business activities

A wide range of direct business opportunities will be available as a result of this project. These include, but are not limited to;

- Uplift provision
- Bike retail and repair
- Bike hire
- Tours and guiding
- Airport pick up/drop off and related transfers
- Skills coaching

Indirect business opportunities include but are not limited to;

- Food and beverage
- Accommodation
- Complementary activity provision

Section 18 will provide further detail around potential commercial opportunities.

#### 16.6 Supporting business

While the mantra of 'build it and they will come' has been the key principal of many past mountain bike developments, developing even the best trail facilities without educating and supporting communities and the business community will fail to see optimal economic benefits achieved.

*Dirt Art* recommend hosting workshop/s with community, existing and potential new business owners to educate these groups in the opportunities provided by the trail development. These workshops should provide a comprehensive overview of the mountain bike tourist markets, their wants and needs.

*Dirt Art* also recommend the development of mountain bike specific business group/s, which will support networking and ultimately the growth of a sustainable, successful commercial community around the trail project.

Any proposed marketing activity should also where possible support the local business community.

## 17 Commercial Opportunities

### 17.1 Overview

The current and proposed expanded trail network provides a number of commercial opportunities. These opportunities cross a wide range of industries, both within and external to the direct mountain bike industry. A strategy for the management of commercial use is strongly recommended, which in most cases should include levies for operators, which can assist with funding trail maintenance and management.

A list of potential commercial opportunities is provided below, which is by no means an exhaustive list.

### 17.2 Uplift Opportunities

Uplift services form a valuable component of most destination trail networks, and some local and regional level trail networks. These uplift services may be delivered in a range of ways, including chairlift/gondola and/or shuttle bus.

The provision of an uplift service/s is an important component of the Toowoomba trail network, particularly given the availability of elevation on the site.

A map route of the current service can be found below.

The current shuttle route is extremely long, which significantly reduces the appeal for riders, and has commercial implications for the operator (particularly if they are selling single run passes).

*Dirt Art* recommend that an uplift route utilising Redwood Park as an exit point be pursued. Alternatively/additionally, an access at Amos Road off road to Harvey Street may be viable with significant road upgrades.

### 17.3 Tours, skills sessions and guiding

Tours, skills sessions and guiding form a valuable component of any trail network or destination. From a destination point of view, these services play a valuable role in servicing key markets, ensuring that visitors are having a high-quality, safe experience.

While the current trail network does provide potential for these services to be established, the consistency, diversity, volume and quality of trails does limit the commercial viability of such services.

#### 17.4 Food and Beverage

Quality food and beverage provision is a critical component of any destination focused trail network. Generally, the target audience are seeking a high-quality, healthy, and simple product, that will in most cases include a desire for good quality coffee and craft beer.

While Toowoomba CBD has significant capacity in this area, there remains potential to establish outlet/s in the Bridge Street Quarry area, and/or within the Withcott township.

#### 17.5 Retail

Retail, and particularly bicycle store retail, is a critical component of any destination-focused mountain bike trail network. Toowoomba has a good selection of bike retail stores, though pending final trail network layout, Withcott does not currently have a bike retail outlet.

#### 17.6 Events

Events provide an effective one-time economic benefit, though perhaps more importantly, high-quality events can provide significant marketing benefit, by exposing trails to a new audience, who is motivated to visit due to the event.

A number of large-scale events could be catered for on the site, including but not limited to;

- Olympic XCO
- Commonwealth Games XCO
- National Level XCO and DH
- Enduro World Series (Qualifier, Continental or Global
- Private promoter events

When considering private promoter events, *Dirt Art* recommend that land managers implement a fee schedule commensurate with levels of use and likely trail damage. A per rider fee of \$5-10 per rider is suggested.

## 18 Shuttle Uplift

### 18.1 Overview

The provision of uplift services is a critical component of the proposed mountain bike destination. The provision of uplift opportunities is a key component of most successful current mountain bike destinations, ultimately allowing riders to ride longer, and increase their length of stay, maximising economic benefits for the region.

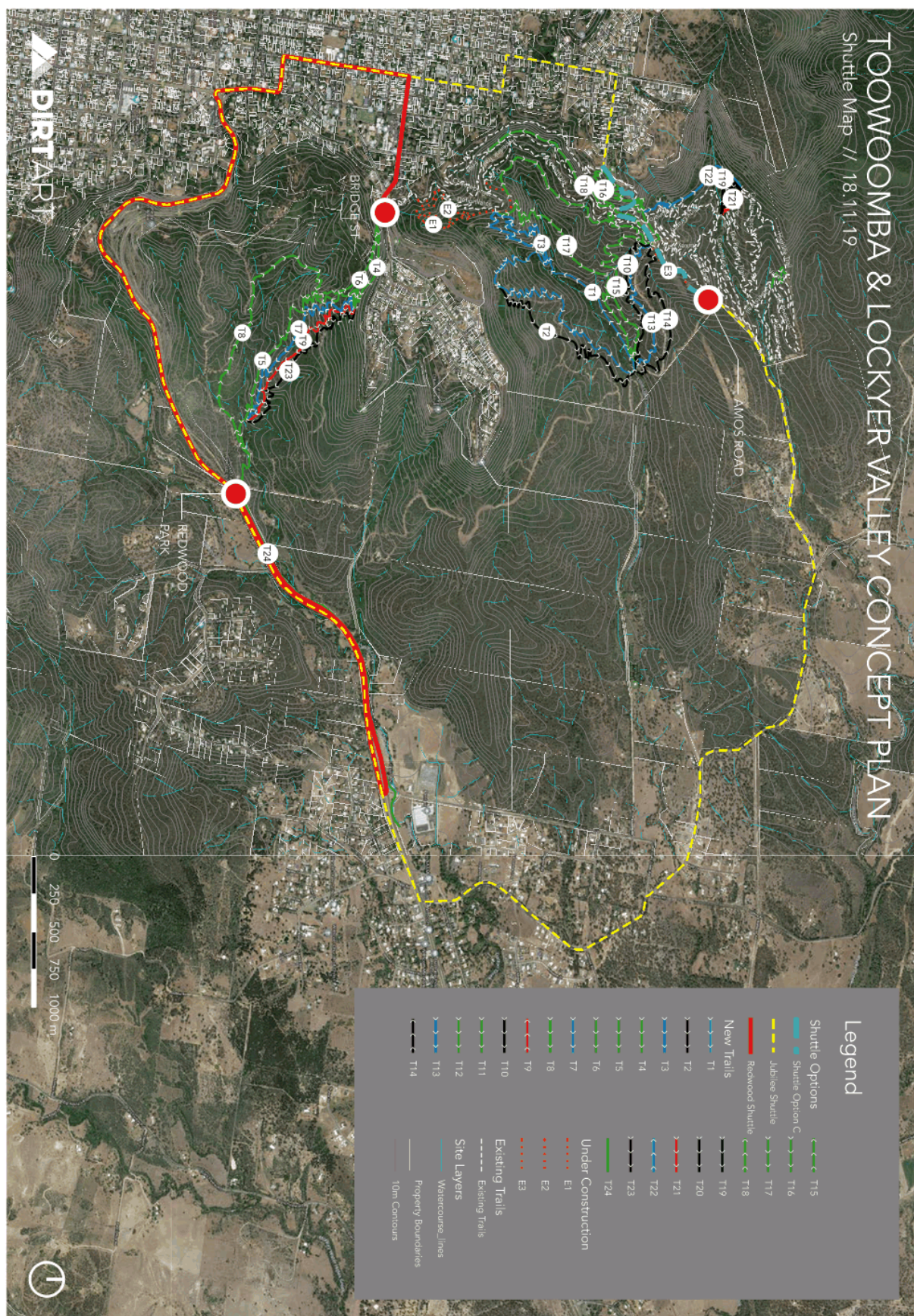
Uplift route/s should be as short as possible, maximising ride time and increasing the commercial viability for providers.

