



Shire of Dardanup

APPENDICES

UNDER SEPARATE COVER

PART 1

ORDINARY MEETING

To Be Held

Wednesday, 14 August 2019
Commencing at 5.00pm

At

Shire of Dardanup
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON
1 Council Drive - EATON

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**Collie River Valley
Trails Strategy
2018 - 2021**



Executive Summary

The Collie River Valley Trails Strategy 2018 – 2021 is an ambitious masterplan to develop and market trails within the Collie River Valley that link to the town of Collie and resulting in the development and recognition of Collie as a Trails Town. As the Collie River Valley has spectacular scenery, vast areas of natural bushland, existing links to the Munda Biddi and Bibbulmun Track, is accessible from Perth and Perth International Airport, and a supportive community, the development of trails is a natural step to take.

This Strategy considers and plans for all trail types – Walking, Equestrian, Cycling, Off-Road Trails and Drive Trails to provide a variety of experience for tourists, maximise the number of visitors attracted and provide for all sections of the local community depending on their area of interest. At a minimum, one trail in each of these trail types will be built to an international standard through iconic locations to attract international visitors and provide a high quality experience for the local community. In addition, other trails will be developed to fill existing gaps, add value to the international trails and provide for local demand. This Strategy provides a comprehensive analysis of existing trails as well as the need and potential for additional trails to achieve the Strategy's vision:

Build on Collie's natural resources, location, infrastructure, amenities and community by developing and maintaining high quality sustainable trails of all types by 2021. Develop Collie as a Trails Town to diversify the economy, enhance the visitor experience and for the enjoyment, health and wellbeing of locals.

The Vision focuses on the community's enjoyment, health and wellbeing by providing additional activity and ways to experience the natural environment in an inclusive and accessible way. Social benefits include improved physical and mental wellbeing, improved lifestyle opportunities, low cost recreation, protection and awareness of the natural, cultural and historical environment and making Collie a more attractive place to live.

A multi-agency approach has been taken and this document represents the plans from the State and Local Government as well as other agencies. This provides a holistic consideration of the optimal outcomes rather than outcomes determined by land tenure. As a result, the proposed trails will connect into Collie directly as well as providing unique experiences and providing connections between strategic locations to provide access from the town to the trail for locals to ride from Collie and for visitors to use the services offered in Collie. The Strategy and its recommendations are unashamedly ambitious and indicates a statement of intent from these contributing agencies. However actions to achieve these recommendations are dependent on funding through the various organisation's annual budgets and grant sources.

The Vision also focuses on the economic development of the town by adding tourism to the traditional industries of coal mining and power generation. Building high quality trails will attract trail enthusiasts, create opportunities for direct trail related businesses and increase revenue for the supporting businesses including the existing hospitality industry as has been demonstrated in other similar towns.

A community and business response is required for the development of the proposed trails to include trail town tourism in the local economy that supports the trail users and welcomes visitors to the town. This is a necessary part of becoming a 'Trails Town' and taking advantage of the anticipated business opportunities.

All trail types and Collie as a Trail Town trails will be cross promoted through a unified brand - #CollieTrails which can be used on both social and traditional media. Marketing will be undertaken by a variety of groups coordinated through this Strategy including local clubs peak bodies, Collie River Marketing Group, the various trail owners, trail users, local advocates and local businesses.

This Strategy effectively provides a framework for the planning, prioritisation, resourcing and marketing for the coordinated development of trails and the recognition of Collie as a Trails Town.

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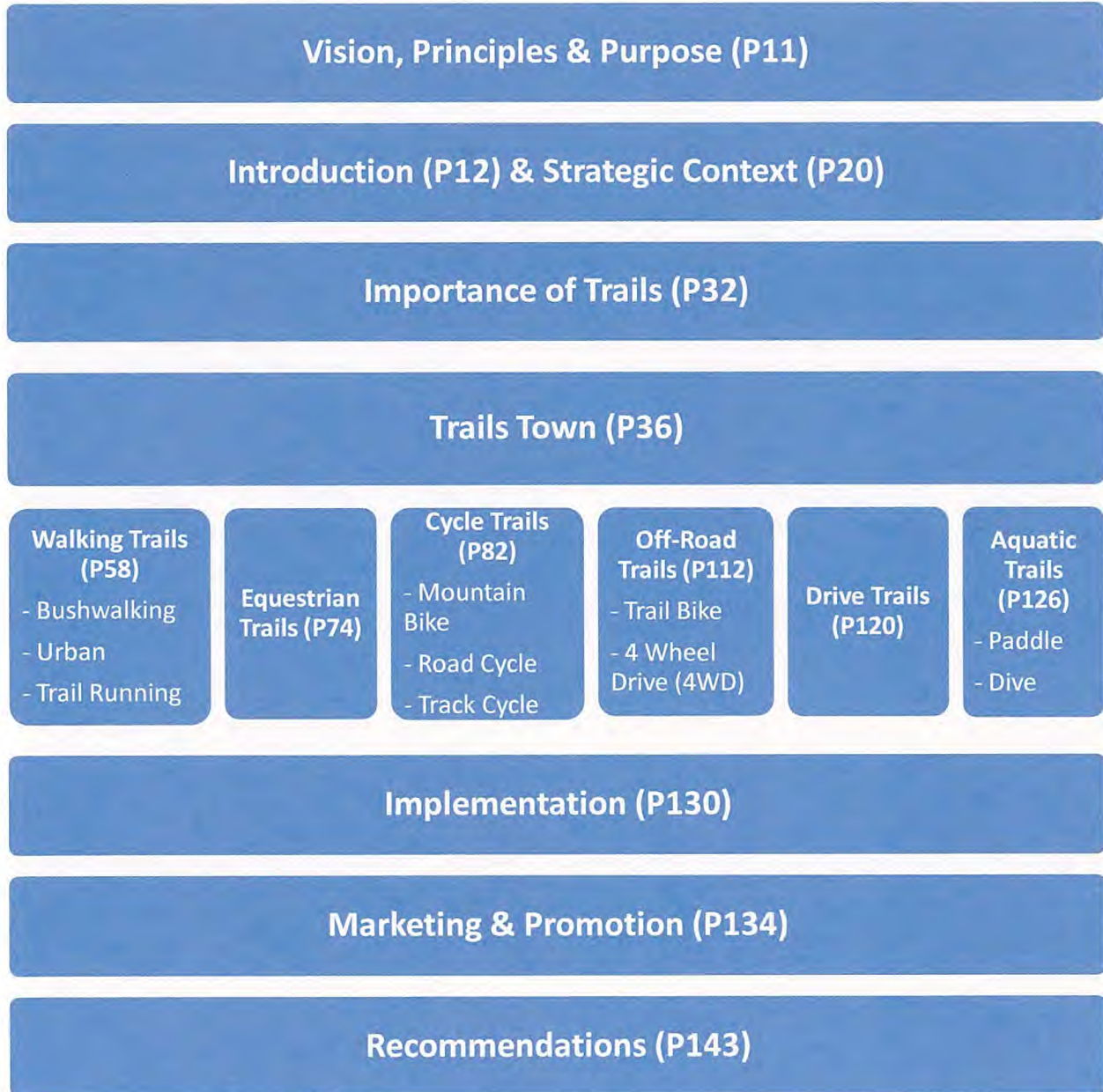
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Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Project Outlines
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Document Map

This Strategy covers a wide range of trail types and a trail town assessment. For ease of use by different stakeholders, the Strategy is designed to allow the sections which are not relevant for individual stakeholders to be detached and for the document to retain its sense. For example for those particularly interested in Walking Trails, the other trail types and trail town assessment may be detached and the document will retain its integrity for this trail type.



Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

This document has been prepared by the Shire of Collie and remains the property of the Shire of Collie including any information contained therein, images, figures, data, tables, mapping and analysis. Commercial/investment decisions should not be taken on the basis of this document. This document has been prepared with valuable input from many groups, agencies and individuals. Special thanks is given to the representatives of the various State government agencies and departments, local clubs representing all trail types, aboriginal community, commercial operators, as well as Shire councillors and Shire officers which form the Shire of Collie Trails Planning Advisory Committee.

Extensive community consultation has been carried out and has been integral to the development of this plan. The consultation methodology is outlined at Section 1.5 and the results at Appendix 3. This document has subsequently been adopted by the Shire of Collie Council 11 December 2018.

Version Control

| # | Date | Details | Name | Title | Organisation |
|-----|----------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.0 | 28/05/18 | Draft for key stakeholders | Andrew Dover | Director Development Services | Shire of Collie |
| 2.0 | 5/07/18 | Draft for public consultation | Andrew Dover | Director Development Services | Shire of Collie |
| 3.0 | 5/12/18 | Final for adoption by Council | Andrew Dover | Director Development Services | Shire of Collie |

Forward

Message from the Shire President

Collie River Valley is a hidden gem in the heart of the South West of Western Australia. It is intensely beautiful with hills, deep river gorges and natural and man-made lakes which make it the ideal place to experience the outdoors through trails of all types whether you are a local or a visitor. The town of Collie sits at the junction of the Wellington National Park, Collie State Forest, Mumballup State Forest, Muja State Forest, Harris River State Forest and Lane Poole Reserve providing for the needs of all trail users. This Strategy provides a coordinated approach across all levels of government, industry and the community to ensure that Collie is first recognised Trail Town in Western Australia.



As well as the recognition of the town of Collie, this document recommends the development trails to showcase the unique beauty of the region by developing trails which connect these spectacular natural features through largely untouched natural bushland creating an exciting place to live, visit and invest.

Councillor Sarah Stanley
President, Shire of Collie

Message from the Member for Collie-Preston

Half a century ago, some would-be viticulturists experimented with planting a few wine grapes around Margaret River. At the time they might have been described as “unashamedly ambitious” – to borrow some language from this document. When it comes to Collie’s approach to trail building, we shouldn’t be anything but ambitious. Examples from around the world demonstrate the significant benefits trails have brought to regional towns struggling with many of the same issues Collie faces. A number of American mining towns have seen an incredible uplift in tourism and opportunities for local small businesses as a result of building trails networks.



In many ways, Collie is a town built for trails. Our natural landscape, with its miles of diverse bushland, waterways, and undulating terrain means we are blessed with all the ingredients we need to really make a go at becoming a trails town. And for that to happen, we need to be ambitious. This strategy provides a clear statement of intent to the trails industry and funding bodies that we are open for business. It will take time, but this is a significant step forward and I commend the Collie community for embracing the opportunities trails offer. In thinking about the road ahead, I’m reminded of my first taste of some of that Margaret River red all those decades ago. It was pretty a pretty rough drop and at the time I didn’t think much of their chances. But we all know where Margaret River’s ambition took them – and I hope we can all keep that potential in mind as we build our trails network.

Hon Mick Murray MLA
Local Member for Collie-Preston

The Vision

Build on Collie's natural resources, location, infrastructure, amenities and community by developing and maintaining high quality sustainable trails of all types by 2021. Develop Collie as a Trails Town to diversify the economy, enhance the visitor experience and for the enjoyment, health and wellbeing of locals.

The Principles

The Principles used in the development of this Strategy to achieve the Vision are:

- 1 **Authentic, high quality trails which provides a unique and memorable Collie experience**
- 2 **Inclusive, navigable and connected trails regardless of land tenure, easily accessible from Collie**
- 3 **Engage the community, including youth and aboriginal groups**
- 4 **Trails suitable for local residents and supported by local clubs**
- 5 **Build and diversify the local economy through attracting and value adding for tourists**
- 6 **Plan iconic (epic) trails of an international standard in construction and appeal**
- 7 **Provide a variety of trails types, levels, accessibility and experiences**
- 8 **Limit and mitigate conflicts between trail user groups**
- 9 **Showcase, interpret and protect Collie's history, culture and natural beauty**
- 10 **Maximise the use of existing infrastructure, where possible activating Collie CBD**
- 11 **Trails that are designed to be durable, easy to maintain and resilient to disturbances e.g. planned burns, rain events**
- 12 **Consistent interpretation and marketed trail network with agreed messaging across trail types and land owners/managers**

The above Principles have been used in the development of this Strategy and are also to be used in the development of trail specific plans which arise from the recommendations of this document.

The Purpose

To provide a framework for the planning, prioritisation, resourcing and marketing for the coordinated development of trails and the recognition of Collie as a Trails Town.

1. Introduction

1.1 Collie River Valley

The Shire of Collie is a medium sized local authority, with total annual revenue of approximately \$9.1M. The Shire covers an area of 1,685km². 78% of the Shire area is State Forest, National Park and Reserves and includes Wellington Dam and the Collie River.

The Shire of Collie is located in the South West of Western Australia, within easy reach of Perth and Bunbury, near Ferguson Valley and only a short diversion on the route to the tourist destinations of Busselton and Margaret River. The Shire is accessible from these locations for day trips as well as longer stays.

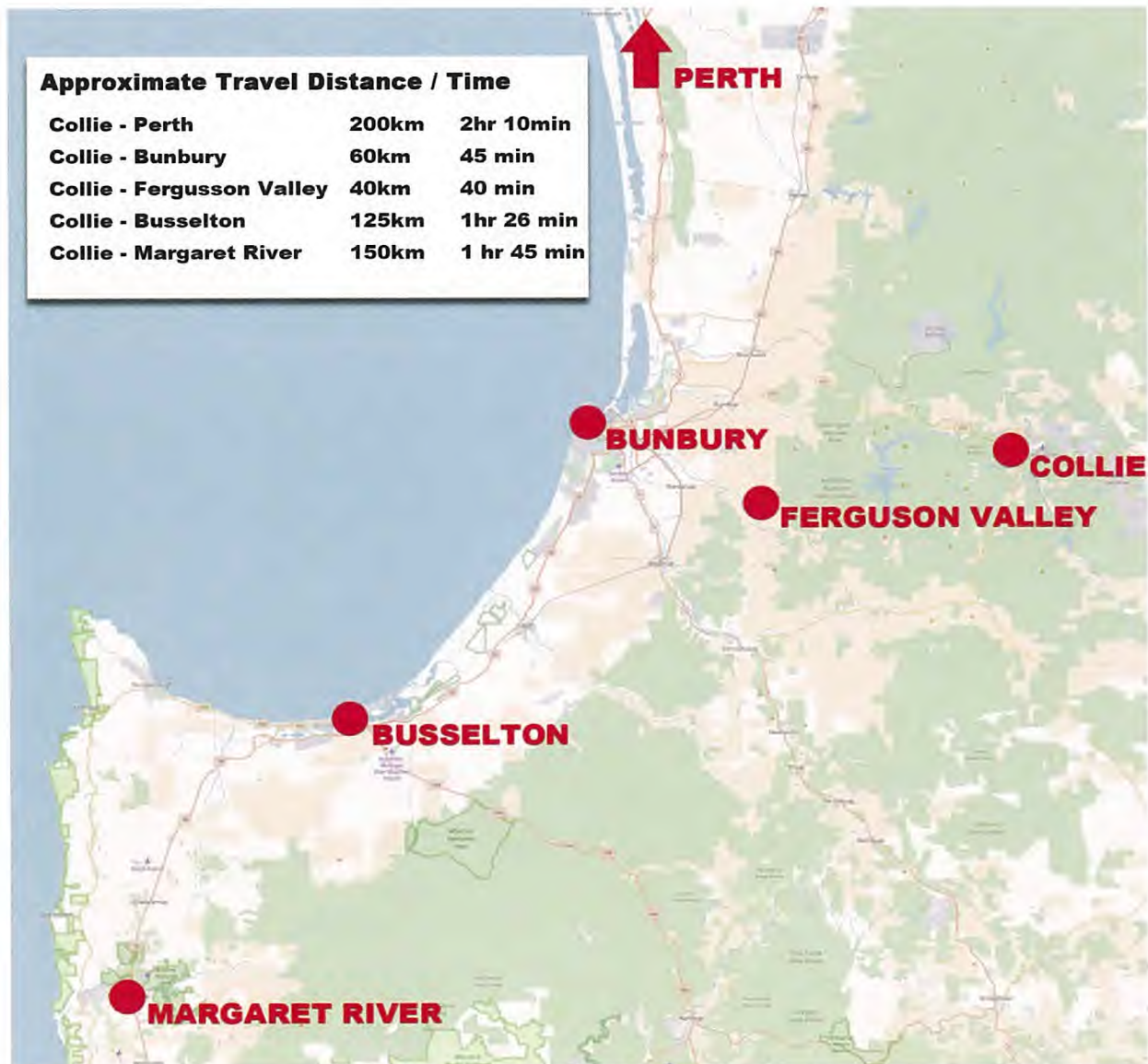


Fig. 1 – Location Map (Source: Erik Mellegers)

The town of Collie is the main population centre within the Shire. Collie is a heritage town of 8,798 people (Census 2016), many significant buildings, activities and cultural attractions as well as being the service centre for the area. Services include visitor information, equipment hire and repair, food and drink, visitor accommodation, medical services, speciality shops, service stations, pharmacies, banks, major supermarkets and a variety of other large stores. This makes Collie well placed to be classified as a 'Trail Town'.

In addition to Collie, other population centres include Allanson, Buckingham, Collie-Cardiff, Harris River, Preston, Muja, Collie Burn and Worsley.

Collie has a typical Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and fresh, but mild winters. Autumn is an Indian Summer and spring produces an abundance of wildflowers. The Collie River Valley area has significant natural features including Wellington Dam, Wellington National Park, Stockton Lake, Harris Dam, Harris River, Collie River, Black Diamond Lake, Glen Mervyn Dam, Minnipool, Honeymoon Pool, Potters Gorge, expanses of jarrah forest, an abundance of wildflowers, as well as numerous scenic landscapes and vistas. Many of these natural features are in or within easy reach of the town of Collie.



Fig. 2 – Black Diamond, Collie (Source: visitcollie.com.au)

1.2 Background

Aside from the natural resources mentioned above, the Collie River Valley area has strategic opportunities and advantages. This includes a long history of trails traversing the State and National forest dating back to pre-settlement times. The Wilman (meaning 'fresh water people'), the local Noongar people, made extensive use of the Collie River, including navigation along the banks to the Leschenault Inlet. More recent history includes cycling, motocross facilities, walking, equestrian and driving trails, events and facilities developed by the Shire of Collie, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and local clubs. For example Collie Cycle Club (established 1902) is very active in developing and maintaining local trails, promoting cycling and holding regular competitions and events. There are other strong and active local clubs promoting and developing their particular interest.

As a result of these different stakeholders developing trails, there are many trails of all types and standards traversing the forest. This includes formally constructed sanctioned trails, informal trails and historical trails. This necessitates a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach to be undertaken to plan for the connection and improvement of existing trails where they can be upgraded to a sufficient standard and meet the Principles of this Strategy and the development and marketing of new trails. The informal and historical trails should be assessed and if they meet the above Principles and provide a high quality experience expected in a Trail Town, should be mapped, formalised, upgraded, signposted and marketed. New trails should be developed in accordance with the Vision and Principles of this document.

The nationally significant Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track traverse the area, with stops in and near Collie. Several national and State significant events are also held in the Collie River Valley area including the Collie to Donnybrook & Return Cycling Classic; Tom Lowry Memorial Cycling Race; multi-disciplinary Collie Adventure Race and the Tom Quilty Endurance Horse Race.

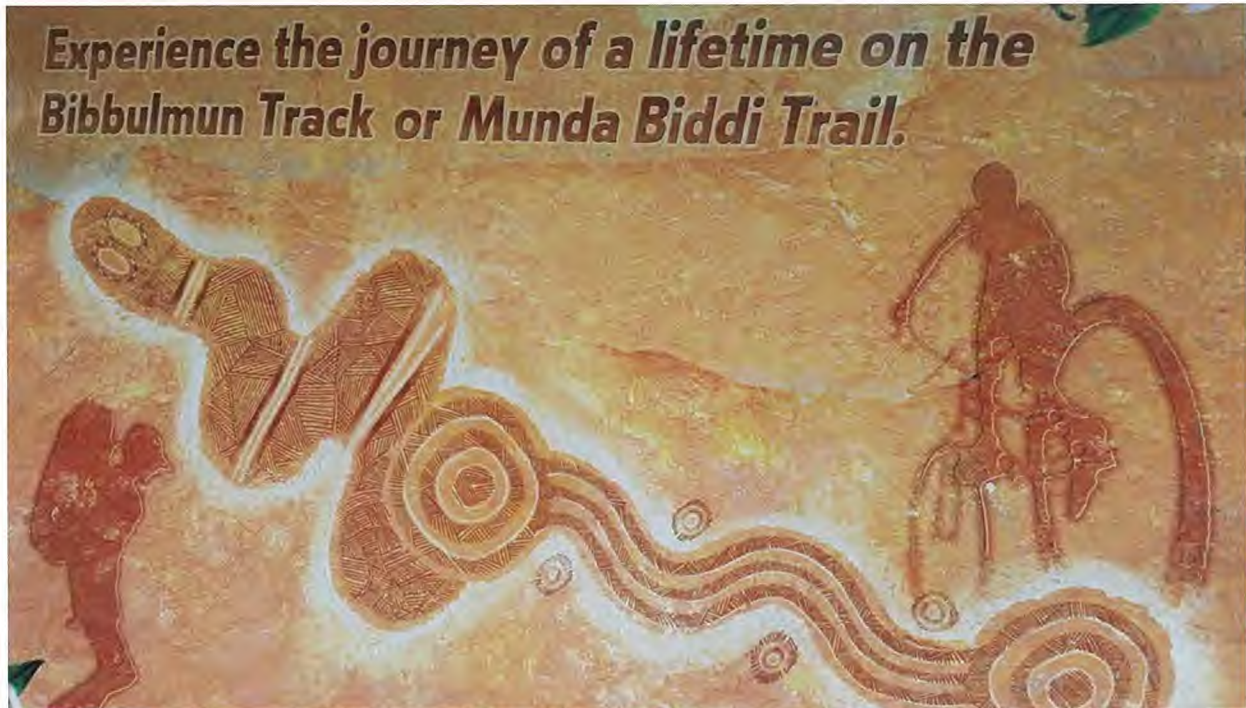


Fig. 3 – Munda Biddi and Bibbulmun Track Sign (Source: mtbr.com)

1.3 Rationale

The development of trails within Collie River Valley will provide diversity to the local economy which is dependent upon coal mining. This will provide residents, particularly young people with career options within their local town.

The development of trails will also provide benefit the local community by providing a range of additional physical activities which will assist in tackling Collie’s levels of obesity; promote a healthy lifestyle for the young and a long, active adult life; have a positive impact upon mental health; provide alternatives to anti-social activities; and encourage people to have pride in the town and interact with the natural environment. More information on this is provided at Section 3. – Importance of Trails.

1.4 Strategy Scope

This Strategy will encourage cooperation between the local community, business and all levels of government to design and create a range of high quality trails. The Strategy is tenure-blind both with regard to land holdings as well as the development of trails to allow for an holistic plan which includes all stakeholders and provides for community input and to ensure that the most appropriate and highest priority trails are planned and constructed.

The scope of this Strategy includes all trail types as defined in the WA Trails Strategic Blueprint 2018-2021. For simplicity, several trail types as set out in the Blueprint have been grouped together e.g. Walking Trails includes bush walking, urban walking and trail running.

Equestrian Trails



Cycle Trails



Aquatic Trails



Drive Trails



Off-Road Trails

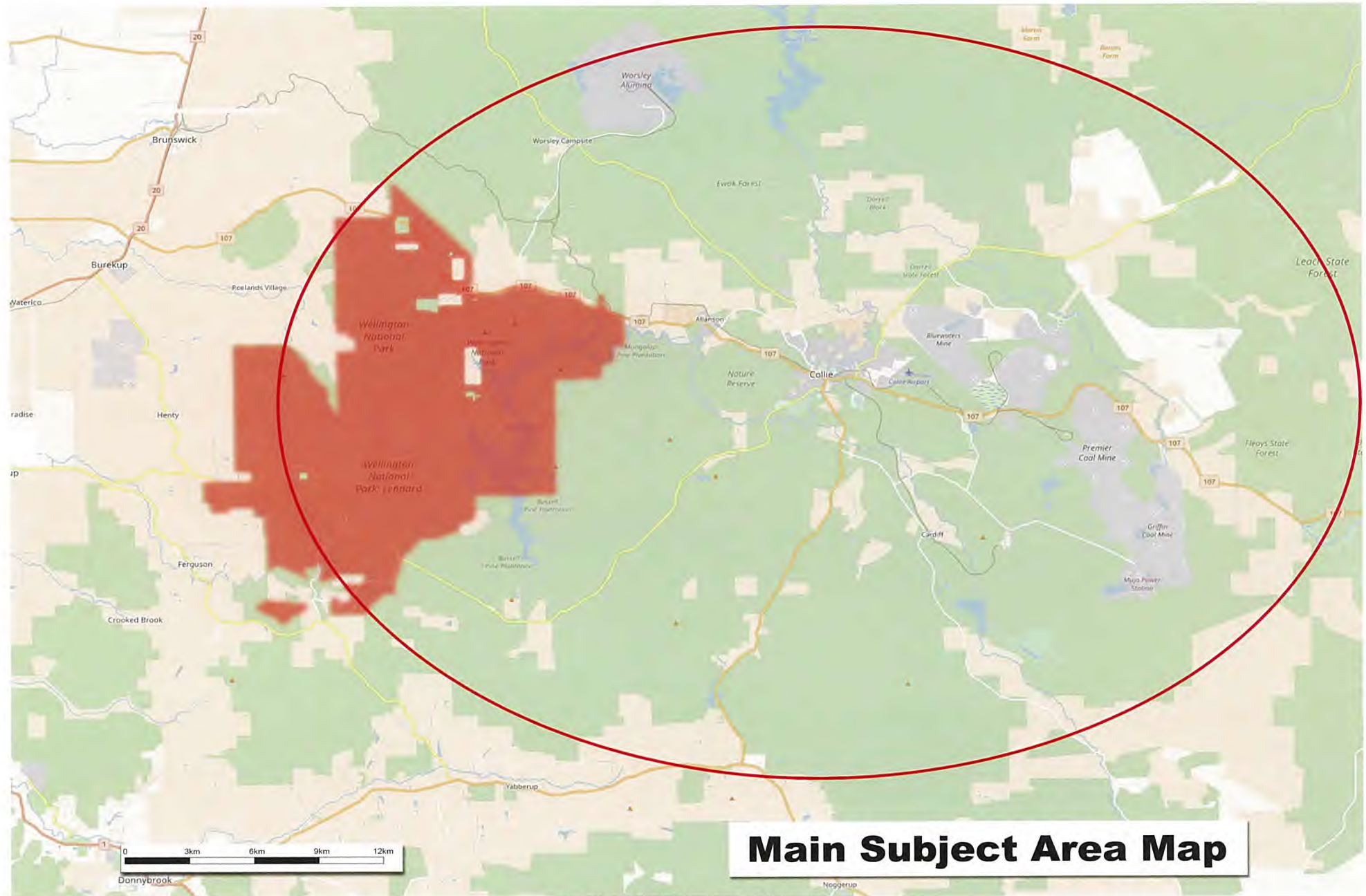


Walking Trails



1.5 Main Scope Area

The area incorporated within this Strategy includes the Main Subject Area displayed on the below map, however may extend beyond this area if considered appropriate. This includes the development of longer distance trails which will extend outside this area as well as incorporating trails which traverse this area.



Main Subject Area Map

Fig. 4 – Main Subject Area Map (Source: Erik Mellegers)

1.5 Consultation Methodology

The consultation used to develop this Strategy has been guided by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Principles. IAP2 is the internationally recognised standard for public participation in projects and strategies such as this and is included in the Shire of Collie’s Communication Policy CS1.7. The IAP2 Spectrum (below) sets a framework to assess the involvement of each level of consultation.

IAP2 SPECTRUM OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

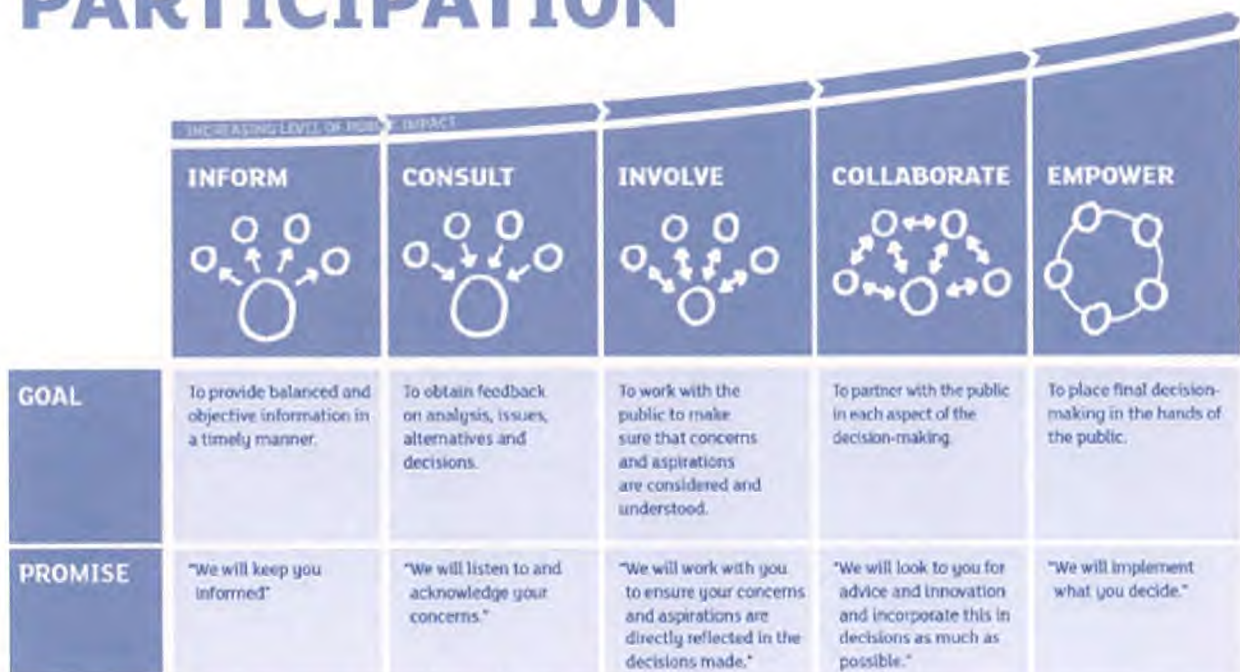


Fig. 5 – IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (IAP2)

This Strategy is the result of substantial public participation with key stakeholders and the community which is heavily weighted toward the ‘Empower’ end of the above spectrum.

EMPOWER – DECISION MAKERS

‘We will implement what you decide.’

**State Member of Collie-Preston Mick Murray MLA,
Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation**

Member Mick Murray is proactive in the provision of funding for the development of Collie and the promotion of Collie as a Trail Town as well as advocating for the development of world class trails in the region. The Hon Member is the State Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation and has been involved in the development of this strategy from the early stages through to final approval including writing a forward to this document.

Shire of Collie Trails Planning Reference Group

The Shire of Collie Trails Planning Reference Group (TPRG) was formed in 2015 with the following aims and objectives:

1. *To guide and support the development of trails within the Shire*
2. *To provide strategic direction and promotion for the establishment of Collie as a Trails Town*
3. *To provide Council with information and advice regarding the establishment of Collie as a Trails Town*
4. *To support, when applicable, programs and activities related to the establishment of trails within the Shire of Collie*

TPRG have been influential in the recognition of Collie-Wellington as a Mountain Bike Trails Hub (see Section 2.5 Collie Trails Hub Report) and in the development of a number of trails in the Collie River Valley. The members of TPRG have developed and approved this Strategy to achieve the above aims and achieve the Stated purpose of *'effectively plan, prioritise and resource the development of trails and the development of Collie as a Trail Town over the next 3 years'*. Membership of TPRG is a broad representation of key stakeholders across most trail types and is an effective method to empower these key stakeholders in accordance with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum.

Shire of Collie Trails Planning Reference Group:

- Shire of Collie Councillors and Staff
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Collie Visitor Centre
- Collie Cycle Club
- Collie Motorcycle Club
- Collie Endurance and Trail Riders Club
- Collie Horse & Pony Club
- Collie Western Riding Club
- Other invited guests as required

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

This department convenes a State Trail Reference Group which is coordinating the assessment and recognition of Trail Towns. This department has developed the WA Trails Strategic Blueprint and the State-wide Activity Based Trail Strategies which underpin this strategy. This department has given substantial guidance and direction regarding the form, implementation and funding of this Strategy.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

The Parks and Wildlife Service division of this department are extremely active in planning and construction of trails within the Collie River Valley. These plans are in various stages of advancement and have been incorporated into this document and have been influential in the planning of linking trails within the town of Collie.

COLLABORATE - PARTNERS

'We will look to you for advice and innovation and incorporate this in decisions as much as possible.'

Potential Funding Agencies

- LotteryWest
- South West Development Commission
- Regional Development Australia South West

Trail Advocacy Agencies

- Trails WA
- Tourism WA
- Leave No Trace
- Outdoors WA
- Heart Foundation
- Break the Boundary

Activity Based Trail Advocates

- WestCycle
- West Australian Mountain Bike Association
- Recreational Trail Bike Riders Association of Western Australia
- Western Australian Sleddog Sports Association
- Drive WA
- Bushwalking WA
- Four Wheel Drive Western Australia
- Paddle WA
- Equestrian WA
- Track Care WA
- Australian Trail Horse Riders Association WA
- West Australian Endurance Riders Association
- Bushwalking WA

Local Trail Users & Owners

- Bibbulmun Track Foundation
- Munda Biddi Trail
- South West 4WD Club
- Bunbury Tri Club
- Bunbury Bushwalking Club
- Crossfit South West
- South West Orienteering Club
- Collie BMX Club
- South West Running Club
- South West Mountain Bike Club
- Bunbury Adventure Pursuits Club
- Bunbury Runners Club

Local Tourism Advocates

- Bunbury Geographe Tourism Partnership
- Collie River Valley Marketing

Local Governments (proposed trails have connection to, or cross into these Shires)

- Shire of West Arthur
- Shire of Boyup Brook
- Shire of Dardanup
- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
- Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils

Others

- Premier Coal
- Griffin Coal
- Leschenault Catchment Council
- South West Catchment Council
- South West Land and Sea Council
- Ngalang Boodja Aboriginal Corporation
- Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry

INVOLVE – INFLUENCERS

'We will work with you to ensure your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the decisions made.'

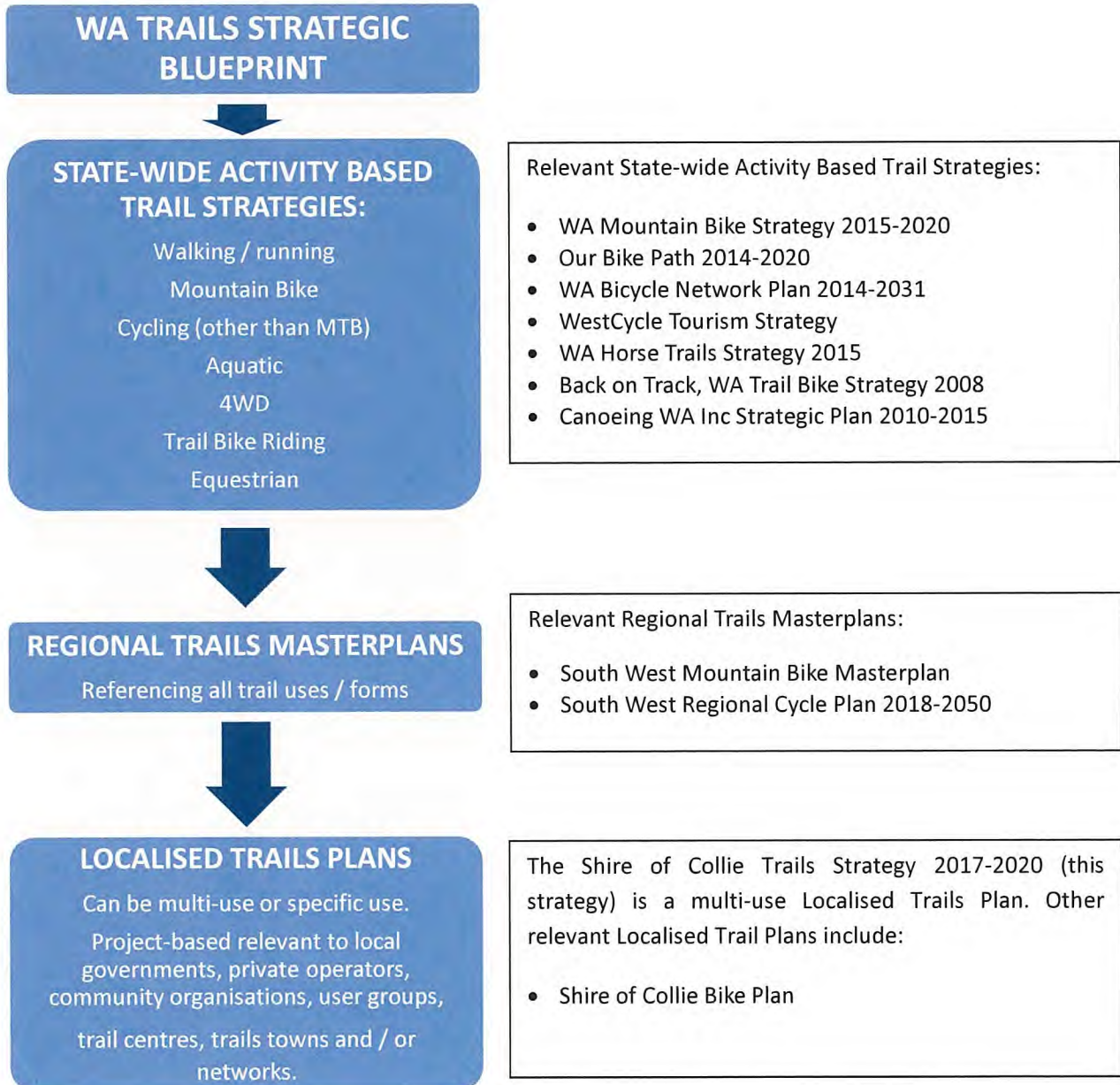
Members of the Public

The Shire is committed to continuing partnerships with the community and has engaged the local community through notices in the Collie Mail and South West Times as well as social media, face to face conversations with interested people and public meetings. There were over 50 people engaged as part of the public meetings and 346 responses were received to the online survey. 98% of these responses were in support of the development of the trails in this Strategy. The results of this consultation are collated at Appendix 3.