*Dirt Art* has analysed a number of potential uplift routes, which will be explored below.

### 18.2 Potential Uplift Routes

A map of potential uplift routes can be found over the page.







### 18.2.1 Shuttle Option 1- Redwood Park Route

The low point of Redwood Park can be accessed via existing roads and road easements, and provides essentially direct connectivity onto the highway, utilising existing road treatments. Importantly, this route provides direct shuttle access, while also allowing for the maximum elevation opportunity to be utilised.

This proposed route maximises functionality for riders, while providing the best commercial viability for operators.

*Dirt Art* recommend that the low point of Redwood Park be utilised as a primary uplift pick up point, with the Bridge Street Quarry to act as a primary drop off point.

### 18.2.2 Shuttle Option 2- Amos Road Route

The Amos Road uplift route is the route utilised currently by private shuttles. The route is extremely indirect, taking 20-30 min (pending drop off area) to access what for many riders will be a 3-4-minute descent.

*Dirt Art* do not believe this route is commercially viable, nor is the route desirable for private usage in the mid-long term.

### 18.2.3 Shuttle Option 3- Fire Trail Route

There is an opportunity to uplift riders up the fire trail route adjacent to McKenzie Frenzy. This route will require a four-wheel drive vehicle, and as extremely steep and rough in places. While the route may be viable for small volumes of riders, any growth in use and vehicle numbers will make the route completely unviable without extensive road upgrades.

During peak times, the interface and crossing with existing trails, as well as dust immediately adjacent to trails contribute to the issues with this route.

A significant volume of works would be required to create a functional, sustainable uplift route using this access road.

While the route may be viable for a very small uplift operation in the short term, *Dirt Art* do not believe this route is viable for the proposed trail destination.

## 18.3 Managing Uplift Providers

*Dirt Art* suggests that an effort be made to manage uplift provision utilising a structured framework from the outset. There are two key types of uplift provision;

- Single run uplift
- Day or part day passes



*Dirt Art* suggests that both options above may be popular as commercial options for the trail network.

The Redwood Park site provides an opportunity to have closed access with access potentially available for commercial operators only from the bottom of the site. This opportunity provides a clear opportunity to manage service provider/s.

*Dirt Art* suggest that uplift provision should be levied, with a suggested levy in the region of 10%. This levy provides a significant opportunity to provide funding to assist with trail management.

## 19 Implementation Plan

### 19.1 Detailed trail design

The concepts provided within this report represent broad trail corridors. These corridors have been ground truthed to ensure viability, though they do not represent final trail designs.

The trails will require detailed design, including route flagging on the ground. *Dirt Art* recommends that detailed design work for each trail/s be undertaken by the company/organisation construction the trail.

### 19.2 Approvals

#### 19.2.1 Development Application/Planning Permit

Given the nature, scale and location of the project and proposed works that compose it, it is likely that a development application (DA)/Planning Permit (PP) and/or building approval will be required. The requirement (or otherwise) for a development application will be determined at the relevant time, based on the nature of the specific proposed development.

#### 19.2.2 Consultation

A number of community groups have a strong interest in the Escarpment parks, for a broad range of particular interests. *Dirt Art* suggest that ongoing consultation between groups during design and approvals will be a valuable activity when progressing the project.

#### 19.2.3 Cultural Heritage Assessment

A Cultural Heritage Assessment will need to be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional. The project site and proposed trail corridors/alignments will need to be investigated and assessed to ensure that any proposed activities do not harm or adversely impact any Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places of significance. The resulting assessment report is to detail any potential harm and clearly identify which impacts are avoidable and those that cannot be adequately mitigated with practical measures.

#### 19.2.4 Flora and Fauna/Natural Values Assessment

Given the nature and scale of the proposed development, a natural values (flora and fauna) assessment (NVA) will be required. This flora and fauna assessment will be required to be carried out by an appropriately qualified consultancy.

The assessment will be required to assess for EVNT (endangered, vulnerable and threatened species) flora and fauna. Should EVNT be found, there may be a requirement to alter the proposed trail alignments.

*Dirt Art* suggest that final trail design and NVA are undertaken in unison, allowing the final trail tread to be placed in a location that minimises disturbance to natural values.

#### 19.2.5 EPBC (Environmental Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation Act) referral

Given the location and scale of the proposed development, an EPBC referral to the federal government may be required, pending final trail alignment and the location of any rare, endangered or threatened species. The EPBC process requires self-referral and has statutory time limits for assessment. The referral will be required if the development is likely to have a significant effect on protected flora and/or fauna.

An EPBC referral is applicable where a project is determined to be likely to cause disturbance to protected, endangered and vulnerable flora and fauna on a nationally-significant scale.

With a comprehensive and considered design approach that works to avoid EVNT species areas, *Dirt Art* recommend that an EPBC referral may not be required for the project.

The need for a referral should be determined by an appropriately qualified consultant.

### 19.3 Construction Staging

The project plan allows for a range of staging possibilities. *Dirt Art* has placed all works in a priority order in the project budget at appendix two.