2. Strategic Context

2.1 WA Trails Strategic Blueprint 2017-2021

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries have recently launched the WA Trails Blueprint 2017-2021. This document is the overarching trails strategic document in the State and therefore is addressed in this section. The State-wide Activity Based Trail Strategies and the Regional Trails Masterplans for the Collie River Valley area relate to particular trail types and therefore are addressed at the section pertaining to that trail type. This Blueprint sets out a hierarchy of plans. The Blueprint and hierarchy provides a strategic context to the planning of trails within Western Australia.



The Blueprint provides context and foundation for this Strategy stating that *'Localised trails plans should be developed as appropriate for areas, trail networks or trails and need to take account of the supply of trails and any relevant linkages in adjacent areas'*.

The WA Trails Blueprint outlines strategies and actions across eight different aspects of trail development and management. Many of these strategies and actions relate to State or Regional levels. However, the strategies and actions below are relevant to the development and implementation of this document. These are incorporated in the development of this document and will flow through to the eventual implementation of its recommendations.

Strategy

Develop an integrated and consistent approach to trail planning at State, Regional and local levels.

Action

Develop a tiered trail planning structure for implementation of the Blueprint consisting of State-wide activity-based strategies, Regional trails masterplans (where possible or necessary) and localised trails plans.

Encourage community stewardship for trails by supporting and facilitating improvements in volunteer trail development, maintenance and management.

Develop and support programs for community and user group involvement in trail development, maintenance and management.

Develop or extend existing training and incentives programs to engage volunteers in community trail stewardship.

Encourage environmental stewardship through trail-related participation and programs.

Ensure that trail information includes education (suited to user markets) on minimal impact trail use and appreciation and protection of the natural and cultural values of the area.

Work with stakeholders such as Leave No Trace, land managers and waste management networks to promote and educate users in minimal impact principles and environmental protection.

Include interpretative materials and community education programs in trail management and participation programs.

Enhance opportunities for community development through participation in trails activities and programs.

Ensure that community development remains a consideration in trails planning, design, management, funding, research, events and participation programs.

Improve trail facilities, interpretation and safety to increase the appeal of trails experiences.

Ensure that visitor risk information relevant to the safe use of trails is provided in communications that are accessible to all trail users including non-English speaking visitors. This should include arrangements for emergencies such as fire, drought or flood.

Review and improve visitor risk communication to ensure it is appropriate for trails.

Build the capacity of trail-focused events to increase usage and trail-led economic stimulus.

Identify and support the creation of participative club, group or community trail-based events with a targeted health and wellbeing outcome (for example, group walks).

Identify iconic trails to be developed and promoted as the best in Western Australia.

Develop criteria to identify and prioritise the iconic trail development opportunities with strong potential to attract a range of visitor markets and contribute to the visitor economy. The opportunities should extend through the different types of trails and trail users.

For each trail under development, work closely with government, trail managers and organisations, the tourism industry and the community to encourage development of linked products, services and accommodation suited to target markets.

Collie River Valley Trails Strategy 2018 – 2021

| | |
|---|---|
| Implement a staged program of trail development and promotion for iconic trails. | As iconic trails are developed, work cooperatively to develop and deliver quality information and promotion to attract domestic and international markets. |
| Encourage and support Aboriginal involvement in improving trail experiences. | Liaise with appropriate Aboriginal communities and groups to identify and progress opportunities to develop products, services and interpretation linked to trails. |

2.2 Australia's South West Tourism Development Priorities 2010 – 2015

Tourism Australia developed the Australia's South West Tourism Development Priorities 2010-2015 in March 2010. This document identified the Collie River Valley as having the potential to be a key tourism destination hub for adventure type activities such as kayaking, white water rafting, abseiling, rock climbing, mountain biking and bush walking, coining the claim for it to become *'The adventure capital for the region'*. The Plan developed the following priorities for the Collie area:

- ***Facilitate the development of ancillary services on the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail***

There is opportunity to showcase the town of Collie and ancillary services and accommodation to visitors using the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail including potential to encourage them to walk / cycle local trails and extend their stay in the area. In addition, other services may be developed to add value to the trail experience benefiting local trail users as well as attracting additional tourists.

- ***Facilitate the development of adventure activities, itineraries and trails in the Collie River Valley area***

The development of trails along with adventure experiences are recognised and is a priority and opportunity to improve the tourist offering for the Collie River Valley. However, this document states that significant work is required to develop *'the required infrastructure and range of activities to be market ready'*. This Strategy is being developed to achieve this aim.

2.3 Bunbury Wellington & Boyup Brook Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2015-19

This strategy has been developed on a Regional basis and covers the local government areas of Harvey, Dardanup, Capel, Bunbury, Donnybrook, Boyup Brook and Collie. The strategy is to:

1. Identify tourism opportunities, priorities and gaps for the Bunbury Wellington and Boyup Brook region;
2. Guide seven local government authorities (LGAs) towards unified tourism branding, marketing, governance and product development; and
3. Identify recommended infrastructure and product priorities that would complement the Tourism Futures South West and be consistent with the South West Regional Blueprint.

BUNBURY *Geographe*

This report has prioritised development opportunities for the Bunbury Geographe region, the following are relevant for Collie River Valley:

1. **Develop the Collie Motorplex into Western Australia’s premier motoring facility for Regional WA.**
2. **Develop mountain bike trails as per the South West Mountain Bike Plan.**
3. **Link Bunbury, Ferguson Valley, Wellington NP and Collie as a scenic drive loop.**
4. **Develop Recreational Vehicle Friendly sites within close proximity to Regional towns, create an RV trail (scenic route) between towns, linked to popular heritage, nature & recreation sites.**
5. **Develop a ‘ring’ road drive-route around the region taking visitors to popular sites, wineries-eateries, trails and forest-nature sites.**
6. **Develop facilities at Black Diamond Lake, Stockton Lake and Lake Kepwari as inland dive sites with swim-throughs, platforms, dive trail and day use amenities.**
7. **Upgrades to Wellington National Park including walk-in / canoe-in camping opportunities; and a scenic drive loop incorporating Pile Rd, River Rd, Falcon Rd, Wellington Forest Rd and King Tree Rd.**
8. **Formalise Gnomesville as a tourist attraction, establishing a boundary around the site and incorporating toilets, picnic facility, pop-up shop, formal pathways, parking, and signage.**
9. **Develop a ‘Summernats’ style event that incorporates ‘All Things with Wheels’ at Collie incorporating rural lifestyle themes into a long weekend event.**
10. **The development of a 4WD park within the region, in close proximity to camping and/or accommodation facilities.**
11. **Install roadside billboards on reserves/freehold along main access roads; depicting enviable images of people at scenic places, with the region’s slogan & a call to action.**

Inclusion of the above development opportunities for Collie River Valley in this Regional plan, demonstrates the importance and priority of these initiatives. These opportunities include specific actions as well as general guidance, all of which support the development of Collie River Valley as a trails destination.

2.4 South West Regional Blueprint 2015

Regional Development Australia and the South West Development Commission jointly prepared the *South West Regional Blueprint 2015* ‘to build prosperity through jobs and population within the South West region of Australia.’ This document identified opportunities and priorities to achieve this outcome. *Opportunities to support the tourism sector include:*

- ***Develop expanded mountain bike, cycling, and walk trails; and***
- ***Develop equestrian and bridle trails.***

The purpose and vision of this plan aligns with these opportunities to build prosperity through jobs and population within the Collie River Valley area. The development of tracks and trails as recommended by this Strategy is ‘for the benefit of locals and to enhance the visitor experience’ making Collie an attractive place to live (population) and boost tourist number and length of stay in the area (jobs), increasing the prosperity of the region.

2.5 Collie Trails Hub Report

This report analyses the trail infrastructure within the Collie River Valley from a strategic perspective and makes broad recommendations to develop Collie as a 'Trail Hub' (now 'Trail Town'). The below diagram demonstrates that Collie is in the early development phase with significant potential to grow its trail offering.

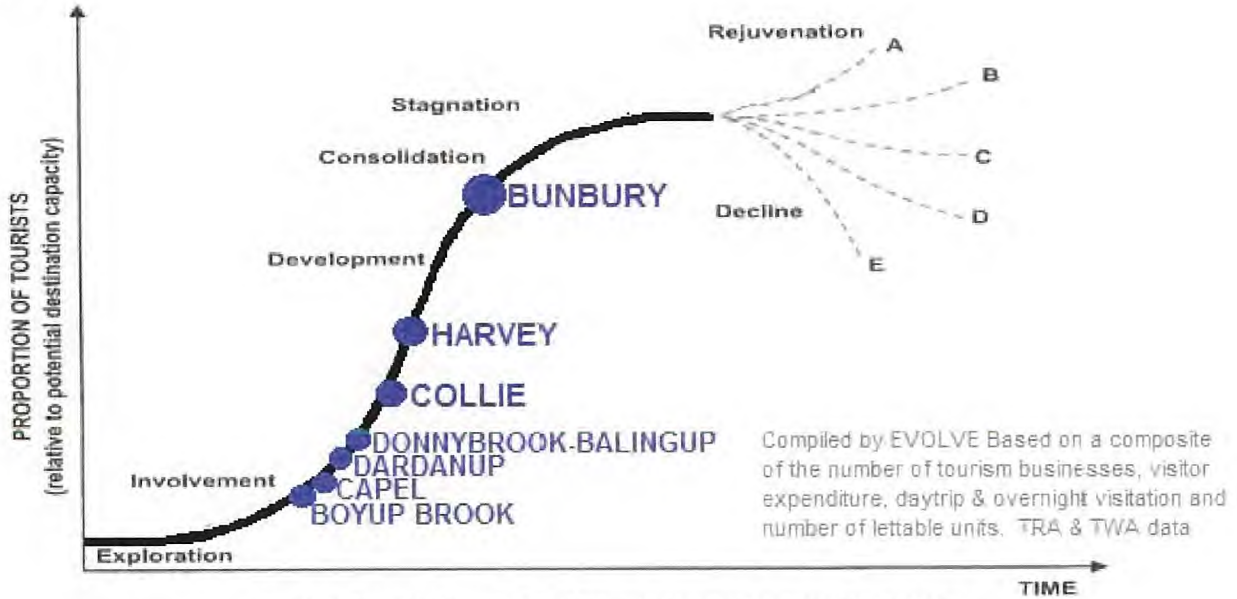


Fig. 6 – Geographie Tourism Area Lifecycle (Source: Collie Trails Hub Report)

This report states that 'A focus on trail development is required to cement links between existing trails and the town and a dedicated marketing effort required to establish Collie as an attractive trails and tourist destination. Some formalisation of roles with community and government needed to assist with a strategic approach to the trail hub.' The report scores Collie's infrastructure in comparison to other currently recognised trail towns in the below categories. This score is represented as a percentage below.



Fig. 7 - Collie Trails Hub Inventory Analysis (Source: Collie Trails Hub Report)

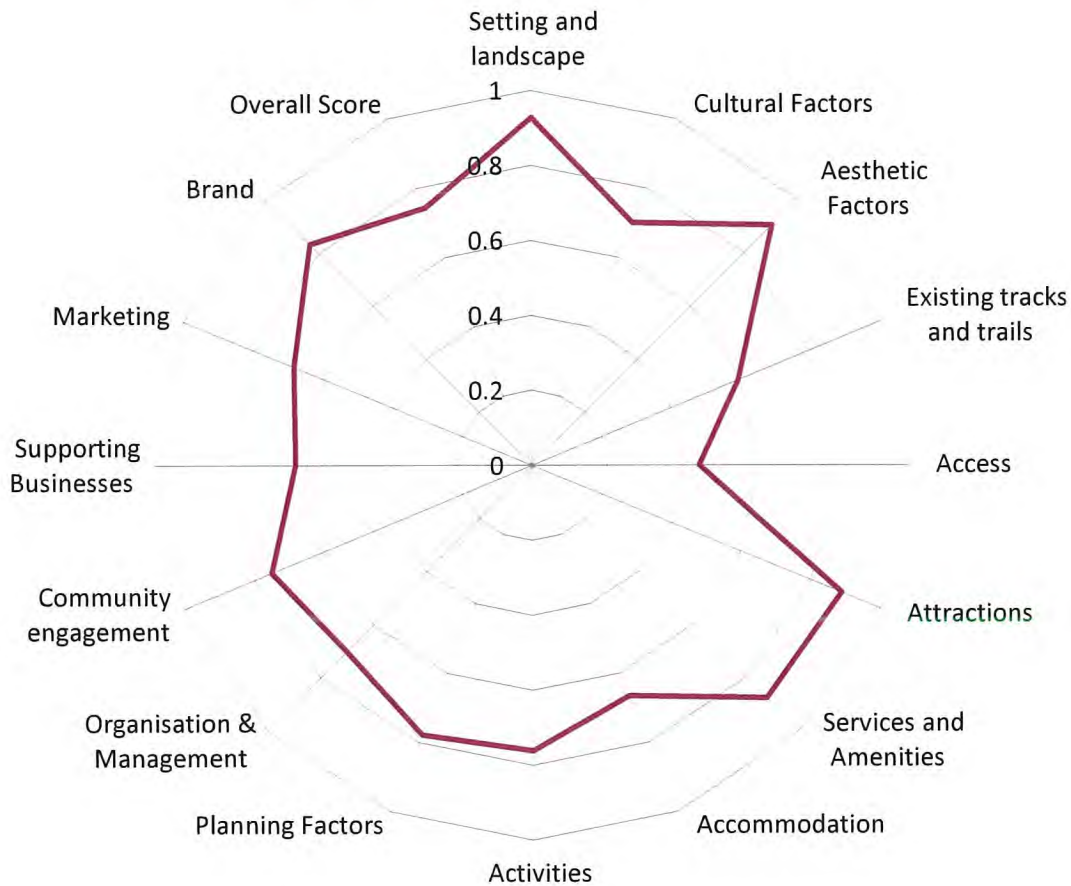


Fig. 8 - Collie Trails Hub Inventory Spider Diagram (Source: Collie Trails Hub Report)

The above categories have been assessed as part of the Collie Trails Hub Inventory and are scored from 0-1, with 1 being the highest. This is to identify areas of improvement. These areas of improvement have been found and the report states that: *‘Some important weaknesses lie in area of access which is more specifically related to the lack of links between the key trails and the centre of Collie. Currently Collie is not perceived as a unique trails destination in itself because the major focus of trails development is in Wellington National Park. Collie is still perceived as an industrial town. The message, therefore needs to be reinforced that Collie is a trails destination with sufficient trails and tourism activity and services to attract trail visitors and keep them for an overnight (or multi-night) stay.’* As a result of this, the following priority action list was compiled.

Collie Trails Hub Report Priority Action List

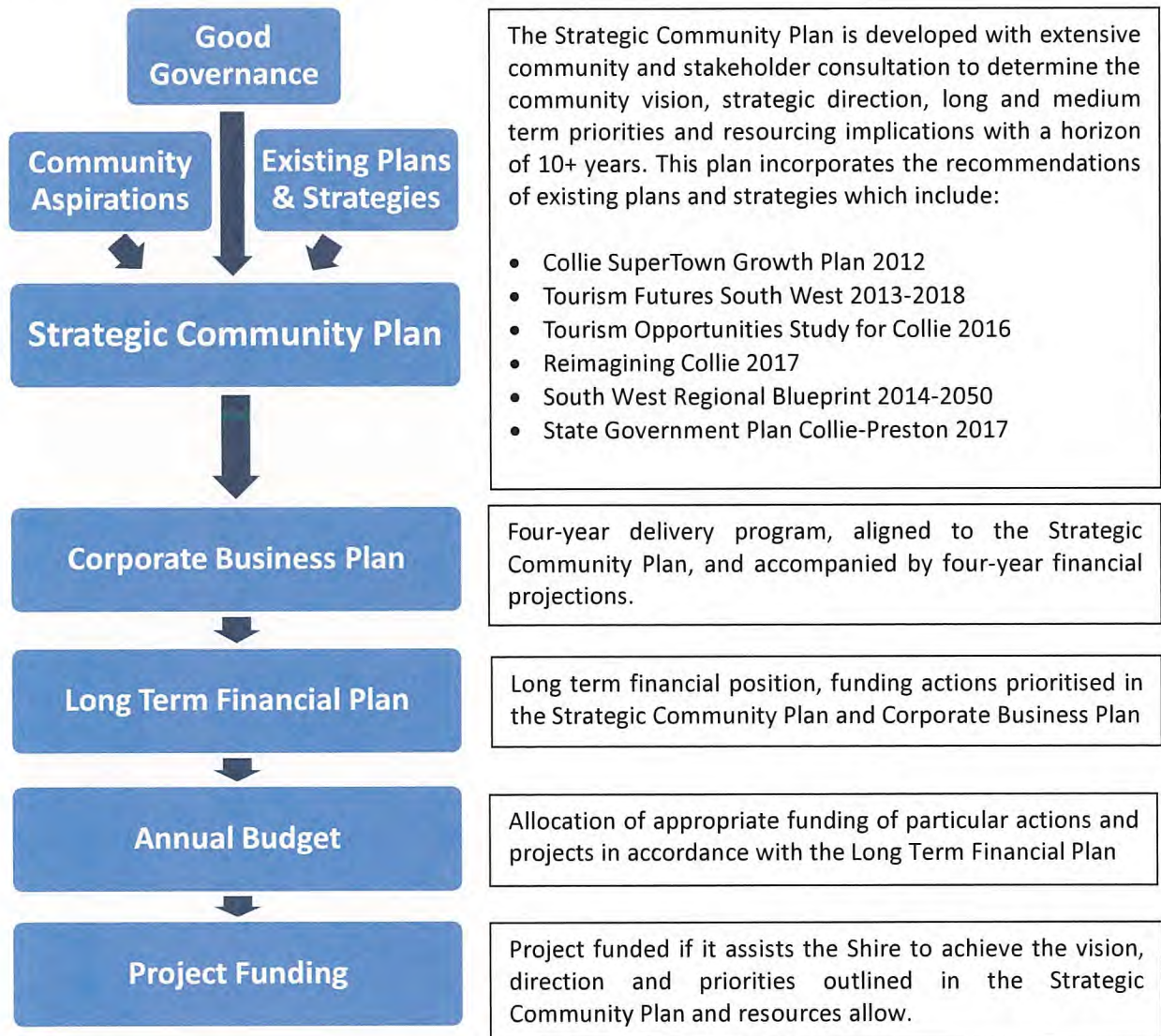
- A. Conduct a Briefing session with Shire, tourism businesses, Trails Committee, Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Department of Parks and Wildlife (now Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), Visitor Centre management and Collie River Marketing on the Trails Hub concept and recommendations within this report.
- B. Source grant funding to develop Collie Trails Hub Master Plan for Collie focused on making Collie the trails hub and centre of trails activity.
- C. Undertake Collie Trails Hub Master Plan whilst continuing to engage with stakeholders outlined above plus trails user groups – mountain bikes, walking, water-based, equestrian, road bikes, off-road bikes. Focus of Trails Master Plan:
 - a. Links, Loops and Connectivity around Collie, bringing the focus of trails activity and trail services to Collie.
 - b. Signage, mapping, services and infrastructure to support Collie as centre of trails activity.

- c. Developing a range of trail types to meet a range of user needs – across water, road, off road, equestrian, walking, cycling as well as a range of trail grades to meet beginners and family needs.**
- D. Formalise involvement of community groups, trail groups and businesses into the Trails Committee to allow for ongoing maintenance, funding and management of trails through a formalised structure.
- E. Construct trail links as recommended in the South West Mountain Bike Masterplan and the Collie Trails Hub Master Plan (above) to link Collie with Wellington National Park and other trails outside of town (including Munda Biddi Trail).**
- F. Working with trail user groups develop trail maintenance and management schedules to ensure long term sustainability for trails.
- G. Develop Trails Hub Marketing and Communications Plan focused on on-road, directional and on – track signage as well as mapping and other broader marketing tools to sell the message that Collie is the centre of trails activity and promote this message widely.**
- H. Consider alternate sources of funding including user pays models to ensure long term sustainability of Collie Trails Hub.
- I. Incorporate Collie’s new brand into all trails mapping, signage, directional and informational signage, on line and printed.
- J. Develop itineraries and themed routes (trails and drive routes) to highlight Collie’s brand as an adventure destination and trails hub. Develop collaborative marketing campaigns with trail friendly service providers and incorporate trail friendly businesses into the itineraries to focus tourist visitation into Collie and extend length of stay.

A number of these actions have been completed. The outstanding actions have been highlighted in bold text. These outstanding actions are either completed through the development of this plan (priorities 2, 3 and 6) or are developed further and included as recommendations of this plan.

2.6 Shire of Collie Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

The Shire adopted this plan September 2017. The Strategic Community Plan is a long-term planning document that sets out the community’s vision, aspirations for the future, and the key strategies that the Shire will focus on to achieve the community’s aspirations.



The Shire of Collie Strategic Community Plan outlines eight strategic priorities. The Vision and Purpose of this Strategy helps achieve five of these priorities as listed below:

- *Economic diversification to provide new opportunities for the workforce displaced by changes in the coal mining and coal fired power generation sector*
- *Developing tourism products, infrastructure and the capacity of operators*
- *Branding and marketing Collie*
- *Improve the attractiveness of Collie to families and expand the youth population*
- *Maintain existing community infrastructure and develop Regional infrastructure and improved transport connections in the region for the Collie community and tourists*

The Shire of Collie Strategic Community Plan presents five goals, each to be achieved through outcomes and underlying strategies. These goals and many of the outcomes and strategies are relevant to the development and implementation of this document. These are outlined below and are incorporated in the development of this strategy and will flow through to the eventual implementation of its recommendations.

Outcome

Participation in sport, recreation and leisure opportunities.

Strategy

Provide and promote sport, recreation and leisure facilities and programs.

Provide support to local sport and recreation clubs and groups to increase participation.

An active and supportive community.

Work in partnership with community groups and other relevant organisations to increase volunteer numbers.

A growing community.

Support and encourage participation in community and civic events.

Develop stronger links with the local indigenous community.

Attract new residents through promoting and marketing the lifestyle, natural environment, facilities, services, and business opportunities in Collie.

Local industrial development and diversification.

Work with the State Government to invest in Collie's economic future.

A growing tourism industry.

Support the provision of appropriate visitor servicing facilities including the Collie Visitor Centre.

Support local and Regional tourism destination management and marketing initiatives that provide local tourism growth.

A protected natural environment.

Sustainably manage bushland.

Support community based environmental protection initiatives.

Appropriate land use, development and heritage conservation.

Support and promote the conservation and maintenance of heritage buildings, sites and places of interest.

Attractive townscapes and streetscapes.

Manage and maintain infrastructure in the Collie CBD and support vibrant services and retail shopping.

A safe and reliable transport system.

Maintain and further develop local roads and footpath networks.

A sustainable asset and infrastructure base.

Develop capital programs based on asset management plans and complete identified projects within scheduled timeframes.

Maintain effective liaison with other levels of government and Regional bodies to ensure coordinated provision of Regional infrastructure.

Good governance and leadership.

Implement Council's Communication Strategy.

In addition to the above aspirational goals, the Strategic Community Plan also outlines services which should be delivered by the Shire during the life of the Plan. These include:

- Goal 1 Our Community – Tracks and Trails
- Goal 2 Our Economy – Economic Development
- Goal 2 Our Economy – Marketing / Tourism Promotion
- Goal 3 Our Natural Environment – Bushland and Weed Management
- Goal 4 Our Built Environment – Roads, Footpaths and Cycleways
- Goal 4 Our Built Environment – Heritage Protection
- Goal 5 Our Business – Media and Communications

It is clear that the development of tracks and trails for the benefit of locals, to attract tourists to experience the natural and historical advantages and better maintain the bushland of the Collie River Valley area is in accordance with the above goals.

2.7 Shire of Collie Strategic Community Plan 2018-2022

Implementing the vision of the Shire of Collie Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2027 is the four year Shire of Collie Corporate Business Plan. This plan lists the Shire's four year priorities which includes:

'Facilitating economic development and tourism:

- Supporting the development of tourism hubs (adrenalin hub and nature based hub), including:
 - infrastructure to support Collie as the region's Tracks and Trails hub, including new trails
- Branding and marketing Collie as a place to visit, live and invest, which aligns corporate, district and regional levels'

The strategy plans to increase the current level of service by *'provid(ing) new and upgraded infrastructure to support Collie as the region's Track and Trail hub. Matched contributions from grant funds.'*

The development of Collie as a Trails Town is a strategic objective of the Shire of Collie through the Strategic Community Plan.

2.8 Wellington National Park, Westralia Conservation Park and Wellington Discovery Forest Management Plan 2008

The vision of State Government for these parks is to:

Over the life of the plan, a balance will exist between the conservation of the planning areas' natural values and the public demand for recreation and water supply. The area will make an important contribution to reservation of the Jarrah Forest, where natural values, such as granite outcrops, mature growth forest, ecosystems of the Collie River, and our knowledge of them, will be maintained and enhanced for future generations. Visitors to the area will enjoy a range of sustainable recreation opportunities in a variety of forest settings, and provide a benefit to the regional economy.

The community will regard the area as a natural asset and will have a greater understanding of its values, and support for their management, through the Wellington Discovery Forest and other education and interpretive facilities. The ancient landscape of the Collie River valley will be recognised as a forest environment of great visual aesthetic appeal, and for its rich Aboriginal heritage, which will be kept alive through the active and ongoing involvement of local Aboriginal people.

This vision is delivered through a number of objectives including the following relevant objectives:

- Bushwalking - The objective is to provide a range of bushwalking opportunities that meet visitor needs and do not adversely impact on key values.

- Cycling - The objective is to provide opportunities for cycling that do not adversely impact on key values.
- Horse Riding - The objective is to permit horse-riding where the environment can sustain its long-term use and the social impacts are considered manageable.
- Scenic Driving - The objective is to provide a range of scenic and recreational driving opportunities that is consistent with the visitor management setting and the protection of key values.

The Wellington National Park, Westralia Conservation Park and Wellington Discovery Forest Management Plan 2008 supports the development of trails as appropriate while still respecting and protecting key values including the rich Aboriginal heritage within the subject area.

2.9 Plan for Collie-Preston 2017-2021



Fig. 9 – Premier Mark McGowan (left) and Hon Member Mick Murray at Black Diamond lake, Collie. (Source: Plan for Collie-Preston)

The WA Labor government have articulated their plan for the Collie-Preston electorate area. This plan is to 'create jobs and opportunities for the people of Collie-Preston' and to 'support the growth of industries across a range of sectors'. This economic plan implements these objectives through a number of areas of focus including renewable energy, industry development, tourism initiatives, health and aged care facilities and the provision of local services and infrastructure.

Strategy

A McGowan Labor Government will invest \$200,000 to develop walking facilities around Wellington Dam.

Description

The formation of a three-to-four-day circuit walk trail from Collie around the Wellington Dam will include basic camping areas set up at relevant points along the trail, connecting to the Bibbulmun Track and further enhancing the tourism appeal of the region to visitors.

A McGowan Labor Government will allocate \$300,000 towards a

The Ferguson Valley and Wellington Forest areas are hidden gems in the South West. With the combination of wineries, bed and

- marketing campaign to promote the Ferguson Valley and Wellington Forest areas.** breakfast and chalet accommodation, restaurants, towering jarrah forest and rolling green farmland, the region has much to offer. Although visitor numbers are increasing, a targeted marketing campaign will do much to boost numbers and increase job opportunities for the people of Collie, Eaton, Australind, Dardanup, Donnybrook and other towns in the region.
- A McGowan Labor Government will allocate an additional \$15 million towards road improvements in Collie-Preston.** (Includes) Undertake a staged upgrade of Collie Scenic Drive between Mungalup Road and Coalfields Highway.
- A McGowan Labor Government will allocate \$500,000 towards planning and environmental studies for a new caravan park at Minninup Pool.** There is a shortage of nature-based, short stay facilities in the Collie region. Minninup Pool is well-used for recreation activities and is an ideal location for a new caravan and campground only five minutes from the centre of town. A new campground and caravan park would allow visitors and locals to make better use of the beautiful natural pool and surrounding bush environment, boosting tourism numbers and helping to diversify the local economy.
- A McGowan Labor Government will invest \$3 million to develop Lake Kepwari as a recreational tourist destination.** The Lake Kepwari development will establish the area as a water-based tourism precinct with a focus on powerboat-based activities, including water-skiing, wake-boarding, tubing, jet-skiing and the like.

The above strategies demonstrate the State Government's commitment to the development of Collie River Valley as a hub for tourism, through the provision of additional facilities and services (such as development of Lake Kepwari, tourist drives and walking trails); camping facilities to ensure sufficient and improved accommodation for tourists; and marketing to promote tourism to this region.

3. Importance of Trails

A global body of evidence shows that the provision of trails leads to multiple health, lifestyle, social, environmental and economic benefits for communities. (WA Strategic Trails Blueprint)

1.1 Community Benefit

The WA Strategic Trails Blueprint identifies the importance of trails within the Western Australian context. Additional local context is provided which demonstrates the need for additional trails and facilities within this region.

The community benefits of trails e.g. physical and mental health above not only applies to the Collie River Valley area, but as the regional trails destination will impact the entire South West of Western Australia as well as any visitors and tourists which participate in trail activities and events. Many of these events are national and international (e.g. Tom Quilty) and so will have a far broader impact than the Collie River Valley context.

WA Strategic Trails Blueprint

Encouraging more frequent outdoor physical activity leading to improved physical and mental wellbeing and a reduction in lifestyle diseases and associated medical costs.

Collie River Valley Context

Collie has an Age Standardised Rate of Obesity of 34.3% (percentage of people counted as obese). This is the highest in the State and substantially above the national average of 27.9% (Source: Heart Foundation Maps).

Metropolitan and areas with high nature-based activity fared much better e.g. Augusta-Margaret River 25.9%, Kalamunda 25.3%. The study 'Proximity to Sports Facilities and Sports Participation for Adolescents in Germany 2014' found that young people residing further from sports facilities were less healthy (Anne K. Reimers, Matthias Wagner, Seraphim Alvanides, Andreas Steinmayr, Miriam Reiner, Steffen Schmidt and Alexander Woll).

The prevention of mental illness through physical activity is proven – *'exercise has many benefits, not only for your physical health but also your mental health. In your brain, exercise stimulates chemicals that improve your mood and the parts of the brain responsible for memory and learning'* (Source: healthdirect.wa.gov.au) *'In the South West, suicide was the leading cause of death for 15 to 24-year-old males and females between 2006 and 2015, causing 19 deaths in the 2011 to 2015 period. These figures are 1.4 times the state average.'* (Source: Collie Mail 30 April 2018)

Improved lifestyle due to opportunities for outdoor recreation by individuals, groups, education and community organisations.

Recently constructed trail i.e. the Collie Town Mountain Bike Trail has provided significantly improved access for all including the adjacent high school. Mountain biking has now been incorporated into the student's curriculum leading to potential membership of the Collie Cycle Club, education about the natural environment and landcare through trail maintenance. Anecdotally, many students have taken up this sport in their leisure time rather than sedentary pursuits such as video games or television.

Trails have been planned e.g. the Collie River Walking/Cycle Trail linking places within the town of Collie. This trail will link the recreation areas of Soldier's Park, Collie Mountain Bike Trail, Lions

Park, the Golf Course and Minninup Pool (a popular day use, camping, food and tourism services) without the need to cross a road from Collie CBD. This will open up safe access for these facilities to all, particularly young people and families.

Providing low cost facilities for recreation accessible to many different groups in the community.

There is a lack of easy to access trails within specific trail types e.g. 4WD, trail bikes etc. Even for existing sanctioned trails types, the demand for more is evident through the unauthorised creation of additional trails.

Community consultation has been undertaken as part of the development of this Strategy (Appendix 3) and there was significant demand expressed for additional trails of all types. **This is the consultation which is currently ongoing**

All weather and all ability trails, accessible by wheelchairs/handcycles etc are also planned to provide facilities for all within the community.

The Socio-Economic Index For Australia (SEIFA) score for Collie is significantly below the state average (see below). The provision of free activities will benefit this group and provide alternatives to anti social behaviour.

21.6% of Collie residents stated that they were born in a country other than Australia. Trails are not culturally specific and can be enjoyed by all residents.

Improved awareness and appreciation of the natural environment and support for its conservation and protection.

To ensure the sustainable use of the trails, a number of the local and State clubs have adopted landcare agreements, have formal and informal training and conduct ongoing maintenance on trails and the surrounding environment e.g. the South West 4WD Club, Track Care, Bushwalking WA and Collie Cycle Club. This is in addition to the setting of these trails within the natural environment which increases the awareness and appreciation of the natural environment.

Protection and showcasing of natural, cultural and historic areas by providing for sustainable access routes.

The development of trails includes the development and enhancement of the trail corridor through natural bushland areas thereby increasing awareness of the natural environment and cultural and historic assets assisting in the active preservation of these places by the user groups. Increased access to these sites leads to increased attention and focus by locals and the managing body. Interpretive signage is planned at important cultural sites e.g. Jack Mears Springs and Minninup Pool; at historically significant places; and on important natural features and vegetation.

Sanctioned trails that are built to a higher capacity, have less impact upon the environment than both unsanctioned trails and trail users traversing natural bushland and have routes chosen to display the natural beauty of the area as well as optimising trail features.

Sanctioned trails can enhance the protection of culturally significant sites by guiding users around these sensitive areas.

Improved sustainability of local communities by making them more attractive places to live.

Additional recreational opportunities provided will make Collie a more attractive place to live encouraging the large number of drive-in-drive-out workers to live in Collie. It is estimated that this also will result in increased amenity, liveability and better perception of the town and help attract new residents to the town, alleviating the housing demand issues from Perth (2hrs) and Bunbury (45mins). Collie is currently the most affordable place to buy a house in South West WA with a median house price two fifths of Perth's median (REIWA June 2017).

Opportunities for social interaction and development of community identity through participation in trail activities, maintenance and conservation.

This plan links and incorporates areas of natural beauty, history, culture and amenity highlighting these features and increasing community pride and identity.

Ongoing maintenance and conservation are to be largely the user's responsibility, creating a shared sense of ownership over the trails.

A Friends of the Collie River group has been established to continue to maintain these areas. The construction of new trails will also provide an impetus for the formation of exercise groups, Park Run, walking and cycling clubs etc which, in turn, lead to other overall wellbeing benefits. Because of the greater visibility from these trails, more volunteers are anticipated to assist with the rehabilitation and conservation. There is already a high level of volunteering in Collie - 22.4% of residents in 2016.

The Socio-Economic Index For Australia (SEIFA) score for Collie is 947 (32/139 LGAs in WA). Only 5% of the population have a post school education compared to the Western Australian average of 16%. This indicates social and economic disadvantage. Collie has social disadvantage fed by high unemployment of 11% compared to the Western Australian average of 7.8% (2016 census). The development of Collie as a Trails Town will drive economic growth and will help break this cycle of disadvantage.

1.2 Economic Diversification

Trail development is part of the Shire's strategy to diversify the economy away from the current reliance on coal mining and coal fired power stations which have entered a period of uncertainty due to climate change and financial pressures. This complements other tourism initiatives undertaken within Collie River Valley including the development of Minninup Pool as a tourism hub and the Motorplex as a high octane venue.

WA Strategic Trails Blueprint

Tourism growth to trail destinations with resulting economic stimulus of local economies.

Collie River Valley Context

The WA Trails Blueprint classifies Trail Towns and the SW Mountain Bike Masterplan identifies the Collie-Wellington Valley as a priority Trails Centre, reflecting demand for mountain bike trails and the potential of achieving national significance. Collie will use this recognition to attract international attention and visitors.

The construction of additional trails in Collie River Valley will support Collie to become a national trail destination and encourage interstate and international tourists to extend their stays for additional nights as they explore the town and experience other activities and trails in the town. This will result in increased tourism and tourist spend as they

resupply, enjoy local entertainment and facilities and stay overnight at local accommodation.

Opportunities for new businesses also exist to service the additional trail users e.g. equipment hire, equipment servicing, transport, tours and tutorials/masterclasses.

Tourism Research Australia (State Tourism Satellite Accounts 2015-16) have estimated that in Western Australia on average 5.28 direct FTEs and 3.00 indirect FTEs on an ongoing basis was created for every \$1 million spent by tourists.

In 2015 Collie received 117,500 tourists (Reimagining Collie 2017), spending an average of \$330 each (Tourism WA - Visitation to Western Australia: Overview Year Ending September 2017). This generated an estimated \$38.775 million or 321 direct and indirect jobs in 2015.

Collie is looking to build on this by tapping into the rapid growth of trail tourism. This industry was valued globally at \$7.88 trillion and is anticipated to increase by almost 50% during the 2016 -2022 period (Sarder Research – Global Adventure Tourism Market 2016-20).

Economic benefits from employment and business opportunities in trail development, management, maintenance, events and supporting products and services.

Trail design and construction will also be a significant employer of local people. Approximately 60% of construction cost is direct labour costs, not including supervision, design and project management. Therefore, out of every \$1 million spent (including in-kind funding) on the construction of a trail, \$600,000 is spent on employment. The average annual salary in WA is \$88,327 (Seasonally adjusted wages – Bureau of Statistics). This equates to 6.8 direct construction jobs (FTEs) for every \$1 million spent. This does not include indirect jobs or jobs created by suppliers.

The Shire has successfully constructed the Karak Trail from Collie to Allanson, more than 3km in length with a total cost of \$0.5 million including in-kind funding. This created 6-8 FTEs for the construction period of 3 years.

The Shire has a Local Purchasing Policy which ensures that where possible and competitively priced, local contractors and suppliers are used. This supports the local economy, ensuring that the construction benefits of projects are retained.