*Dirt Art* recommend that the project should not be launched with less than 30km of new trails developed. The benchmark for mountain bike destination in Australia is high and only getting higher, launching with a low volume of trail risks creating high visitor expectation, which in many cases may not be met.

*Dirt Art* recommend that staging priorities be determined through ongoing consultation with stakeholder groups.

### 19.4 Construction Approach

#### 19.4.1 Vegetation clearance

Trail alignments and construction methodologies have been proposed to limit vegetation clearance. No large trees will require clearing (unless they pose an individual safety issue), with the proposed maximum DBH (diameter at breast height) tree size for any clearance works suggested at 150mm. All efforts are to be made to retain as many trees as possible, particularly native trees.

#### 19.4.2 Professional and volunteer construction

*Dirt Art* recommends that the majority of new trail construction be delivered by a specialist mountain bike construction company/s. Given the bulk earth works required for most trails, hand building volunteer construction will not be a feasible approach.

Hand built technical trails do offer potential for managed volunteer construction, which provides an opportunity to reduce construction costs and grow local stewardship.

#### 19.4.3 Machine construction where possible

The nominal proposed width for all new trails is approximately 1,000mm of functional tread width. It is anticipated that trails will range between 400mm-1,500mm depending on the trail style and construction methodology.

Most modern mountain bike trail construction is undertaken with mini-excavators in the size range of 0.8 to two tonnes. The use of excavators offers significant improvements in efficiency relative to hand-building in most environments.

There are some areas of proposed trail that may require hand build construction methodology, particularly where high levels of ground rock are evident. Notably, *Dirt Art* has worked to minimise construction complexity and is confident that the majority of the trails are able to be constructed by excavator.

It is recommended that where possible machine construction is pursued, where this does not adversely impact the experience provided by a trail and where it does not substantially impact the character of the development.

#### 19.4.4 Climatic considerations

The soil type and climate in Toowoomba will allow for year-round construction in most conditions. Toowoomba has a generally dry climate, which may require trail finishing works to be completed in line with rainfall events to allow for surface compaction.

#### 19.4.5 Construction progress

For excavator constructed trails, a typical team will consist of an excavator operator and two labourer staff. Adjustments to this team size may be required to account for difference in terrain and vegetation density.

The proposed trail development will likely see an average excavator team construct approximately 75m of finished trail per day.

Given the size of the project, multiple teams would likely be required to ensure reasonable levels of productivity across the project.

## 19.5 Signage

### 19.5.1 Overview

Effective signage is critical for the functionality of any destination mountain bike project, while also assisting in risk and incident management. The signage should focus on large map boards, as well as trail head and way marker signage.

An important consideration is also main road signage, ensuring that visitors are aware of the attraction as they approach via vehicle.

### 19.5.2 Budget

*Dirt Art* suggest a signage budget of 2.5% of capital investment (\$25,000/\$1m investment).

## 19.6 Suggested Order of Costs

See suggested order of costs at Appendix 2.

## 20 Operational Considerations

### 20.1 Management Models

As the majority of the proposed land will be council owned and managed, the governance and management of the trails will be relatively simple.

Notably, with a potentially significant increase in trail volume *Dirt Art* recommend that the two councils dedicate paid resources to trail maintenance. This allocation will ensure the goodwill of volunteers is not exceeded, while maintaining high-quality, safe and functional trails.

### 20.2 Trail Maintenance

Trail maintenance is one of the key operational considerations of any trail destination. In general terms, a high -quality mountain bike destination will require regular maintenance, to ensure trails are maintained to a standard expected by the traveling mountain bike rider.

*Dirt Art* suggests a maintenance budget of approximately \$1,500 per kilometer per annum would be appropriate. This budget allocation would involve approximately two FTE positions managing the completed trail network.

### 20.3 Trail directional management

All proposed trails are single directional and should be operated in the proposed direction of travel only.

### 20.4 Shared use trails management

*Dirt Art* suggest shared use for mountain bike and walking uses is possible on all proposed climbing trails. Shared use should be discretionary on contouring trails. Descending trails should be managed as mountain bike-only.

### 20.5 Adaptive mountain bike riding

Adaptive mountain biking utilises a range of different equipment, though most users ride a four wheeled hand cycle. Other formats include trikes and downhill wheelchairs.

Adaptive mountain biking is growing in popularity across Australia and is a fantastic way to make the sport of mountain biking more inclusive for those unable to ride a traditional mountain bike.



Adaptive mountain bikes typically require a wider tread width (~1,200-1500mm) and a trail that does not generally feature extreme gradients or camber. Adaptive mountain biking should be considered during the detailed design process and would be suitable on some of the beginner-intermediate flow trails proposed for the project.

## 20.6 Risk and Incident Management

Risk and incident management is a critically important consideration for any mountain bike trail development and should be considered continually throughout the development and construction process.

*Dirt Art* recommend that new trails not be opened until a complete emergency management plan is completed by appropriately qualified/experienced consultants.

Incidents can be minimised through the following key considerations;

- Predictability in trails
- Low consequence trail features (limited gap jumps, blind drops etc)
- Appropriate trail difficulty grading
- Appropriate signage
- High-quality trail design and construction

Incidents can be managed through the following key considerations;

- Liaison with emergency services
- Noting of key access routes
- Noting of emergency points on all trails
- Consideration of aerial rescue points

## 21 Event Potential

### 21.1 Overview

Events bring a number of local and regional benefits, which primarily focus around marketing opportunities, and one-time economic impacts.

*Dirt Art* has worked to establish a proposed trail network that can host a wide range of mountain bike events, from local to international in scale. Key site attributes have been utilised to maximum event potential for some of the world's biggest events.

### 21.2 Key event opportunities

#### 21.2.1 Olympic and Commonwealth Games Events

##### 21.2.1.1 Overview

Olympic and Commonwealth include one mountain bike event type, Cross Country Olympic (XCO). This racing format involves racers competing in a head to head format as a mass group, with a single start. The race is conducted over a 4-km loop course, with racers completing 6-8 laps for a total race time of ~1.5 hours.

The Commonwealth Games XCO event on the Gold Coast hosted over 20,000 spectators, which should be considered when pursuing these events. The Bridge Street Quarry provides excellent potential to house this volume of spectators.

The Toowoomba Escarpment has excellent potential to host this event type.