4. Trails Town

4.1 Background

Collie River Valley and the town of Collie in particular is well placed to be a Trail Town. Collie has been assessed as a Trail Hub (now Trails Town). The 2016 Collie Trails Hub In-Depth Assessment identified Collie as well positioned to become a Trail Hub with services and infrastructure either in place or being developed (analysis at section 2.6). The report identified the tourism offering is in its infancy and Collie's position in the mind of visitors as a tourist or trails destination is not well established. It recommends *'A focus on enhancing business links with the trails hub concept and involving them in offering trail user services, trail management and maintenance and raising Collie's profile as a tourist and, more particularly, trails destination will enhance this.'*

The South West Mountain Bike Master Plan has identified Collie-Wellington as one of five unique towns upon which to focus within the South West of WA. Collie-Wellington is also identified as one of 3 towns with the capacity of becoming a mountain bike area of national significance and was identified as "high priority" in this Plan. These towns have been chosen for their geographic location as well as the unique landscapes which provide diverse mountain bike trail experiences. These advantages extend beyond mountain biking and highlight the unique advantages of developing Collie as a Trail Town for all trail types.

4.2 Trail Precinct Hierarchy

The Western Australia Strategic Trails Blueprint 2017-2021 sets out a hierarchy of trail clusters within localities. The different categories are:

Trail Town:

A population centre which has been assessed and accredited as a destination for its trails offering through the provision of high quality:

- Trails (single or mixed use);
- Outdoor experiences that encourage extended visitation;
- Trail-user related facilities and services (including accommodation);
- Trail-related businesses; and
- Trail branding and signage.

Trail Centre:

A managed multiple trail facility with dedicated visitor services supported by high quality:

- Trails (single or mixed use);
- Outdoor experiences that encourage single day visitation;
- Trail-user related services; and
- Trail branding and signage.

A Trail Centre can stand alone in an individual location or may be positioned within a Trail Town.

Trail Network:

A multiple trail facility with limited or no visitor services, supported by high quality:

- Trails (single or mixed use);
- Outdoor experiences that encourage single or part day visitation; and
- Trail branding and signage.

A Trail Network may be a stand-alone facility or form part of a Trail Town or Trail Centre.

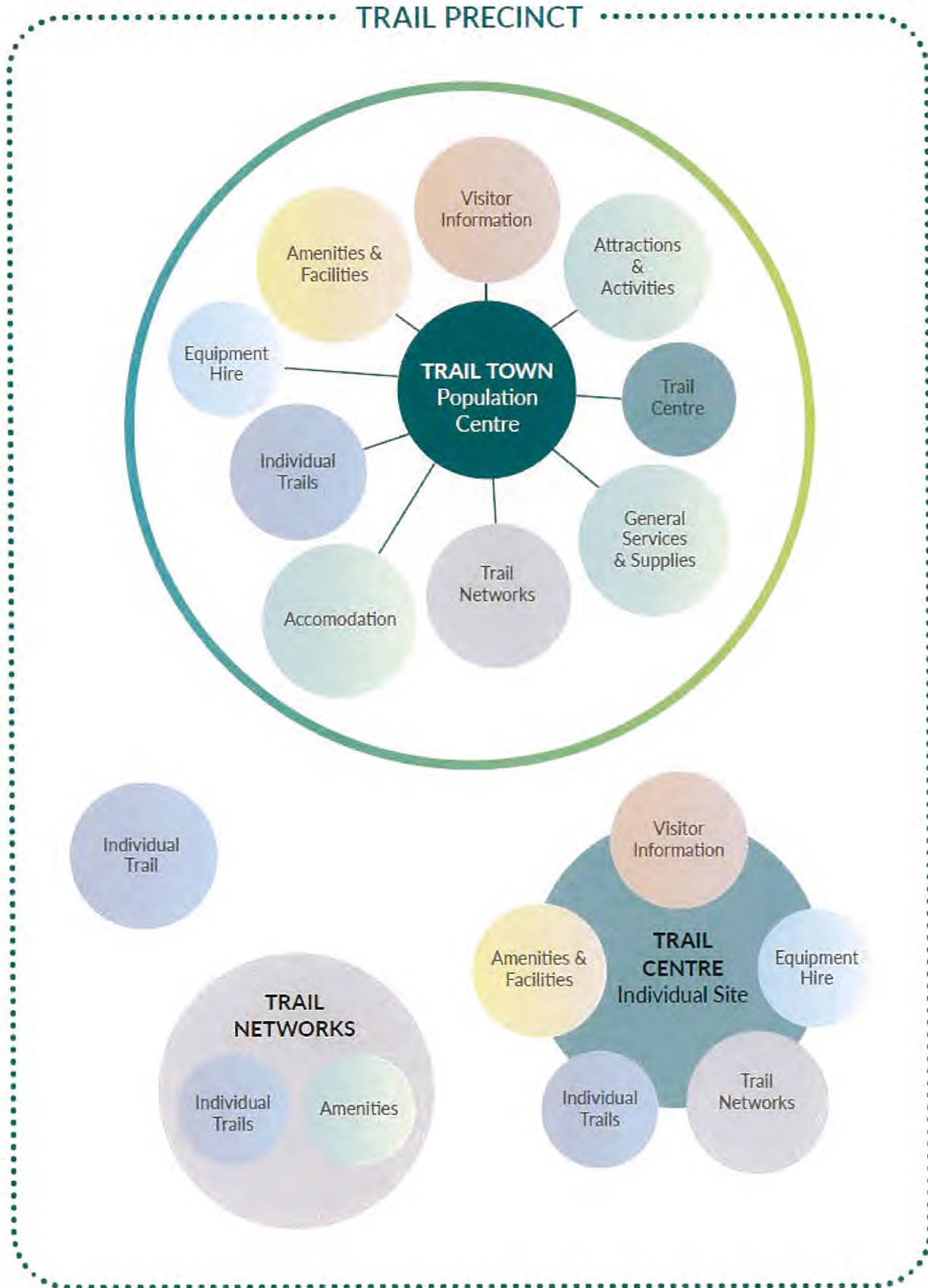


Fig. 10 – Trail Model (Source: WA Trails Blueprint 2017-2021)

4.3 Trail Town Audit

POPULATION CENTRE

Collie River Valley has a significant population centre at the town of Collie with 8,798 people recorded at the 2016 census. Collie has undergone significant changes over the past number of years, particularly through the SuperTowns program. This was an investment program to rectify historically low investment in Collie and has transformed the appearance of the town instil pride to the residents and making Collie and attractive alternative for potential residents. The SuperTown projects include a Water Play Area, Visitor Centre, Skate Park, CBD Revitalisation, Music Shell and Art Gallery. It is hoped that this investment will create a more attractive and liveable place so Drive-In Drive-Out (DIDO) workers to choose to live in Collie. The Shire has won a National Planning Excellence Award in 2018 from the Planning Institute of Australia for the planning and implementation of this project. The enhanced town centre and increased amenities provide an excellent foundation for Collie to service both visitors and locals using the nearby trails.



Fig. 11 –Water Play Area, Collie CBD (Source: Why I #visitcollie)

VISITOR INFORMATION

Collie has a new Visitor Centre near the CBD, providing information on activities; events; accommodation; history; restaurants; retail; car hire and trails to tourists. In addition, various other information signs are located throughout Collie directing tourists to local attractions and providing relevant and interesting local information. Other services provided include free WiFi, accommodation, train, coach and tour booking and advice, souvenirs, local products and crafts, maps and guides, free storage of packs and parcels for Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun trail users and complimentary water.

The Visitor Centre is the link between the Walkers and Cyclists on the Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun trails. Co-located with the Visitor Centre is the tourist mine, refurbished trains, Coal Miner's Memorial and steam engine.



Fig. 12 – Collie Visitor Centre (Source: collierivervalley.cam.au)

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

There is a diverse range of attractions and activities available in Collie including:

1. Collie Art Gallery – this has been recently developed and boasts regular events and diverse exhibitions as well as Australia's richest regional art prize. This is the only Class A art gallery in Regional WA.
2. Coalfields Museum – provides a unique glimpse into Collie's early days. The museum is housed in the historic buildings of the 1900 and 1930 Road Board offices.
3. Old Collie Goods Shed – this CY O'Connor designed building and the Bill Weir Rolling Stock Shed, located next to the Goods Shed, houses many wagons that are being restored by some very enthusiastic volunteers from the Collie Heritage Group. These wagons can be viewed and form part of the 'Working Life Trail' which stretches from Mandurah to Busselton.
4. Historical Buildings and Streetscapes – including All Saints Anglican Church, Collie Mine Workers Institute, Collie Courthouse, Old Collie Post Office, Old Police Station, Old Collie Goods Shed, Coalfields Museum, Colliefields Hotel and St Brigid's Roman Catholic Church.
5. Water Play Area and Music Shell – an entertaining place for the whole family to picnic, barbeque or purchase gourmet food from the Wagon and relax and enjoy the water play area during the day and live entertainment in the evening.
6. Collie Skate Park & Youth Play Park – a dedicated space for youth of all abilities and stages, including the skate park, playground, open areas, benches and amenities. This space is co-located with the trail heads for the Collie River Walk and the Collie Mountain Bike Town Trail.



Fig. 13 – Skate Park and Wagyl Biddi, Collie CBD (Source: Why I #vistitcollie)

7. Harris River Estate Winery – winery, restaurant, beer and cider micro-brewery and accommodation set amongst the beautiful forests makes a relaxing and idyllic getaway for a meal or overnight stay.
8. Wildflowers - the forests bursting to life with an amazing rainbow of colour with magnificent shows of some of the 300 species of colourful wildflowers in spring. Wildflowers in the Jarrah forest are best enjoyed by leaving your car and taking a walk through the bush. A wheelchair friendly wildflower display occurs annually in early October.
9. Wellington Dam & National Park – 17,000 hectares of WA's unique Jarrah, Marri and Yarri (Blackbutt) forests. The icon and central feature of the park is the beautiful Collie River Valley with its ancient valley gorge. Experience the breathtaking views across the calm waters of Wellington Dam and down the picturesque valley from the dam lookout. Camp at beautiful Honeymoon Pool or recently upgraded Potters Gorge. The area is popular all year round and contains many animal and bird species. Sighting of unique animals such as a Chuditch, Quenda, Quokka, Brushtail Possum, Woylie or Western Ringtail Possum are a regular occurrence.
10. Stockton Lake, Black Diamond Lake, Minninup Pool, Collie River – popular scenic attractions for swimming, boating, kayaking, waterskiing and relaxing. Black Diamond Lake is in the top 10 WA Instagrammed locations.



Fig. 14 – Stockton Lake (Source: Ruth Tinley)

11. QUIT Collie Speedway – Collie Speedway plays host to a number of different categories throughout it's summer racing season, these include 2,3 & 4 wheeled divisions as well as Winged and Non Winged Categories. Events are held on a regular basis and are well received and attended by locals and tourists.
12. Collie Motorplex – events are hosted nearly every weekend and draws spectators and contestants from every corner of Australia. The complex caters for car, bike and kart racing with numerous clubs utilizing the venue for driver training and social activities. Facilities include a 3.1km race circuit and a purpose built burnout pad.



Fig. 15 – Collie Motorplex (Source: motoringsouthwest.org.au)

TRAIL CENTRES

There are several Trail Centres for various trail types in the Collie River Valley. These include the Visitor Centre, Soldiers Park and Wellington Dam Kiosk. There are other planned trail centres for these various trail types as shown on the map which follows this section.

Visitor Centre Trail Centre

| | Walking Trails | Cycle Trails | Drive Trails |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Visitor Information | Information about trails of all types available, accommodation, attractions etc. The services provided at this trail centre are excellent, however some of these services are restricted to opening hours. An external interactive information panel will provide after hours information about trails, events, accommodation, attractions, amenities and facilities, emergency contact information and restaurants within Collie. TT01 Develop and install an interactive information panel displayed at the Visitor Centre to provide comprehensive information about trails and other visitor services within Collie. | | |
| Equipment Hire | N/A for Walking Trails. | Bike hire etc is available locally from nearby businesses. | Car hire is available locally from nearby businesses. |
| Trail Networks | The Westralia Loop including the Bibbulmun Track and the Karak Trail as well as a number of proposed networks. | Cycle trail networks are proposed. | The Collie Tourist Way, Working Life Heritage Trail, Scenic Drive Trail, Discovery Tour, Collie River Valley Tour and Northern Highlights Tour connect to this location. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Individual Trails | Trails included in the abovementioned existing networks. | The Visitor Centre forms the trail head for the Munda Biddi Trail and the Karak Trail. | Trails included in the abovementioned existing networks. |
| Amenities & Facilities | <p>Drinking water, toilets, showers, Wi-Fi, storage, accommodation booking, are all available during opening hours. Parking, RV parking, pick up and drop off location and dump point are available regardless of time.</p> <p>TT02 Install an external drinking fountain at the Visitor Centre.</p> <p>Cycle Trails - There are no bike racks or repair facilities at this location.</p> <p>TT03 Install secure bike racks and repair and wash facilities at the Visitor Centre.</p> | | |



Fig. 16 – Interactive Display, Melbourne (Source: Metrospec Products)

Wellington Dam Kiosk

| | Walking Trails | Cycle Trails | Drive Trails | Aquatic Trails |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Visitor Information | Information about trails and services within Wellington National Park. No information provided for visitors about other trails or services outside of the Park and directing visitors to Collie. | | | |
| | TT04 Develop and install an interactive information panel displayed at Wellington Dam Kiosk to provide comprehensive information about trails and other visitor services within Collie. | | | |
| | TT05 Supply brochures and other literature to be provided at the Wellington Dam Kiosk. | | | |
| | TT06 Install signage at a strategic location on the Wellington Dam Road informing visitors of Collie's proximity and attractions and services available. | | | |
| Equipment Hire | N/A for Walking Trails. | Bike hire etc is available from the Kiosk. | Car hire is available from Collie/Bunbury. Not required at this location as users hire vehicles in Perth/Bunbury and drive to Wellington National Park. | Kayak hire etc is available from the Kiosk. Opportunity exists for paddle boards etc to be also available. |
| Trail Networks | The Wellington Dam Spur Trail, the Jabitj Trail, the Kurliiny Tjenangitj Trail and the Sika Trail make up a trail network to which further trails will be added. | The Munda Bididi Trail and the Sika Trail make up a trail network to which further trails will be added. | The Northern Highlights Tour, Discovery Tour and Collie River Valley Tour make up a trail network to which further trails will be added. | The Scenic Drive Trail, Discovery Tour, Collie River Valley Tour and Northern Highlights Tour connect to this location. |
| Individual Trails | Trails included in the abovementioned existing networks. | | | |
| Amenities & Facilities | Food, drink and storage are available during Kiosk opening hours. Drinking water, parking, RV parking, pick up and drop off location, picnic facilities, accommodation, toilets, BBQs and dump point are available regardless of time. Wi-Fi is not available, but is required for travel information and accommodation booking in Collie. | | | |
| | TT07 Install free Wi-Fi from the Wellington Dam Kiosk. | | | |
| | Cycle Trails - There are no cycle racks or repair facilities at this location. | | | |
| | TT08 Install secure cycle racks and repair facilities at the Wellington Dam Kiosk. | | | |

There is an opportunity for aquatic trails in Wellington National Park, however there is little visitor information provided, no hire of equipment and sanctioned trail is still be built.

TT09 Ensure that Wellington Dam Kiosk is developed as a Trail Centre for Aquatic Trails in conjunction with the development of trails from that location.



Fig. 17 – Wellington Dam Kiosk (Source: Parks and Wildlife Service)

New Trail Centres

In addition to the above existing Trail Centres, a number of new Trail Centres are proposed. These Trail Centres will facilitate Collie’s expanded trail offering and will group the necessary facilities to ensure that they are used efficiently. Each of these new Trail Centres will be developed as applicable in conjunction with the trails from that location and will meet each of the criteria specified in the Western Australia Strategic Trails Blueprint as below.

| | New Trail Centre – All Trail Types |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Visitor Information | Visitor Information at new Trail Centres will be provided by an interactive information panel displayed to provide comprehensive information about trails and other visitor services within Collie. |
| Equipment Hire | Equipment hire at new Trail Centres will be available for that trail type – it is sufficient to have equipment hire by prior arrangement. |
| Trail Networks | Trail Networks for each new Trail Centre are set out in the following sections. Trail Networks and individual trails for each new Trail Centre are to be developed at the same time or prior to the Trail Centre. |
| Individual Trails | As above. |
| Amenities & Facilities | Amenities & Facilities at new Trail Centres will include drinking water, toilets, showers, Wi-Fi and a pick up and drop off location as well as any other requirement particular to the location or trail type. |

As a number of trails commence and terminate at Minninup Pool (Walking, Cycling and Aquatic Trails), Collie Race Track (Equestrian Trails) and Muja (Off-Road Trails) these locations have the potential to be developed as Trail Centres. Please see the relevant trails sections within this document below for the existing and proposed trails commencing and terminating at these locations. Minninup Pool is anticipated to be used into the future for camping, the development of a kiosk including equipment hire services, visitor information and other amenities and facilities in addition to those already provided.

TT10 Ensure that Minninup Pool is developed as a Trail Centre for Walking, Cycling and Aquatic Trails in conjunction with the development of trails from that location.



Fig. 18 – Minninup Pool, Collie (Source: Collie Golf Club)

Equestrian Trails are not appropriate to be included in one of the existing or above proposed Trail Centres because of the nature of their use. However, Equestrian Trails can be included in the existing facilities at the Collie Race Track. This is an optimal location as it is very accessible to suitable bushland and the proposed Cardiff Rail Trail.

TT11 Ensure that Collie Race Track is developed as a Trail Centre for Equestrian Trails including the construction of secure horse yards and horse float parking in conjunction with the development of trails from that location.

Off-Road Trails also are not appropriate to be included in one of the existing or above proposed Trail Centres because of the nature of their use. Many of these vehicles are not registered and therefore cannot be driven on gazetted roads or National Park/State Forest. It is most suitable to locate these trails on mine rehabilitated land. This land has been highly disturbed and is unlikely to be rehabilitated to a natural state. Both trail types can share a Trail Centre to minimise cost and maximise the use of the infrastructure.

TT12 Investigate the development of a Trail Centre at Muja/Collie Motorplex with combined facilities for Off-Road Trails in conjunction with the development of trails from that location.

GENERAL SERVICES & SUPPLIES

There are a significant number of shops which provide general services and supplies to trail users within Collie. For example for Drive Trail users there are car hire shops, car parts and accessories shops, tyre shops and car repair garages. Other relevant services within Collie include banks, ATMs, laundries, pharmacies, medical centres, dentists, GPs, podiatrist, chiropractor, physiotherapy, newsagencies, a library (including free computer access), electronics stores, hairdressers, clothing stores, shoe stores, giftware stores, gyms, discount retailers, a post office, police station, petrol stations and grocery stores. There are numerous other general services provided within Collie. The development of trails is anticipated to diversify Collie's economy further to incorporate other services which could be provided to trail users.



Fig. 19 – Collie Centre Shopping Centre (Source: Collie Central)

RESTAURANTS, CAFES

There are 2 Cafes, 3 Delicatessens and 11 places to eat listed on the Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Business Directory. However this is not a complete listing and other Restaurants and Cafes have opened recently or have not become members of the Collie Chamber of Commerce. Collie provides a wide variety of cuisine and experiences including international food, steak houses, beer gardens, relaxed dining etc.

As with the specialty shops, the restaurants and cafes in Collie CBD open traditional trading hours and are closed on public holidays. During the past year a change has been observed with some restaurants and cafes opening during these times to accommodate the tourist demand. The recommended program of events during public holidays during the tourist seasons proposed in the above General Services & Supplies section will also enable these restaurants to continue this improving trend.



Fig. 20 – Wagon 537, Collie (Source: Collie Why I #VisitCollie)

ACCOMMODATION

There is somewhere to stay in the Collie River Valley to suit any budget. From affordable backpackers accommodation right in the centre of town, to secluded chalets not far out of town. This accommodation includes 2 bed and breakfasts, glamping, a caravan park, chalets, several cottages, a winery and 7 hotel/motels with rooms available. This is in addition to the numerous and affordable airbnb locations which vary from chalets to budget rooms throughout Collie.

As well as the caravan park, there is a large demand for nature based camping at Stockton Lake, Glen Mervyn Dam and other locations at Wellington National Park (Gelcoat, Honeymoon Pool, Potters Gorge and Stones Brook). Other camp sites are anticipated to be developed at Lake Kepwari, Minnipool and Black Diamond Lake, however these are seen as long term projects.

There is sufficient supply to provide for an increase in tourists, however a dramatic increase in tourism would require more beds to come online to accommodate them. Some large events however require additional temporary supply and during long weekends in tourist season the camping and caravan sites

reach capacity. A gap in the supply exists for the higher quality accommodation (5+ stars). This is an opportunity for private investment, depending on feasibility.

TT13 Investigate developing accommodation at Minninup Pool including the feasibility of high quality camping.

TRAIL NETWORKS

Similar to Trail Centres, Trail Networks provide a level of service and amenity for connected trails but to a lesser degree. Each of the existing Trail Centres mentioned above include trail networks. In addition, the trails at Mount Lennard and Arklow can be considered to be trail networks.

Soldiers Park

| | Walking Trails | Cycle Trails |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Individual Trails | The Collie River Walk as well as a number of other proposed individual trails. | Trails included in the abovementioned existing networks. |
| Amenities | <p>Drinking water, toilets, showers, Wi-Fi, pick up and drop off location, picnic tables and play equipment at the park. This Trail Centre incorporates Collie CBD which includes banking services, attractions, accommodation, restaurants and cafes, retail, specialty shops as well as camping and outdoor supply and services.</p> <p>Cycle Trails - There are no bike racks, storage lockers or repair facilities at this location.</p> <p>TT14 Install secure bike racks throughout Collie CBD and bike repair facilities at Soldiers Park.</p> <p>TT15 Develop bike lockers at an accessible location for the secure long term (multi-day) storage of bicycles.</p> <p>TT16 Develop and install an interactive information panel displayed at Soldiers Park as a prominent CBD location to provide comprehensive information about trails and other visitor services within Collie.</p> | |

Mount Lennard

| | Cycling Trails | 4WD Drive Trails |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Individual Trails | Grizzly Trail, Lennard Half Circuit, Millbrook Trail, Pallet Track, Wals Trail, Boylan Trail, Butchers Trail and the Munda Biddi Trail make up this trail network. In addition, other trails are proposed and the existing trails will be upgraded. | Lennard Track, Sailors Gully and the Jump Ups is a network of 4WD Trails in Wellington National Park |
| Amenities | <p>Visitor information and parking.</p> <p>TT17 Ensure that Mount Lennard Trails are maintained as a trail network for Mountain Bike Trails including the installation of visitor information and amenities.</p> | Visitor information and parking. |

Arklow

| | Cycling Trails |
|--------------------------|---|
| Individual Trails | Rays Trail, Dead Cats Trail (including Highland Highway, Railway Rise, Little Ray of Sunshine, Jarrah Jaunt, Around About Arklow, Pet Cemetery Trail and Dead Cats Loop), Two20 Trail and the Munda Biddi Trail make up this trail network. In addition, other trails are proposed and the existing trails will be upgraded. |
| Amenities | Toilets, Drinking Water, Parking Accommodation, Bike Wash and Repair at Harris River Estate Amenities TT18 Ensure that Arklow MTB Trails are maintained as a trail network for Mountain Bike Trails including the installation of visitor information and amenities with direct cycle access to the main Trail Centre at the Visitor Centre. |

As a number of trails commence and terminate at Black Diamond Lake (Walking, Cycling and Aquatic Trails) a trail network will be developed at this location. Please see the relevant trails sections within this document below for the existing and proposed trails commencing and terminating at Black Diamond Lake. This location is anticipated to be used into the future for camping, kiosk and other services, however is highly dependent on land tenure issues and will likely not be developed within the life of this plan.

TT19 Investigate the opportunity for a Trail Network at Black Diamond Lake for Walking, Cycling and Aquatic Trails in conjunction with the development of trails and camping from that location.

INDIVIDUAL TRAILS

There are many existing individual trails in the Collie River Valley e.g. the Collie to Darkan Rail Trail. These existing trails are listed in their respective trail audits including details about them and any amenities provided. The trail audits also recommend improvements if applicable.

EQUIPMENT HIRE

It is possible to hire equipment for all existing trail types (Walking, Cycling, Drive and Equestrian Trails) as applicable within Collie.

1. Walkers require minimum equipment. There is no demand from walkers to hire any equipment that is required such as backpacks, shoes, hydration packs etc. These items can be purchased within Collie.
2. Cyclists regularly hire bikes and other equipment, particularly if they come from interstate or internationally. Bike hire is available locally from nearby businesses.
3. Drivers also regularly hire cars and other equipment such as GPS. Car hire is available locally from nearby businesses, however demand is quite small for this from a trails perspective within Collie. Trail users tend to hire cars from Perth or Bunbury and drive to Collie.
4. Horse Riders, particularly at the competitive events also tend to bring their own horse and equipment, even from overseas. However, families can hire horses and equipment from the various equestrian facilities in the area.

Aquatic Trails are new trail types to Collie. As a result, kayaks and other equipment for Aquatic Trails currently cannot be hired within Collie, but can be purchased. This is an opportunity for local business to develop Kayak and Paddle Board Hire from the proposed Aquatic Trail Centres at Minnipup Pool, Wellington Dam Kiosk and Black Diamond Lake (long term).

AMENITIES & FACILITIES

Collie has a large number of connected parks including along the Collie River and in Collie CBD. The larger parks contain a number of amenities and facilities including public toilets, showers, free Wi-Fi, drinking water, picnic tables, BBQs, play equipment and parking.

There are public toilet blocks on Forrest Street and on Throssell Street. Both toilet blocks have been constructed in the last 3 years, include free showers and change rooms. In addition, Collie has a Changing Place constructed within the last year. (A Changing Place is a secure and clean bathroom specifically designed for people who need space and assistance to manage their bathroom needs while in the community, and for whom universal access toilets are not suitable.) Dump points have also been installed in locations with long bay parking to service tourists with RVs.

Collie has also recently won the Excellence in Community Design Award in the 2016 National Disability Awards for providing equal access to persons with a disability and ensuring that accessibility is considered during all stages of design and construction.



Left – Fig. 21 – Honeymoon Pool (Source: Travis Smith)
Right – Fig. 22 – Wellington Quarry (Source: Now and Then, Here and There)



Fig. 23 – Collie River (Source: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)

4.4 Unique Selling Points

DISTANCE FROM PERTH

Collie is approximately 2 hours/200km from Perth, an accessible distance from this population centre of 2,022,044 potential visitors (2016 Census). This proximity allows for day trips for enthusiasts and ease of access for families to stay for the weekend or longer. The proposed trails for each trail type will take several days to experience encouraging these overnight stays. Other locations such as Kalamunda are better positioned for day trips from Perth while others such as Margaret River are significantly further from Perth. This applies to both Perth residents and those interstate and international visitors arriving at Perth International Airport. This places Collie as one of the closest and most accessible weekend destinations servicing these groups.

UNCONSTRAINED TRAILS

Collie is 78% State Forest, National Park and Reserves the majority of which is available and suitable for the development of trails. This allows flowing trails which take advantage of the natural features of the land. This also permits trail builders to distance trail from roads and other man made features as well as other parts of the trail creating the sought after wilderness experience. This compares with other areas that are forced to develop trails within 'compartments' meaning that this wilderness experience is lost and trails may criss-cross in a way which is not ideal.

NATURAL FEATURES

Collie is defined by the Collie River and is described by the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan as being '*renowned for the powerful watercourses, deep gorges, granite outcrops, vegetation diversity ... stunning natural landscapes, and should be developed to national significance*'. In addition to the natural landscapes, the man made mine voids (now lakes) are equally impressive and are a main attraction for the region.

BIG 5 EXPERIENCE

Collie will be one of the only places to enjoy the diverse experiences of more than 5 different types of trails including Cycle Trails, Equestrian Trails, Walking Trails, Aquatic Trails and Off-Road Trails. This does not include driving trails which can also be completed in Collie River Valley.



This provides a complete experience while providing a choice within these categories e.g. Aquatic Trails includes Paddling and Dive Trails, Walking Trails includes Urban Walking, Bush Walking and Trail Running. This choice and availability sets Collie River Valley apart from other regions which only offer one or some of these activities.

4.5 Trail Town Opportunities

The Trail Town Audit demonstrates that the town and region of Collie meets or exceeds all the criteria for a Trail Town as set out in the WA Trails Blueprint 2017-2021. However, there are a number of recommendations above for improvement, extension, marketing and innovation required to increase tourism growth, develop the tourism product and ensure improved community health and wellbeing. This does not negate that the criteria are satisfied.

TT20 Work with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Trails WA to ensure that Collie is accredited as the first Trail Town in Western Australia.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRAILS

The most important feature of Trail Towns is that they provide substantial distances of high quality trails directly accessible from the trail town. Sections 5 - 10 of this Strategy audit the existing trails within the region and recommend improvements and additional trails to meet this requirement.

OPENING HOURS & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The specialty shops and restaurants provide a wide variety of services, however it is not financially viable for many to open past traditional opening hours including public holidays. This is due to the lack of activation within the Collie CBD during these times. The supermarkets are open for extended hours on week days and weekends. There is an expectation that Trail Towns will have extended trading hours and be open on public holidays to accommodate tourists. As more tourists are attracted to Collie, the time and days that these shops and restaurants open will extend. To ensure that the transition period is smooth and to allow these shops to open, it is recommended that a program of events during public holidays during the tourist seasons be organised. This will include trail orientated events e.g. races to attract additional visitors and local events e.g. cinema nights to provide the activation required to keep these shops open. Phoenixville, Philadelphia, USA has seen significant success using this strategy combined with an annual iconic event – the burning of the Phoenix at their Firebird Festival.



Fig. 24 - Phoenixville Firebird Festival (Source: gavenbakerphotography.com)

Similarly, Dardanup have the annual Bull and Barrel Festival which includes the burning of a giant bull; Balingup has the annual Medieval Carnivale; and Donnybrook has True Grit Obstacle Race. These iconic events attract visitors in their thousands from all over the State.

TT21 Investigate and develop a program of events aimed at locals and tourists to activate the Collie CBD during tourist season public holidays including one annual iconic event to facilitate business's transition to a Trail Town.



Left – Fig. 25 - Bull and Barrel Festival, Dardanup (Source: Bunbury Mail)
Right – Fig. 26 - True Grit Obstacle Race, Donnybrook (Source: Donnybrook-Bridgetown Mail)



Fig. 27 - Medieval Carnivale, Balingup (Source: ballinuptourism.com.au)

BUSINESS ACCREDITATION

Bike Friendly Business accreditation has been implemented in a number of locations, to encourage businesses which reassures cyclists of their welcome; ensures a minimum standard of services and facilities available; and creates a recognisable brand. A number of local Collie businesses currently are accredited under this program.

The Bike Friendly Business concept will be expanded across all trail types. This is mentioned in the WA Trails Blueprint 2017-2021 and is currently being investigated and developed. The participation of businesses to promote the trails as well as providing services to the trail users is an integral part to a Trail Town and the economic benefits it can bring. For example, the accommodation provider can give information on local trails impacting the decision to stay another night in Collie. It is therefore important to educate the local businesses about the trails provided in Collie River Valley; where equipment and tours etc can be hired or booked; websites and apps for further information; and events which are occurring.

The minimum standard of service and facilities for a Trail Friendly Business are:

1. Knowledge, advice and information about local trails
2. Free water refills
3. Luggage and equipment storage
4. Repair and maintenance facilities
5. Toilet facilities
6. Mobile phone charging and Wi-Fi



Fig. 28 and 29 - Bike Friendly Business Logos (Source: Tourism Industry Council Tasmania and Nigeria Cycling Tourism Centre)

The State Trails Reference Group along with Trails WA is currently investigating this further. If a statewide process and criteria are developed this should be implemented in Collie as a priority and businesses encouraged to participate. Alternatively, an accreditation program can be developed locally.

TT22 Investigate and promote a Trail Friendly Business accreditation program for local businesses to ensure that businesses are engaged, welcoming of trail users of all types and provide an expected level of service and facilities.

EVENT INFORMATION

It is important that existing businesses take the opportunity provided by these and other events that occur within Collie to promote their business and provide expected levels of service (e.g. opening longer) during the events. To ensure that this occurs, an information system will be developed to inform businesses a number of months in advance about each event (regardless of event organiser), the anticipated numbers, the anticipated breakdown between locals and tourists as well as details about the event itself. Local business can then value add to the event and help make them a success.

TT23 Develop an agreed communication strategy and system to inform local business about upcoming events a minimum of 3 months in advance.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Trails provide opportunities for new and existing businesses such as equipment hire, tours, transport, trail services, commercial trails, accommodation, restaurants and cafes. These are the opportunities for the diversification of Collie's economy. It is essential for the success of this Strategy that these opportunities are seized and local jobs are created. The trail users will use existing services – shops, accommodation, restaurants etc creating some new jobs, however these opportunities must be maximised.

TT24 Provide information, assistance and advice to potential entrepreneurs and businesses regarding potential trail business opportunities and market gaps to grow local businesses and provide local jobs.

HOTHAM VALLEY TOURIST RAILWAY

The Hotham Valley Tourist Railway ran event trains on the main line from Dwellingup to Collie connecting with local tours and events in Collie. There was a patronage of approximately 170 passengers until 2005 when the events ceased due to insurance costs. The railway lines remain intact and are used for freight.



Fig. 30 - Hotham Valley Tourist Railway (Source: Trip Advisor)

The potential reinstatement of the tourist train on a twice weekly basis provides an opportunity to connect the trail destinations of Collie and Dwellingup to create synergies between the two towns and to double the appeal (twice the amount of trails) for international trail users. As currently occurs on the Hotham Valley Tourist Railway meals and destination information may be provided. The transfer of trail users by tourist train will be an important unique selling point for Collie-Dwellingup as does not occur elsewhere. There is opportunity for a ‘race the train’ event on the Munda Biddi which also connects Dwellingup to Collie and would take a similar amount of time – approximately 5 hours.

TT25 Investigate the feasibility of reinstating a twice weekly tourist train from Collie to Dwellingup.

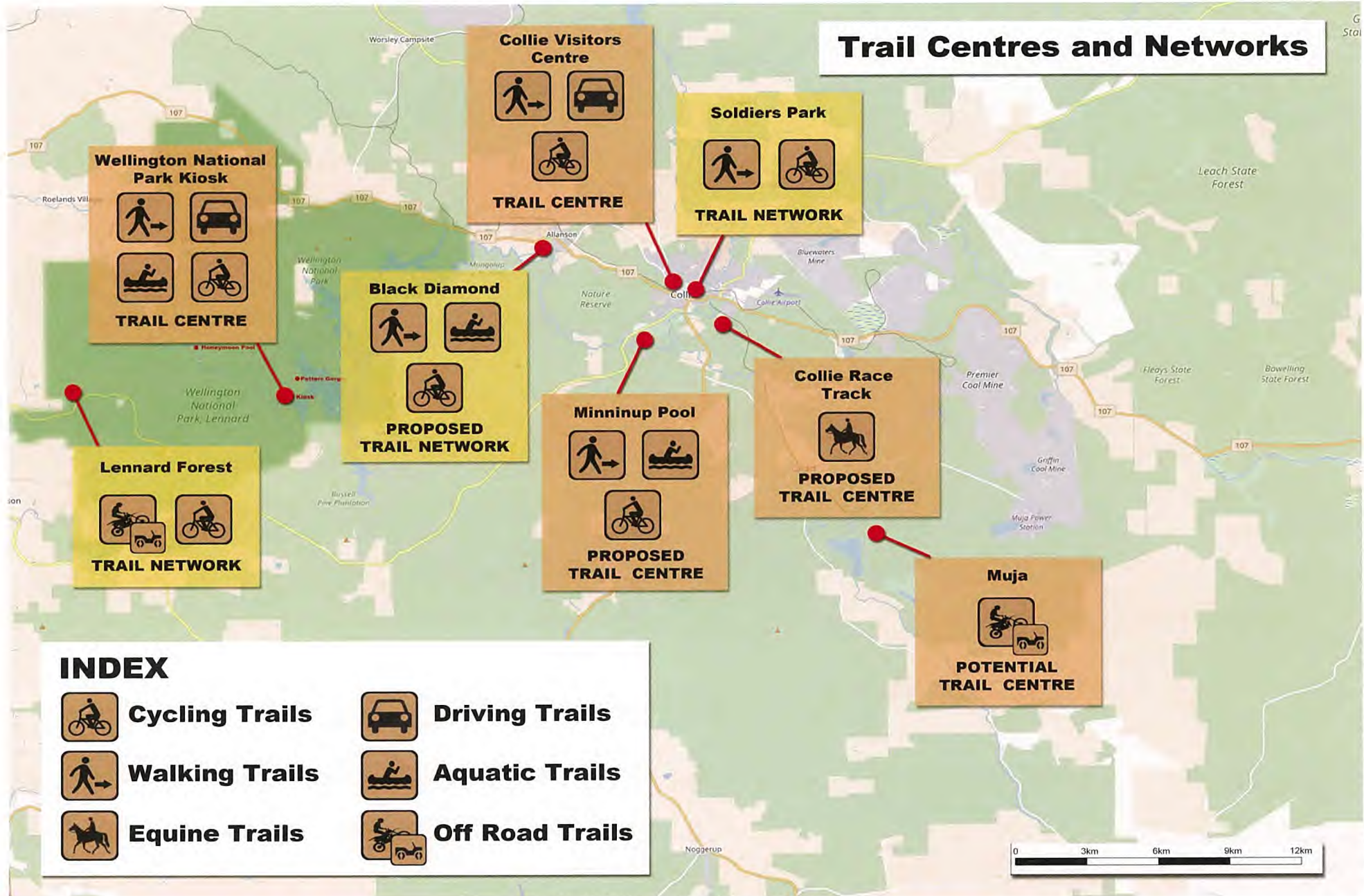


Fig. 31 – Collie Trail Centres and Networks (Source: Erik Mellegers)

5. Walking Trails

5.1 Strategic Context

BUSHWALKING TRAILS STRATEGY DISCUSSION PAPER

Bushwalking WA have developed a document to discuss the development of walking trails in Western Australia and guide the development of the WA Bushwalking and Trail Running Strategy. This paper identifies the following gaps within the context of the State:

- A. *The State has a dearth of easily accessible, developed, day circuit trails of good length to satisfy the many bushwalkers who are seeking neither a longer through-walk nor a very short walk.*
- B. *New 'iconic' trails linking Regional towns such as the recently proposed "Walk to York" trail from Mundaring to York would be attractive if land management restrictions could be overcome.*
- C. *'Networks' of trails should be an eventual objective, especially in urban and urban-fringe areas and within forested areas within easy reach of Perth.*

These gaps will be considered within the local context and walking trails developed to fill the gaps in the local context.