##### 21.2.1.2 Course requirements

The race course must meet the following requirements;

- 4-6km in length
- No more than 10% of the course may occur on paved/sealed roads
- A lightly sloping 200m start/finish straight
- Multiple loops to bring riders back to race village regularly
- Minimum of 5,000m<sup>2</sup> race village space
- Capacity for two feed zones (preferably in a double feed zone format)

The race course must provide a range of trail styles to test a wide range of riding skills and abilities. Generally trails will focus on black and double black diamond trails.

#### *21.2.1.3 Other considerations*

The hosting of these events will involve a significant consideration of broadcast and media. Where possible, a good volume of the course should be located in cleared areas to maximise broadcast opportunities

The Toowoomba Escarpment site will rely heavily on the Bridge Street Quarry site to facilitate these events. No other potential event village spaces are suitable without large scale vegetation clearing and earthworks.

### **21.2.2 Enduro World Series and related events**

#### *21.2.2.1 Overview*

The Enduro World Series (EWS) is a five-year old event format that involves racing and liaison stages. Racers compete in a timed format down descending stages, and pedal through climbing stages in a non-competitive format.

The Toowoomba Escarpment has excellent potential for this event type, with this potential maximised through the proposed new trail development.

#### *21.2.2.2 Course requirements*

The event has the following course requirements;

- Minimum of seven descending stages
- Availability of two climbing trail options for liaison

#### *21.2.2.3 Other considerations*

The EWS event format relies on a high volume of sustained/uninterrupted descending trails. Hosting EWS global events is currently highly-competitive, particularly in the southern hemisphere, where only limited event slots are available.

### **21.2.3 National and world level Cross Country Olympic**

#### *21.2.3.1 Overview*

This racing format involves racers competing in a head to head format as a mass group, with a single start. The race is conducted over a 4-6km loop course, with racers completing 6-8 laps for a total race time of ~1.5 hours.

#### *21.2.3.2 Course requirements*

- 4-6km in length

- No more than 10% of the course may occur on paved/sealed roads
- A lightly sloping 200m start/finish straight
- Multiple loops to bring riders back to race village regularly
- Minimum of 5,000m<sup>2</sup> race village space
- Capacity for two feed zones (preferably in a double feed zone format)

#### *21.2.3.3 Other considerations*

The Toowoomba Escarpment site will rely heavily on the Bridge Street Quarry site to facilitate these events. No other potential event village spaces are suitable without large scale vegetation clearing and earthworks.

### **21.2.4 National and world level downhill events**

#### *21.2.4.1 Overview*

Downhill (DHI) racing involves racers competing in a point-to-point timed-format, descending race. The race involves a descending trail with a winning race time of 2-5 minutes. To achieve this time goal, elevation range between 200-600m is required.

#### *21.2.4.2 Course requirements*

- 200m+ vertical elevation
- Uplift opportunity
- Double black diamond difficulty

#### *21.2.4.3 Other considerations*

Downhill racing events are typically focused on the finish line, which is where the focus of spectator activity will occur. Given the likely event village at the Bridge Road Quarry, consideration should be given to servicing the finish line area for spectators.

### **21.2.5 Marathon cross country racing**

#### *21.2.5.1 Overview*

Marathon cross country racing typically involves a course of 80-120km, which may include a maximum of three laps of a loop course, a large loop, or a point-to-point format.

The racing format has waned in popularity, though remains relevant, and will attract large fields for national and international level events.

#### *21.2.5.2 Course requirements*

The format has the following course requirements;

- 80-120km course with a maximum of three laps
- Large start/finish area
- 200m start/finish straight

*Dirt Art* suggests a 3-lap race format is optimal as it allows reduced distance events to be easily managed through lap counts.

#### 21.2.5.3 Other considerations

The Toowoomba Escarpment site has good potential to host this event type.

#### 21.2.6 Other event types

A range of other event types may be pursued in the target area. These event types include but are not limited to;

- Stage racing
- Mountain bike festival

*Dirt Art* suggests that both the event types above can be facilitated at the site, with the strongest potential available for a festival-type event.

## 22 Branding and Marketing

### 22.1 Overview

In an increasingly competitive mountain bike destination marketplace, marketing and branding are critical components of any successful destination. *Dirt Art* recommend a branding exercise be undertaken prior to launching new trails, to establish the customer-facing project identity

This package would include a new logo and a broader style guide and package, which is consistent with the values of the revitalised trail destination.

### 22.2 Key Strengths

The key strengths of the completed trail network and brand will be;

- A large network of iconic trails
- Excellent elevation opportunities
- High-quality natural environments
- Challenging enthusiast trails
- Approachable beginner trails
- Small town charm and community values at Withcott
- Food, beverage and accommodation opportunities at Toowoomba

The above key strengths should form the basis of a new branding package.

### 22.3 Marketing Plan

#### 22.3.1 Overview

The Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment trail destination should be backed by a comprehensive marketing plan. The plan should work across a range of formats and platforms to target existing and new audiences in Toowoomba's key rider markets.

The marketing plan should not be enacted until significant capital works have been undertaken to ensure the strategy aligns with quality new and upgraded existing trails. Enacting the plan and 'going to market' early risks creating an inflated expectation, which may result in many visitors disappoint, with a genuine risk they may not return.

### 22.3.2 Marketing formats and channels

#### 18.3.2.1 Content creation

Quality content is a fundamental component of any marketing strategy. Forrest should develop a large content library of photo and video media, which directly aligns with the core values and strengths of the destination.

A high-quality digital asset library is critical to the marketing strategy as it will provide the content required to drive marketing initiatives through a wide range of channels. Content creation includes self-produced photo and video content, where the destination may produce their own content for distribution through their and other channels. Self-produced and distributed content can be a cost-effective way of producing content that directly aligns with the values of the destination.

#### 18.3.2.2 Social media

Social media provides a marketing channel that is generally well-aligned with the mountain bike consumer and provides a simple and cost-effective marketing opportunity. While a range of platforms existing, *Dirt Art* suggest that Facebook and Instagram are the two key platforms for targeting mountain bike consumers. Facebook will generally target a slightly older audience, and Instagram a slightly younger audience. Twitter is not considered a highly-relevant platform for mountain bike destinations due to its generally older demographic and journalistic and political focus. Snapchat is a challenging platform to manage relevant content through, and generally offers little scope to target key audiences due to its millennial user focus. If another platform is desired, YouTube is recommended, with scope to create a fantastic video content library. Should YouTube be pursued it must be understood that significant cost and effort will be required to produce regular video updates.