WA BUSHWALKING AND TRAIL RUNNING STRATEGY

This plan is under development and will be referenced if advertised before the Collie River Valley Trail Strategy is finalised.

HEALTHY ACTIVE BY DESIGN

The Heart Foundation has collated a Planning Institute of Australia award winning resource – www.healthyactivebydesign.com which provides guidance and promotes health environments. This includes the encouragement of urban walks such as are proposed in the Walking Opportunities section below. The following are some of the guidance provided through that resource which is applicable to this Strategy.

- *Pleasant streets and neighbourhoods designed to encourage walking can therefore have a strong, positive impact on health. Short travel distances between homes and local destinations increases the likelihood of walking.*
- *Good connectivity between homes and important facilities and services - such as community centres, schools and health care - can reduce social isolation. This is especially important for vulnerable groups including children, older persons and those with a disability.*
- *There is strong and consistent evidence that connected street networks promote walking for transport in all age groups and promote recreational walking in adults and older adults.*
- *There is strong evidence that the aesthetic presentation of streets promotes active transport and recreational walking, particularly for adults and older adults. Infrastructure that can encourage people to walk by making the experience more attractive, convenient, functional, comfortable and safe includes:*
 - *Seating*
 - *Signage*
 - *Lighting*
 - *Shade and planting*
 - *Dog-walking facilities*
 - *Drinking fountains*
- *Pedestrian-friendly infrastructure may be especially important for older adults. Providing sheltered seating may encourage older adults to walk to local services, and maintain social interaction and community connections.*

This guidance has been considered and included in the development of this Strategy, particularly in the development of new urban walking trails which will increase the connectivity of the town, formalise walking networks and encourage walking through the provision of trails and infrastructure.

5.2 Background



Source: Australian Sports Commission, AusPlay. Participation data for the sport sector, December 2016

Top Reasons for Walking



Source: <http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/6123-australian-sports-participation-rates-among-children-and-adults-december-2014-201503182151>

Based on 8.8 million participants



Source: <http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/6123-australian-sports-participation-rates-among-children-and-adults-december-2014-201503182151>

The above statistics demonstrate that there is a demand for walking for exercise on a regular basis and a further demand for walking for recreation. There are 6,803 adults in the Shire of Collie (2016 census). If 45.3% of these people walk regularly for exercise, this translates to 3,082 regular walkers. The Investment in Active Transport 2015 Survey from the Heart Foundation found that 'more than 60% would walk more if infrastructure was improved.' In addition, there are 87,652 walks on the Bibbulmun Track annually (WA Trails Blueprint) with a substantial number of those walking through the Collie River Valley Region. Despite the prevalence of walking within Collie, no local club or advocacy group has been formed. Opportunity existing for an umbrella organisation to be formed representing the common interests of walkers and runners. This may be further subdivided into disciplines as necessary. Assistance from the relevant peak bodies e.g. Bushwalking WA, Heart Foundation Walking will be available.

WT01 Support the development of an independent community based Collie Walking Club to represent the interests of walkers and runners, organise events and form a local community network.

5.3 Trail Categories

LENGTH

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Short | Up to 7km |
| Medium | Between 7km and 15km |
| Single Day | Between 15km and 25km |
| Multi Day | Above 25km |

CLASSIFICATION*

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Grade 1 | No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5km |
| Grade 2 | No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks no greater than 10km. |
| Grade 3 | Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20km. |
| Grade 4 | Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited. |
| Grade 5&6 | Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency required experience in the outdoors and first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20km. |

*AS 2165.1

TRAIL TYPES

Both walkers and runners utilise bush and urban trails, therefore there is no requirement to differentiate between these trail users. The term ‘walkers’ therefore is used to include Bushwalkers, Nordic Walkers, Race Walkers, Power Walkers, Runners, Trail Runners and Joggers.

Bushwalkers seek the amenity of walking in nature for a range of distances from 4km through to a journey of several weeks. Users are focused on recreation rather than transport and frequently travel to trail to walk. A wide variety of trail lengths and diverse natural environment and features should be provided to cater for these preferences.

Urban walkers generally seek a short walk with a combination of convenience and points of interest along the route. Users walk for both recreation and transport and tend to walk frequently. A high frequency and variety of points of interest along the route, and number of alternative routes or trails should be provided to cater for this frequent use.

5.4 Walking Trail Audit

| Trail Name | Location /Route | Category | Land Tenure | Connections | Condition | Length | Classification | Recommendations | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|---|---|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Bibbulmun Track | Perth - Albany | Multi Day Bush Walk | State and National Park | Forest National | Karak Trail, Wellington Dam Spur Trail | No disabled access. Toilets, picnic areas, camping facilities, accommodation, trail towns, pick up/drop off points along route. Showers, toilets, storage, visitor information at Visitor Centre trail head. | 967km | Uneven | WT02 Work with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to provide an alternative alignment through Collie in addition to maintaining the current alignment through the Westralia Conservation Park and create a walking loop trail using both the alternative and existing alignments with trail heads at the Visitor Centre and Minninup Pool. |
| 1A. Northern Bibbulmun Track | Harris Dam - Collie | Single Day Bush Walk | State and National Park | Forest National | Karak Trail | No disabled access. Toilets, picnic areas, camping facilities, pick up/drop off points at Harris Dam. Accommodation, showers, toilets, storage, visitor information at Visitor Centre trail head. | 18km | Uneven | As above |
| 1B. Northern Bibbulmun Track Return | Harris Dam - Harris Campsite | Medium Bush Walk | State and National Park | Forest National | Nil | No disabled access. Toilets, picnic areas, camping facilities, pick up/drop off points at Harris Dam and accommodation. | 8km return | Uneven | As above |
| 1C. Southern Bibbulmun Track | Collie - Yabberup Hut | Single Day Bush Walk | State and National Park | Forest National | Wellington Dam Spur Trail | No disabled access. Toilets, picnic areas, camping facilities, pick up/drop off points near Yabberup Hut (Glen Mervyn Dam). Accommodation, showers, toilets, storage, visitor information at Visitor Centre trail head. | | Uneven | As above |
| 2. Wellington Dam Spur Trail | Yabberup - Wellington Dam | Single Day Bush Walk | State and National Park | Forest National | Bibbulmun Track, Jabitj Trail, Sika Trail | No disabled access. Toilets, visitor information, cafe, lookout, BBQ, picnic areas, at trail head camping facilities along route. Opportunity for 2 nights accommodation (Lyalls and Arcadia Campsites) particularly for school groups. | 19km | Uneven | WT03 Realign the Wellington Dam Spur Trail across the top of the Wellington Dam Wall to the Kiosk. |
| 3. Karak Trail (including Hebe Cemetery Walk) | Collie - Allanson | Short Walk (dual use cycle) | Shire of Collie | | Bibbulmun Trail | Disabled access, drink fountain, playground, visitor information, no defined trail head, rest points along route | 6km | Paved, dual use | WT04 Upgrade the Karak Trail by providing additional drink fountains, a spur to Black Diamond Lake, connecting the trail to the Visitor's Centre and install trail head signage at both ends. WT05 Widen the 1.8km stretch of the Karak Trail from cemetery to Visitor's Centre to 2.5m. |
| 4. Westralia Loop | Collie/Allanson | Medium Urban & Bush Walk | Shire of Collie, State and National Park | Forest National | Bibbulmun Trail, Karak Trail | Disabled access on Karak Trail only. Drink fountain, playground, visitor information, no defined trail head, rest points along route | 8.5km | Paved, dual use, uneven sections | WT06 Include the Karak Trail - Bibbulmun Track Loop in the Karak Trail including trail head signage and provide additional signage along the route. |
| 5. Central Collie River Walk | Collie CBD | Short Urban Walk | Shire of Collie | | Soldiers Walk, Wyvern Walk | No disabled access, drink fountain, picnic areas, playground, parking, toilets at trail head | 2.2km | Uneven | WT07 Upgrade Central Collie River Walk surface, disabled access, install a boardwalk at Soldier's Park linking Coombe Street Bridge to the trail network, include aboriginal and natural interpretation, improved trail head signage, provide additional signage and install rest points along the route. WT08 Extend Central Collie River Walk to include Timber Park and the Swinging Bridge including upgraded surface, disabled access, aboriginal interpretation and signage. |

Appendix ORD: 12.3

Collie River Valley Trails Strategy 2018 – 2021

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------|---------------------|--|
| 6. | Lions Walk (including South Collie River Walk) | South Collie | Short Walk | Urban | Shire of Collie | Central Collie River Walk, Wyvern Walk | No disabled access, drink fountain, picnic areas, BBQ, playground, parking, toilets at trail head | 3.7km | Uneven | WT09 Upgrade Lions Walk surface, disabled access, include aboriginal interpretation along the river, improved trail head signage, provide additional signage and provide rest points along the route. |
| 7. | North Collie River Walk | North Collie, Telfers Pool – Soldiers Park | Short Walk | Urban | Shire of Collie | Central Collie River Walk, Soldiers Walk | No disabled access, drink fountain, picnic areas, playground, parking, toilets at trail head | 2.1km | Uneven | WT10 Upgrade the North Collie River Walk by installing trail head signage, drinking fountain at trail head, include aboriginal interpretation, additional signage and rest points along the route. |
| 8. | Amaroo Walk | North Collie | Short Walk | Urban | Shire of Collie | Nil | No disabled access, parking, no defined trail head | 3km | Uneven | WT11 Upgrade the Amaroo Walk by installing trail head signage, providing additional signage and drink fountains and rest points along the route. |
| 9. | Fairview Walk | North Collie | Short Walk | Urban | Shire of Collie | Nil | Disabled access, picnic areas, playground, parking no defined trail head | 2.6km | Paved | WT12 Upgrade the Fairview Walk by installing trail head signage, provide additional signage and drink fountains and rest points along the route. |
| 10. | Soldiers Walk | North Collie | Short Walk | Urban | Shire of Collie | Central Collie River Walk | Disabled access, drink fountain, picnic areas, playground, parking, toilets at trail head | 4.6km | Paved | WT13 Upgrade Soldiers Walk by providing additional signage, improved trail head signage and drink fountains along the route. |
| 11. | Wyvern Walk | South Collie | Short Walk | Urban | Shire of Collie | Lions Walk | No disabled access, drink fountain, picnic areas, BBQ, playground, parking, toilets at trail head, additional picnic areas and playground along route | 2.1km | Paved | WT14 Upgrade Wyvern Walk by providing additional signage, improved trail head signage and drink fountains along the route. |
| 12. | Collie-Darkan Rail Trail | Buckingham – Darkan | Multi Day Walk | Bush | Shire of Collie, Shire of West Arthur | Nil | No trail head, or other services provided at Buckingham. Adequate services provided at Darkan. | 47km | Uneven | WT15 Design and develop a connecting shared use trail (Equestrian, Walking and Cycling) between Collie and Buckingham to connect with the Collie to Darkan Rail Trail including trail head signage, signage along the route and a rest stop and toilets at Buckingham. |
| 13. | Jabitj Trail | Wellington National Park | Medium Walk | Bush | National Park | Kurliiny Trail, Tjenangitj Sika Trail, Bibbulmun Wellington Dam Spur Trail | No disabled access, toilets, visitor information, cafe, lookout, BBQ, picnic areas, at trail head camping facilities along route | 6km | Uneven | WT16 Future upgrades of the existing Wellington National Park will be planned as part of the development of the Wellington National Park Mountain Bike Concept Plan including trail head signage, signage along the route and trail upgrades. |
| 14. | Kurliiny Tjenangitj Trail | Wellington National Park | Medium Walk | Bush | National Park | Jabitj Trail, Sika Trail | No disabled access, lookout along route | 9.5km | Uneven, steep slope | As above. |
| 15. | Sika Trail | Wellington National Park | Medium Walk (dual use – cycle) | Bush | National Park | Jabitj Trail, Bibbulmun Track, Kurliiny Tjenangitj Trail, Wellington Dam Spur and Wellington Dam Walk. | No disabled access, toilets, visitor information, cafe, lookout, BBQ, picnic areas, at trail head, camping facilities at Potters Gorge camp ground. | 9.8km | Uneven | As above. |

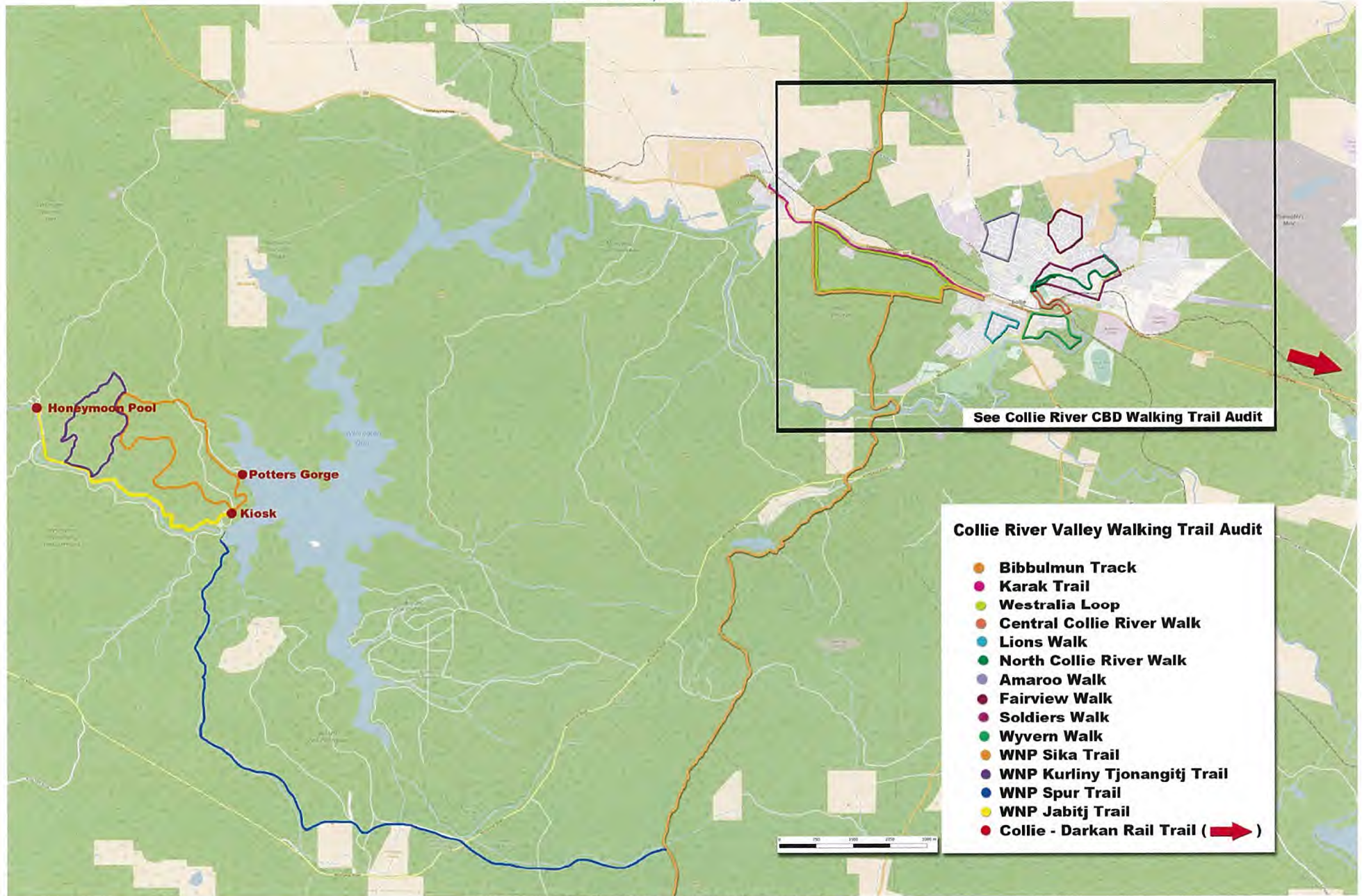


Fig. 32 – Collie River Valley Walking Trail Audit (Source: Erik Mellegers)

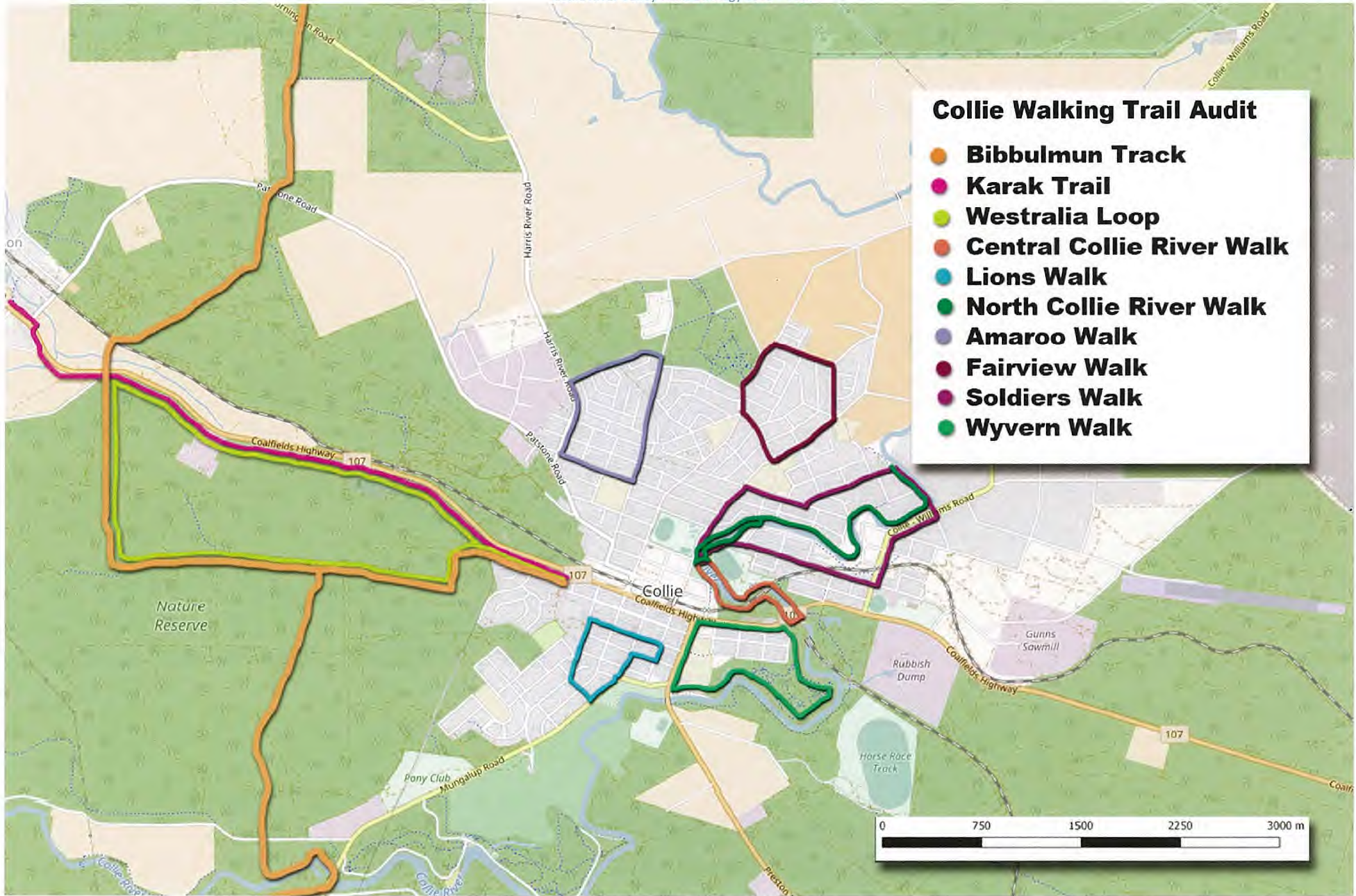


Fig. 33 – Collie Walking Trail Audit (Source: Erik Mellegers)

5.5 Walking Trail Opportunities

The Walking Trail Audit reveals a wide variety of trails including Trails of International/National, Regional and Local significance, as well as a variety of distances, difficulties and trail types. The identified gaps from the Walking Trail Audit above are:

1. Connections/links/networks between trails and between significant/popular places (i.e. Collie CBD - Minninup Pool, Visitor Centre - Collie CBD, Collie – Wellington Dam, Collie – Bunbury);
2. Bush walking loop trails between 15km and 25km (single day walk) which are accessible from Collie; and
3. Diverse and thematic urban walk trails.