Content should generally be curated specifically to Facebook and Instagram, with the platforms suited to the below approach;

- Facebook: Written content and information (must always be shared with a high-quality image), events, article links
- Instagram: Imagery, video, shorter format written content
- The following key tips are relevant to both platforms;
- Written personality: The writing style portrayed should match the target audience (professional built light hearted), and should be consistent across posts and platforms
- All image and video content should be high-quality, professional
- Content should not be shared identically across platforms unless it is critical news
- Ideal posting regularity is 5 times a week for Facebook and 7 times a week for Instagram (reinforcing the importance of a large content library)
- Video links will generally be downranked by Facebook unless they are directly



- loaded into the platform
- Web site links will generally be downranked by Facebook

### 18.3.3 Influencers

Influencers are a potentially valuable marketing methodology. When engaging influencers, care should be taken to ensure that the influencers channel and audience aligns with the values of the destination. For example, gravity-focused athletes and influencers should not be used to market a cross country-focused trail network.

When utilising influencers, *Dirt Art* recommend keeping scripting and curation to a minimum, instead relying on the influencer to control content so it may be as organic as possible. Basic key messaging notes can be provided to the influencer to ensure that their outputs are consistent with the values of the destination.

### 18.3.4 Digital media

Digital media provides a range of potentially valuable marketing opportunities, including but not limited to; destination showcases, competitions, and standard news pieces. In Australia, the main digital news outlet specific to mountain bike is Flow Mountain Bike.

Australian destinations have also been known to utilise Pink Bike (a North American supplier, and the world's biggest mountain bike media outlet).

*Dirt Art* recommend the above two outlets as high-quality opportunities for content creation and distribution. Destination showcases are a particularly strong opportunity well when curated and presented so they are entirely consistent with the key strengths and values of the destination.

### 18.3.5 Print media

Print media remains a valuable marketing opportunity, though its reach is diminishing as customers continue to shift to digital media consumption. The main print media outlets specific to mountain biking in Australia are; Australian Mountain Bike Magazine, Revolution MTB Magazine and Mountain Biking Australia Magazine. These magazines have the following key reader markets;

- Australian Mountain Bike: Broad audience with a trail riding focus
- Revolution MTB: Gravity-focused with a younger audience
- Mountain Biking Australia Magazine: Trail riding focused with an older audience

When engaging print media, content should be high-quality and consistent with the values of the destination. Paid advertising may also be used in conjunction with destination showcases, strengthening the package.

As the profile of mountain biking continues to grow further towards a mass market

activity, there are a growing number of more diverse print media opportunities. These include but are not limited to; airline magazines, travel magazines and outdoor magazines. Trail destinations with a strong beginner-intermediate focus will benefit particularly well from general print media opportunities.

### 22.3.3 Web site

A web site is a functional aid for riders but can also act as a valuable marketing tool. Mountain bike destination web sites should include the following information at a minimum;

- Location information
- Trail information and maps
- Accommodation information
- Local business information (food, beverage and services)
- Regional trail information
- Other things to do (focus on family friendly activities, and non-rider activities such as wineries etc.)

In recent years it has also become common for trail destinations to develop their own bespoke phone app. A phone app can be useful for mapping and trail information, though the public application Trail Forks has usurped the need for the mapping function in most bespoke destination apps.

### 18.4 Marketing Budget

When developing new trails and infrastructure, Dirt Art recommend a year one marketing budget of 2.5% of capital spend (\$25,000/\$1m spent). This budget provides a high-level guide, though notably if a large impact is sought from a small investment, then the percentage marketing spend may need to be 5+% of capital investment. When marketing a broader destination showcase it may also be relevant to request some support (financial and/or in-kind) from the local business community.

## 23 Conclusion

The Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment has an existing network of 28km of formalised mountain bike trails, which service a largely local population of riders. This project has worked to assess potential for further trail development across the Toowoomba Escarpment, and down to the township of Withcott. The project has developed potential trail concepts with the view to establishing the Toowoomba Escarpment as a potentially nationally-significant mountain bike destination.

Mountain biking and mountain bike tourism are rapidly growing markets, as demonstrated by the rise of 'trail towns' such as Derby in Tasmania, where over 30,000 rider per annum travel for mountain bike holidays. Queensland is unique from many other states in that it does not have any mountain bike destinations that would be considered nationally-significant. South East Queensland in particular has a distinct lack of high-quality trail opportunities, with regional riders serviced only by smaller, local-level trail networks.

*Dirt Art* believe there is a significant opportunity for the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment to capitalise on the opportunity to develop Queensland first genuinely nationally-significant mountain bike destination. The proposed development sites offer a number of attractive attributes, including but not limited to;

- Elevation opportunities
- Appealing climate
- Areas of high-quality natural environments
- Large selection of food and beverage, and accommodation opportunities
- Uplift opportunities
- Event hosting opportunities
- Capacity to host ~100km of trails

*Dirt Art* has carefully considered a wide range of existing values of the proposed development sites, to develop a trail plan that proposes 65km of new mountain bike trails. The trails focus on a broad market of riders, providing in-demand trail opportunities with an enduro riding focus. The proposed trail network has been integrated into the existing trails, broadening and increasing the connectivity, quality and diversity of the current trail network. The proposed network allows for a multitude of staging opportunities, allowing the project to be delivered in a range of different ways.

The completed trail network has potential to profoundly impact the local economy, with estimated economic impact as follows;

- Direct economic impact: \$10.5m p.a.
- Direct and Indirect economic impact: \$20.055m p.a.

The trail network plan has been developed to integrate into local townships, providing maximum opportunities to capitalise on the resulting new visitor market.

With trails developed to a world-class standard, the proposed trail network is a genuine opportunity to develop Queensland's first nationally-significant mountain bike destination. Currently, the majority of Australia's leading mountain bike destinations are in alpine areas or southern states such as Tasmania, where winter riding is unappealing for most riders. Toowoomba provides an opportunity to establish a world-class, year-round trail destination that will prove highly-appealing for local, regional, national and international riders.

## 24 Key Recommendations

1. *Dirt Art* recommend adopting the policy framework detailed in this report for all future mountain bike trail development in the region.
2. *Dirt Art* recommend that areas of higher natural value are showcased by the new trails network where possible, without compromising environmental values, which will add significant appeal for visiting riders. This approach will generally involve avoiding major trail sections through sensitive areas, and instead traversing close to and in some cases into the borders of these areas.
3. *Dirt Art* recommend that the project incorporate a minimum of 100km of trails, which may include existing trails
4. *Dirt Art* recommends that consideration be given to including trail concepts within the Bridge Street Quarry, which would see the area act as a major trail head and entry portal for the mountain bike trail network, particularly for local Toowoomba residents. **More detailed planning will be required for this site.**
5. *Dirt Art* recommend that the success of the Toowoomba Escarpment as a nationally-significant mountain bike destination will require a volume of trail development in Redwood Park.
6. *Dirt Art* recommend that the most optimal connectivity from the trail network into Withcott is via the south eastern corner of Redwood Park.
7. *Dirt Art* recommend that no further infrastructure be developed in Redwood Park, with the focus of lower escarpment facilities to be the proposed Withcott Hub.
8. *Dirt Art* recommend that Amos Road not be considered as a major access node for the trail network, and instead be considered as a secondary access node
9. *Dirt Art* recommends that Bridge Street and Withcott form the two major access nodes for the project. Infrastructure at these major access nodes should include; parking, toilets, shelter, bike wash, drinking water, pump track and skills parks.
10. *Dirt Art* recommend careful consideration of major trail development and related infrastructure in residential area due to the risk of significant access growth causing residential conflict. In most cases these are very small, quiet streets, where even minor increases in parking and access may cause significant issues. While new connecting trail is appropriate in some cases to facilitate more local access, *Dirt Art* do not recommend installing infrastructure such as pump and skills tracks in these areas where appropriate parking is not available, and/or where residential conflicts are likely.
11. *Dirt Art* recommend that a complete environmental assessment will be required for Redwood Park (and potentially for areas in Jubilee Park), during the approvals process.
12. *Dirt Art* recommend that a cultural heritage assessment is undertaken for the project area prior to any trail development; or alternatively, as part of the detailed design process / stage.
13. *Dirt Art* recommend that fire management be considered during the detailed design and approvals process.
14. *Dirt Art* recommend the IMBA trail difficulty rating system be utilised to determine and advertise the difficulty ratings of all trails.

15. *Dirt Art* recommend using core IMBA trail design and construction principles for managing trail development.
16. *Dirt Art* recommend that the detailed design work for trails where possible be completed by the company or organisation constructing the trail.
17. *Dirt Art* recommend that a focus is placed on recreational riders and facilitating enduro-focused events.
18. *Dirt Art* recommend hosting workshop/s with community, existing and potential new business owners to educate these groups in the opportunities provided by the trail development. These workshops should provide a comprehensive overview of the mountain bike tourist markets, their wants and needs.
19. *Dirt Art* also recommend the development of mountain bike specific business group/s, which will support networking and ultimately the growth of a sustainable, successful commercial community around the trail project.
20. When considering private promoter events, *Dirt Art* recommend that land managers implement a fee schedule commensurate with levels of use and likely trail damage. A per rider fee of \$5-10 per rider is suggested.
21. *Dirt Art* recommend that the Withcott Hub be utilised as a primary uplift pick up point, with the Bridge Street Quarry to act as a primary drop off point.
22. *Dirt Art* suggest that uplift provision should be levied, with a suggested levy in the region of 10%. This levy provides a significant opportunity to provide funding to assist with trail management.
23. With a comprehensive and considered design approach, *Dirt Art* recommend that an EPBC referral may not be required for the project.
24. *Dirt Art* recommend that the project should not be launched with less than 30km of new trails developed.
25. *Dirt Art* recommend that trail staging be undertaken (where required) based on a consultation process with key trail users.
26. *Dirt Art* recommends that the majority of new trail construction be delivered by a specialist mountain bike construction company/s, with input from stakeholder groups (such as the TMBC). Hand-built technical trails have potential to be constructed/partially constructed by local volunteers.
27. *Dirt Art* recommend that new trails not be opened until a complete emergency management plan is completed by appropriately qualified/experienced consultants.
28. *Dirt Art* recommend that the project include a comprehensive marketing plan and implementation.
29. *Dirt Art* suggest a marketing budget of 2.5% of capital trail infrastructure budget.
30. *Dirt Art* suggest a signage budget of 2.5% of capital trail infrastructure budget.
31. *Dirt Art* recommend that all new trails are managed in a single directional format.
32. *Dirt Art* recommend that shared-use (walking and mountain biking) be provided for on all ascending mountain bike trails.
33. *Dirt Art* suggest that the detailed design process consider potential for adaptive mountain bike riding where possible.
34. *Dirt Art* recommend that a budget allocation be made by land managers to manage the maintenance for the trails network, utilising a budget guide of \$1,500/km per annum.

## 25 Appendix 1 - Toowoomba Escarpment Trail (TET) Report

Available as a separate report.



## 26 Appendix 2 – Order of Costs for Trail Development

Available as a separate report

## 27 Appendix 3- Private Land Area Trails






Available as a separate report

## 28 Appendix 4- Environmental Constraints Mapping

Available as a separate report

## 29 Appendix 5 - IMBA TDRS

IMBA Trail Difficulty Rating System

	VERY EASY 	EASY 	INTERMEDIATE 	DIFFICULT 	EXTREME 
	White Circle	Green Circle	Blue Square	Single Black Diamond	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 obstacles. Short sections may exceed these criteria. Frequent encounters are likely with other cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders.	Likely to be a single trail with moderate gradients, variable surface and obstacles. Dual use or preferred use. Optional lines desirable.	Likely to be a challenging single trail with steep gradients, variable surface and many obstacles. Single use and direction. Optional lines XC, DH or trials.	Extremely difficult trails will incorporate very steep gradients, highly variable surface and unavoidable, severe obstacles. Single use and direction. Optional lines XC, DH or trials.
<b>Trail Width</b>	2100mm plus or minus 900mm	900mm plus or minus 300mm for tread or bridges.	600mm plus or minus 300mm for tread or bridges.	300mm plus or minus 150mm for tread and bridges. Structures can vary.	150mm plus or minus 100mm for tread or bridges. Structures can vary.
<b>Trail Surface</b>	Hardened or smooth.	Mostly firm and stable.	Possible sections of rocky or loose tread.	Variable and challenging.	Widely variable and unpredictable.
<b>Average Trail Grade</b>	Climbs and descents are mostly shallow. Less than 5% average. Max 10%	Climbs and descents are mostly shallow, but may include some moderately steep sections. 7% or less average. Max 15%	Mostly moderate gradients but may include steep sections. 10% or less average. Max 20% or greater	Contains steeper descents or climbs. 20% or less average. Max 20% or greater	Expect prolonged steep, loose and rocky descents or climbs. 20% or greater average. Max 40% or greater
<b>Level of Trail Exposure</b>	Firm and level fall zone to either side of trail corridor	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes downward slopes of up to 10%	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes downward slopes of up to 20%	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes steep downward slopes or freefall	Exposure to either side of trail corridor includes steep downward slopes or freefall
<b>Natural Obstacles and Technical Trail Features (TTFs)</b>	No obstacles.	Unavoidable obstacles to 50mm (2") high, such as logs, roots and rocks. Avoidable, rollable obstacles may be present. Unavoidable bridges 900mm wide. Short sections may exceed criteria.	Unavoidable, rollable obstacles to 200mm (8") high, such as logs, roots and rocks. Avoidable obstacles to 600mm may be present. Unavoidable bridges 600mm wide. Width of deck is half the height. Short sections may exceed criteria.	Unavoidable obstacles to 380mm (15") high, such as logs, roots, rocks, drop-offs or constructed obstacles. Avoidable obstacles to 1200mm may be present. Unavoidable bridges 600mm wide. Width of deck is half the height. Short sections may exceed criteria.	Large, committing and unavoidable obstacles to 380mm (15") high. Avoidable obstacles to 1200mm may be present. Unavoidable bridges 600mm or narrower. Width of bridges is unpredictable. Short sections may exceed criteria.

## 30 Appendix 6- Community Survey Data

Available as a separate report

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**12.5 Request for Financial Assistance - Ropehill Community Sports Centre**

**Date:** 20 February 2020  
**Author:** Trent Nibbs, Sports, Recreation & Community Grants Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** David Lewis, Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity

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**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's consideration of a request from the Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. to reimburse the cost to clear debris following the heavy rain event that occurred on 17 January 2020.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**THAT Council approve a one-off payment of \$1,897.50 to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. as reimbursement of the costs incurred to clear debris following the heavy rain event that occurred on 17 January 2020.**

**RESOLUTION**

**THAT Council approve a one-off payment of \$1,897.50 to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. as reimbursement of the costs incurred to clear debris following the heavy rain event that occurred on 17 January 2020.**

**Moved By:** Cr Hagan **Seconded By:** Cr Holstein  
**Resolution Number:** 16-20/1670

**CARRIED**  
**7/0**

**Report**

**1. Introduction**

Council has received a request for financial assistance from the Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. for the reimbursement of costs to clear debris following a recent heavy rain event.

This report aligns with Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2022, Outcome 1.2, '*Council optimises the use of its open spaces and facilities by improving access to and the quality of the facilities for individuals and groups for cultural, recreational and community activities.*'

**2. Background**

A storm on 17 January 2020 resulted in the inundation of the sporting grounds from stormwater run-off, which left a significant amount of debris around the grounds (see Figure 1 and 2). Members from the Ropehill Community Sports Centre cleared the debris away from around the club house, however machinery was required to clear the debris from the field.

On 29 January 1992, the former Gatton Shire Council and the Centre entered into a lease agreement with Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. for 30 years from 1 March 1990 to 29 February 2020.

Under the terms of this lease, the Centre is required to:

- maintain the demised premises and all fixtures, fittings and chattels installed or to be installed thereon in good and tenable repair and condition fair wear and tear and damage by storm, flood, fire, tempest, act of God, riots or the Queen's enemies excepted and will replace any such fixtures, fittings and chattels or any part thereof which may during the said term become missing, broken, worn out, lost, destroyed or otherwise unfit for use.

Currently, Council pays an annual contribution of \$15,000.00 towards the maintenance of the sporting grounds. This contribution assists funding of labour costs, fuel, fertiliser, herbicides, machinery repairs etc. associated with the operation of the facility. Outside of this contribution, Council provides no regular assistance to the maintenance of this facility.



*Figure 1. Stormwater run-off, 17 January 2020*





*Figure 2. Debris on sporting field following storm event 17 January 2020.*

### **3. Report**

Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. receives an annual contribution of \$15,000.00 from Council for the maintenance of the sporting grounds at Lot 1 RP206206 and Lot 2 RP214734.

Following a heavy rain event on 17 January 2020, members of the Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. cleared the debris away from around the club house caused by the event. Due to the volume of debris on the sporting fields, heavy machinery was required to complete the clean-up works at a cost of \$1,897.50. Council has received a request from Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. for financial assistance to meet the costs associated to complete these works.

The request from Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. is considered reasonable as the facility is owned by Council and these unforeseen additional costs are an unforeseen financial burden for the Club. In line with the terms of the lease and in previous events at other Council owned and managed facilities where Council staff have cleaned up the facility impacted at no cost to the Club/s that utilise the grounds. This has been evidenced in events in 2011, 2013 and 2015 which affected Laidley Recreation Reserve, Springbrook Park and Forest Hill Recreation Reserve.

The annual contribution of \$15,000.00 provided to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. is to assist with the costs associated with maintaining this facility, however it does not cover unexpected events such as this. Further work will be undertaken to identify what is needed in relation to a drainage design to mitigate this problem in the future.

### **4. Policy and Legal Implications**

The terms of the lease agreement with Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. and Council state that the Centre is required to maintain the premises and all fixtures, fittings and chattels except for a range of circumstances which includes damage due to storm.

**5. Financial and Resource Implications**

The reimbursement costs of \$1,897.50 will be funded from Council's Sport and Recreation Budget.

**6. Delegations/Authorisations**

No further delegations are required to manage the issues raised in this report. The Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity will manage any further requirements in line with existing delegations.

**7. Communication and Engagement**

Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. will be formally advised of Council's resolution in relation to this matter.

**8. Conclusion**

In line with the terms of the lease and Council previously providing assistance to clean up Council owned, and managed facilities impacted by weather events, it is recommended that Council provide financial assistance to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. to meet the costs associated with cleaning up the grounds after the heavy rain event which occurred on 17 January 2020.

**9. Action/s**

1. Write to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. to advise them of Council's decision.
2. Arrange reimbursement of the costs.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

### 13.1 Summerholm Road Culvert Project

**Date:** 19 February 2020  
**Author:** Kimball Clayton, Manager Infrastructure Planning  
**Responsible Officer:** Angelo Casagrande, Group Manager Infrastructure

The Summerholm Road Culvert Project listed in the current 2019/2020 Capital Budget requires land acquisition in order to rectify current occupation over an adjoining allotment as well as plans to improve the current speed environment of the road.

Impacted land owners have been approached and are willing to enter into a voluntary land acquisition process.

**THAT Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to finalise the land acquisitions impacting Lot 2 on RP52897 and Lot 3 on RP44162 to enable the Summerholm Road Culvert Project to be completed.**

**THAT Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to finalise the land acquisitions impacting Lot 2 on RP52897 and Lot 3 on RP44162 to enable the Summerholm Road Culvert Project to be completed.**

**Moved By:** Cr Holstein      **Seconded By:** Cr Wilson  
**Resolution Number:** 16-20/1671

**CARRIED**  
**7/0**

## Report

## 1. Introduction

Summerholm Road Culvert Project is funded in the current 2019/2020 Capital Budget including partial funding from the State Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS). The project entails the replacement of a large 2 cell culvert structure along with widening and upgrading the road approaches through a series of curves.

## 2. Background

The existing culvert structure on Summerholm Road has been identified as requiring replacement as it is nearing the end of its service life. In addition, the road approaches to the culvert structure will also require upgrading and widening within the scope of the culvert replacement project.

Location of the project site is shown in Attachment 1.

**3. Report**

The Summerholm Road project will require the land acquisition from adjacent properties as follows:

- Lot 2 on RP52897 – 2 areas of 632m<sup>2</sup> and 214m<sup>2</sup> = total 846m<sup>2</sup>.
- Lot 3 on RP44162 – 1 area of 23m<sup>2</sup> only.

The required areas have been optimised to ensure the best fit of the road within the existing road reserve as well as minimising required land from the adjacent properties.

Land areas required are shown in Attachment 2.

The design phase for the project is nearing completion with on ground works scheduled to commence in April 2020. Initial works will involve the construction of a temporary side-track to allow the replacement of the existing culvert structure, followed by completion of the roadworks element of the project.

**4. Policy and Legal Implications**

The Chief Executive Officer to be delegated approval from Council to proceed and finalise the proposed land acquisitions.

**5. Financial and Resource Implications**

Allowance has been made within the budgeted allocation for the project to fund land acquisitions. Quotations have been called to undertake the land valuations to progress and finalise the land acquisitions matters.

The total 2019/2020 budget allocation for the project is \$750,000 which includes a TIDS contribution of \$270,446.

**6. Delegations/Authorisations**

Delegation will need to be provided to the Chief Executive Officer in order to proceed with the proposed land acquisitions.

**7. Communication and Engagement**

Officers from the Infrastructure Planning Branch have been in contact with the land owners of both impacted properties who have indicated that they are willing to progress with the indicated land acquisitions.

**8. Conclusion**

That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to finalise the land acquisitions impacting Lot 2 on RP52897 and Lot 3 on RP44162 to enable the Summerholm Road Culvert Project to be completed.

**9. Action/s**

The Chief Executive Officer finalise land acquisitions impacting Lot 2 on RP52897 and Lot 3 on RP44162 to enable the Summerholm Road Culvert Project to be completed.

**Attachments**

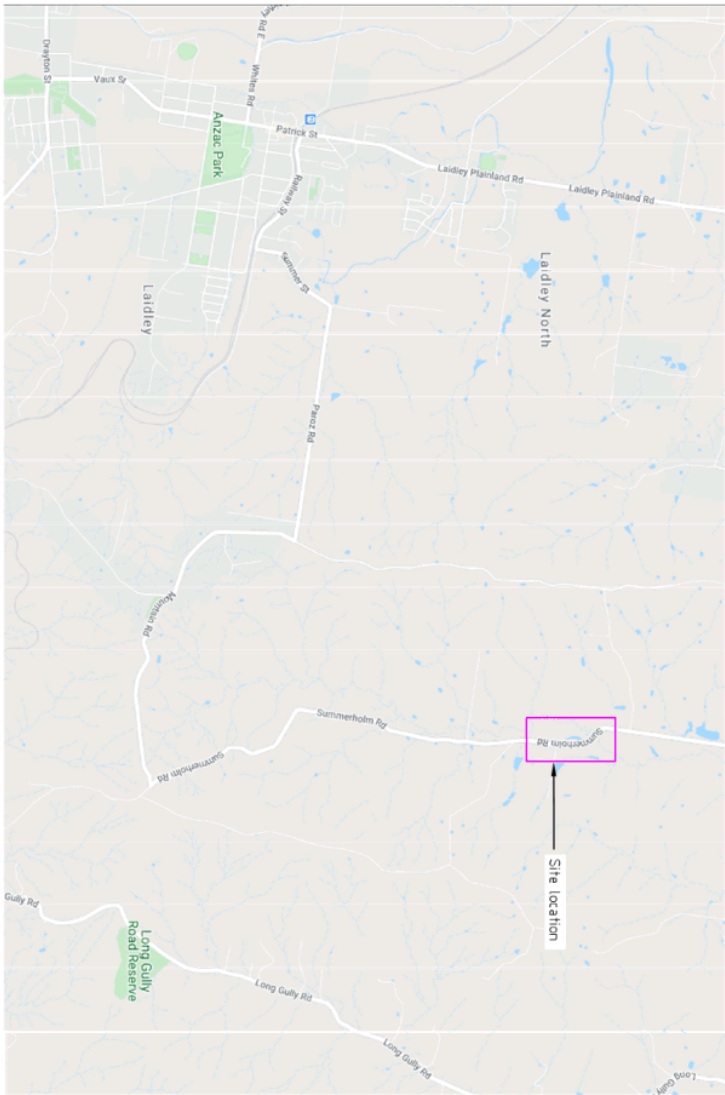
- [1](#) [↓](#) Summerholm Road Culvert Project - Attachment 1 1 Page
- [2](#) [↓](#) Summerholm Road Culvert Project - Attachment 2 1 Page

Attachment 1

SUMMERHOLM ROAD, SUMMERHOLM  
CULVERT REPLACEMENT AND ROAD UPGRADING  
PROJECT NUMBER 102272



SSC Detail A2 (01/20)



REVISION				LOCALITY PLAN										
Rev	Date	Description	Certified	Approved										
					PROPOSED ROAD UPGRADING									
					SUMMERHOLMS ROAD, SUMMERHOLM									
					4601.000 - 5018.000									
					CT1 CHGE									
					N.T.S									
					SURREY DATA									
					Survey File									
					Survey Office									
					NK									
					Down									
					Design									
					Examined									
					Certified									
					Approved									
					Dtd									
					Dtd									
					PRCD									
					/ /									





**14.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

*No Information Items.*

**15.0 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

*No Confidential Items.*

**16.0 MEETING CLOSED**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:21am*