The following additional trails will fill these identified gaps and provide high quality trails developed in accordance with the Principles of this document for the benefit of locals and to enhance the visitor experience.

5.6 New Urban Walking Trails

SOLDIERS PARK TO MINNINUP POOL

This trail will connect Collie CBD to Minninup Pool along the Collie River utilising existing sections of the Central Collie River Walk and Lions Walk, connecting with Soldiers Walk, Wyvern Walk, North Collie River Walk, Karak Trail via the proposed Heritage Trail and the Bibbulmun Track. This is an 8km distance. As it is an urban walk, it will be sealed to limit environmental degradation, reduce maintenance and ensure that it is wheelchair accessible. This trail should be dual use (see Cycle Trail Opportunities section). The trail passes through the Arboretum which includes a variety of up lit native trees. These trees will be interpreted and retained. The Collie River is a Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site with significant cultural value to the local Noongar people. It will be interpreted through art and sculpture for the length of this trail in conjunction with the Ngalang Boodja Aboriginal Council. This will be used as the trail's theme which will be a point of diversity from other urban trails. A trail head at Soldiers Park and Minninup Pool will be established. Facilities along the trail will include drinking fountains, toilets, BBQ, picnic areas, playground, future camping and caravanning facilities and parking.

WT17 Construct a 2.5m wide dual use trail from Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool, including aboriginal and natural interpretation, signage and facilities.

COLLIE CBD HERITAGE TRAIL

This trail will connect the Visitor Centre to Soldiers Park in Collie CBD, linking the Karak Trail to the Bibbulmun Track via the Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool Trail (above). The Heritage Trail will connect and interpret the built and cultural history and tell the story of the town and its people through various media. This trail will include installation of plaques, feature lighting, wayfinding and signage, artwork as well as interactive interpretation (e.g. Virtual or Augmented Reality). The trail will be designed to give users a choice of commencing at either of the trail heads established at the Visitor Centre or Soldiers Park, returning to that starting point. The trail will incorporate the significant heritage places in Collie CBD guided by the Shire of Collie Heritage Interpretation Plan 2011. This will be approximately 2.5km, depending on the route taken.

WT18 Design and interpret through various media a loop Heritage Trail in Collie CBD connecting the Visitor Centre to Soldiers Park including the installation of different features and signage.

COLLIE LONG LOOP TRAIL

The connection with the Soldiers Part to Minninup Pool, the Collie CBD Heritage Trail and Bibbulmun Track will create a 20km single day walk around Collie through the centre of Westralia Conservation Park. This trail will showcase both the urban and bushland aspects of the town to an international standard and will be an additional loop to the Bibbulmun Track. The longer walk will encourage visitors to stay in Collie for additional nights and introduce the Bibbulmun Track to the local community. The trail will make use of other proposed and existing trails, upgrading them to the necessary standard including installation of signage as required.

WT19 Design and develop a 20km loop trail showcasing the historic, urban, bushland and river experiences of Collie adding value to the Bibbulmun Track to an international iconic standard.



Fig. 34 – Autumn in Collie CBD (Source: Why I #VisitCollie)

NIGHT TRAIL

This trail will be a 4km – 6km urban walk catering for those that wish to walk after dark as well as providing a new perspective on Collie CBD. A trail head is not considered necessary, rather there should be detailed trail signage (including maps and trail information) regarding this trail along the walk at a number of key locations. This trail will be free of trip hazards, safe to walk at night, well lit and monitored intermittently by CCTV cameras. The trail also will increase the activity and therefore improve security within the CBD after hours. To provide the diversity of a night trail features such as luminous murals; up lit trees and buildings; various art pieces; shadow murals and moving spotlights will be provided at regular intervals. These will be strategically positioned to attract walkers on to the trail and draw walkers along the trail to complement the trail signage.

WT20 Design and develop a loop Night Trail in Collie CBD including the installation of various innovative features and signage.

FITNESS TRAIL

This trail will incorporate exercise equipment, slopes, steps, progress markers, rest points and drinking fountains along the route. There is opportunity for this trail to take the same or similar alignment to Central Collie River Walk, Lions Walk and Soldiers Walk but may have additional alternative route options. The Collie River Walk will be the central core trail of 2.2km with options to include Lions Walk and Soldiers Walk at 3.7km and 4.6km respectively. This is a total trail length of 10.2km which can be customised from the core trail to provide various lengths for all levels of fitness; to provide trail diversity; and facilitate direct access onto the trail. The improved trail head signage as recommended in the Walking Trail Audit will include this trail, its various routes and fitness features.

WT21 Design and develop an urban Fitness Trail, utilizing existing facilities where possible and the installation of new features and signage comprising of one core trail and a minimum of 2 optional trails.

5.7 New Bushwalking/Trail Running Trails

WESTRALIA RIVER WALK AND LOOP

This trail (Westralia River Walk) will connect the Bibbulmun Track, Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool Trail and Minninup Pool to Black Diamond Lake along the river. This trail will utilise existing tracks for part of the distance including the Bibbulmun Track and will be to a high quality bush walk standard. This distance (from Minninup Pool to Black Diamond along the river) is 9.4km. The trail will be undulating and will be challenging in places. The trail head will be at Minninup Pool with a potential trail head at Black Diamond. This trail allows several loops to be completed including an alternative option for the Collie Long Loop Trail which includes more of the Collie River and Black Diamond Lake in addition to being 8km longer (total 28km).

A loop trail (Westralia River Loop) will also be developed from Minninup Pool to Roberts Rocks. This will use the same route as the Westralia River Walk, then cross the river below Roberts Rocks and return to Minninup Pool, crossing again at Griffin Bridge (Mungalup Road). This is a 3.5km bush walking loop with the trail head at Minninup Pool using the portions of the Bibbulmun Track on both sides of the river.

WT22 Design and develop a bush walking trail between Minninup Pool and Black Diamond Lake connecting to the Bibbulmun Track and Karak Trail including the installation of signage at key locations.

WT23 Design and develop (if crossing can be safely achieved) a bush walking loop trail from Minninup Pool along the river including a river crossing below Roberts Rocks and the installation of signage at key locations.

BLACK DIAMOND LAKE CIRCUIT

This popular day use destination is accessible through a number of other trails including the Karak Trail, proposed Westralia River Walk and directly from Allanson. This location is one of the top 10 Instragrammed locations within Western Australia. There is potential for camping and value adding facilities at this location, however there are significant land tenure issues hindering the development of this site. This trail will circumnavigate the lake showing off the blue water and providing additional activities as part of any proposed camping or formal day use of the lake.

WT24 Investigate the opportunity for a walking trail at Black Diamond Lake in conjunction with any camping and formal day use of the facility.

WELLINGTON DAM WALK TRAIL

This trail will link the Wellington Dam, Kiosk, accommodation and trails at Collie to Wellington National Park to the north of the Dam. The approximately 30km route will follow the dam edge in the most part until the Coalfields Highway west of Allanson and then progress east to Allanson, joining the Karak Trail into Collie. This will connect this trail to the Bibbulmun Track, the Wellington Dam Spur Trail, the Collie Visitor Centre and the Collie CBD Heritage Trail. A return trail will be developed along the following eastern/southern side of dam edge including camp sites along the trail. The completed return trail will be approximately 70km and will take a minimum of at least 4 days. Trail heads and signage will be erected at key locations of this loop including on the existing tracks.

WT25 Design and develop a link trail between Wellington National Park and Collie return connecting to the Spur Trail including the installation of signage at key locations.

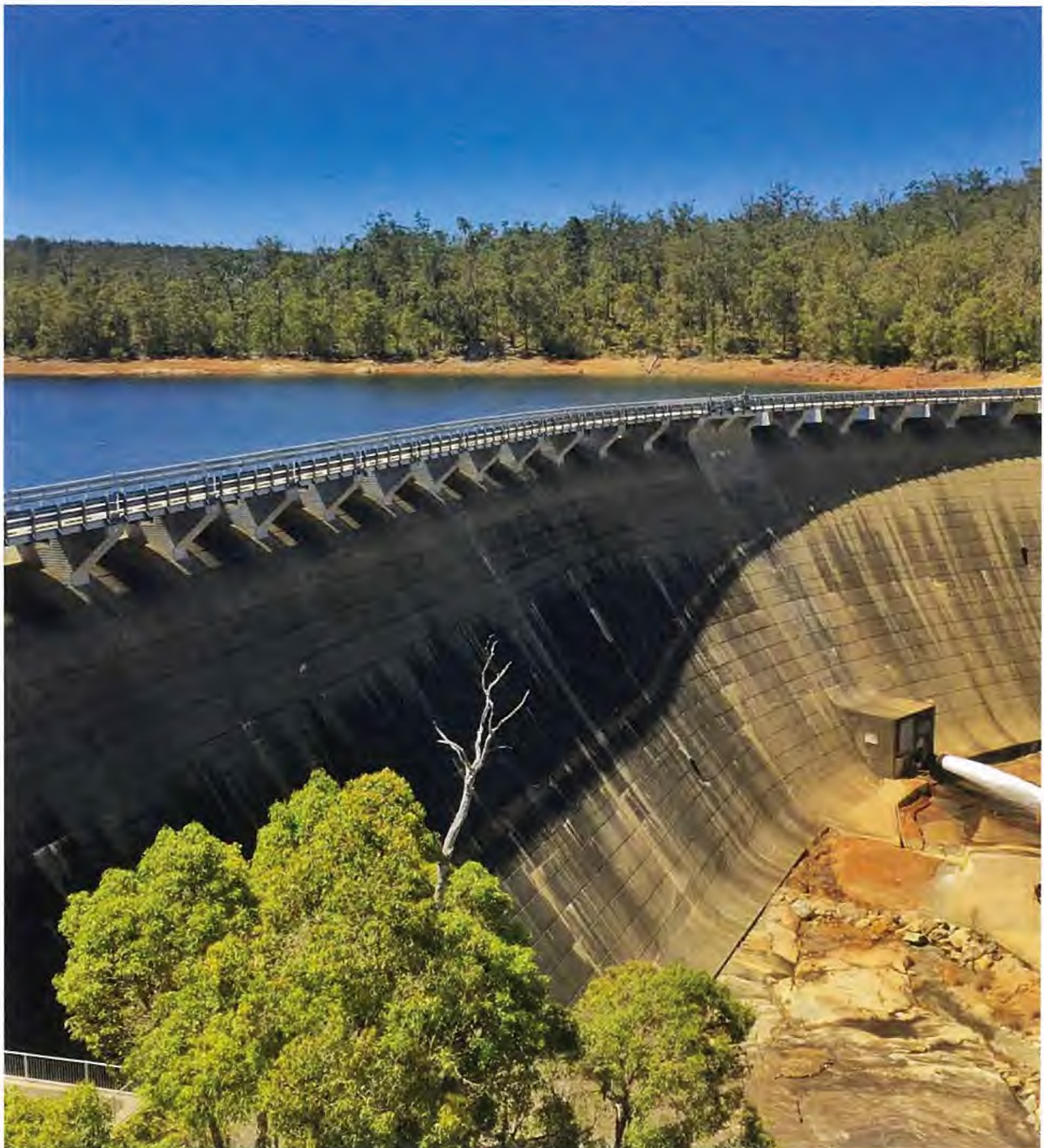


Fig. 35 - Wellington Dam Wall (Source: Holly Fisher)

WELLINGTON DAM WALK AND SPUR STACKED LOOP

The parallel trails of the Wellington Dam Walk Trail and the Wellington Dam Spur Trail, both linking into the Wellington Dam Kiosk provides an opportunity for a stacked loop trail network to be developed with a diversity of trail difficulties and trail lengths connecting the two trails. This could be developed at minimal cost as the majority of the network length will be made up of existing trails. Distances of approximately 15km, 25km and 40km are recommended with the longest trail including an overnight stop at Arcadia Campsite or another campsite constructed on the Wellington Dam Walk Trail. This stacked loop will provide a different walking experience than otherwise is available.

WT26 Design and develop a walking stacked loop with a diversity of difficulty and distances of approximately 15km, 25km and 40km from Wellington Dam Kiosk using the Wellington Dam Walk Trail and the Wellington Dam Spur Trail.

WELLINGTON DAM WALL LOOP

This trail will utilise part of the existing Spur Trail and the recommended realignment of this trail across the Wellington Dam Wall creating a loop starting and finishing at the Wellington Dam Kiosk. This is approximately 1.8km and will incorporate boardwalks along the Collie River and bushland areas. The significant feature of this trail is the Wellington Dam Wall with views both from the top and base of the Wall. The trail signage will include local indigenous cultural stories, information about the construction, history, use and importance of the dam. The trail head will be at the Kiosk which provides adequate facilities including parking and information services. Signage will be erected as required.

WT27 Investigate the development of a Wellington Dam Wall Loop providing a unique experience and interpreting the construction, history, use and importance of the Dam.

KOOMAL TRAIL

This trail is to reconstruct and interpret the historical Aboriginal trail from Collie to the coast via Roelands. This is approximately 80km although the route has not yet been determined. This trail may include the Karak Trail, Jabitj Trail, Sika Trail and Wellington Dam Walk Trail as well as others outside of the Collie River Valley area. This trail will include signage interpreting various features and sites of cultural value. The development of this trail may be staged with Collie to Roelands planned and developed first due to the fragmented ownership of agricultural lands from Roelands to the coast. This trail will involve significant negotiation with a number of landowners to overcome the fragmented land tenure issues as well as agreement from several local governments. This trail could be considered an 'iconic' trail in accordance with the gap identified in the Bushwalking Trails Strategy Discussion Paper.

WT28 Design, develop and interpret the Koomal Trail connecting Collie to the coast via Roelands including the installation interpretation signage.

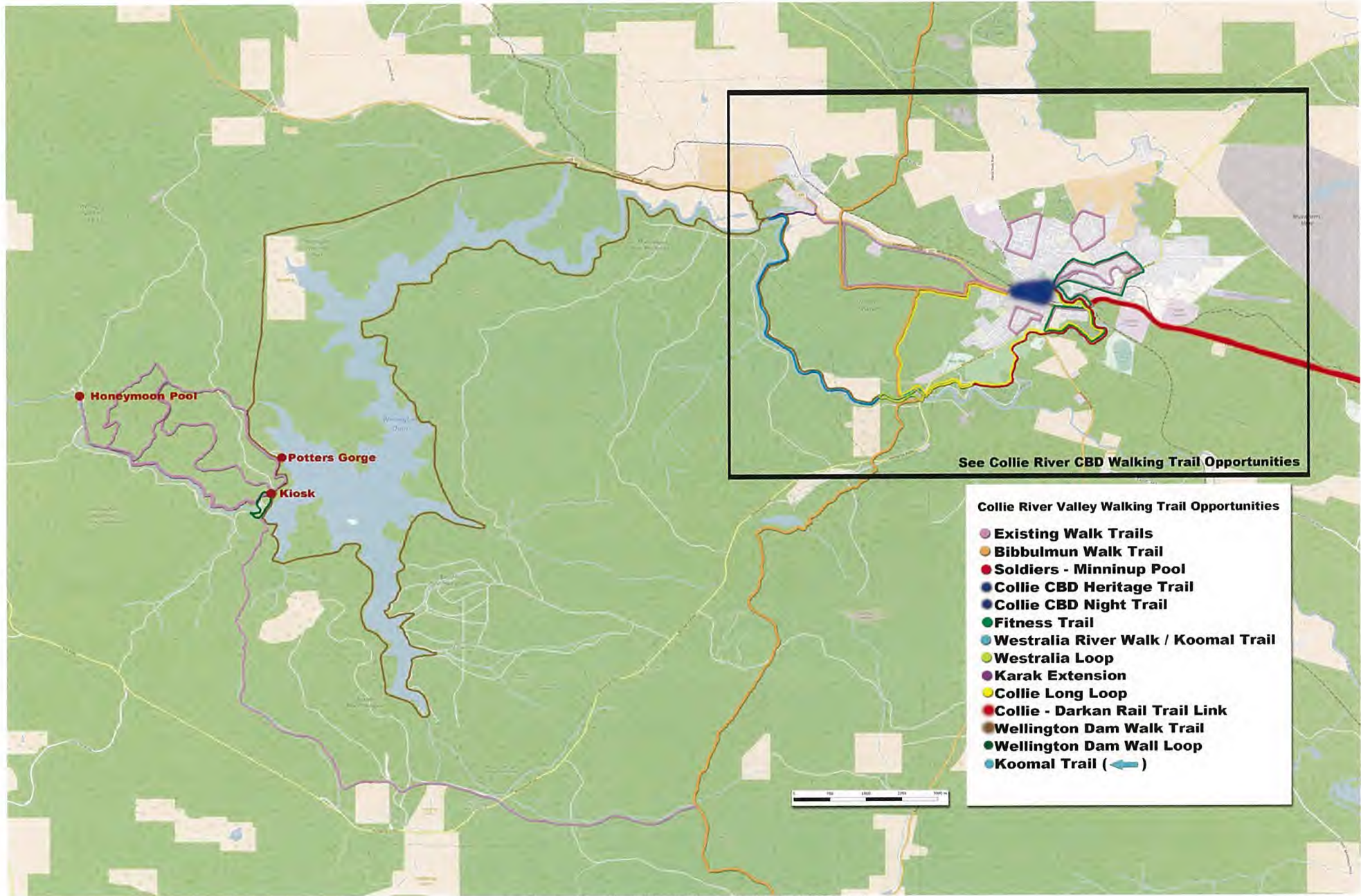


Fig. 36 – Collie River Valley Walking Trail Opportunities (Source: Erik Mellegers)

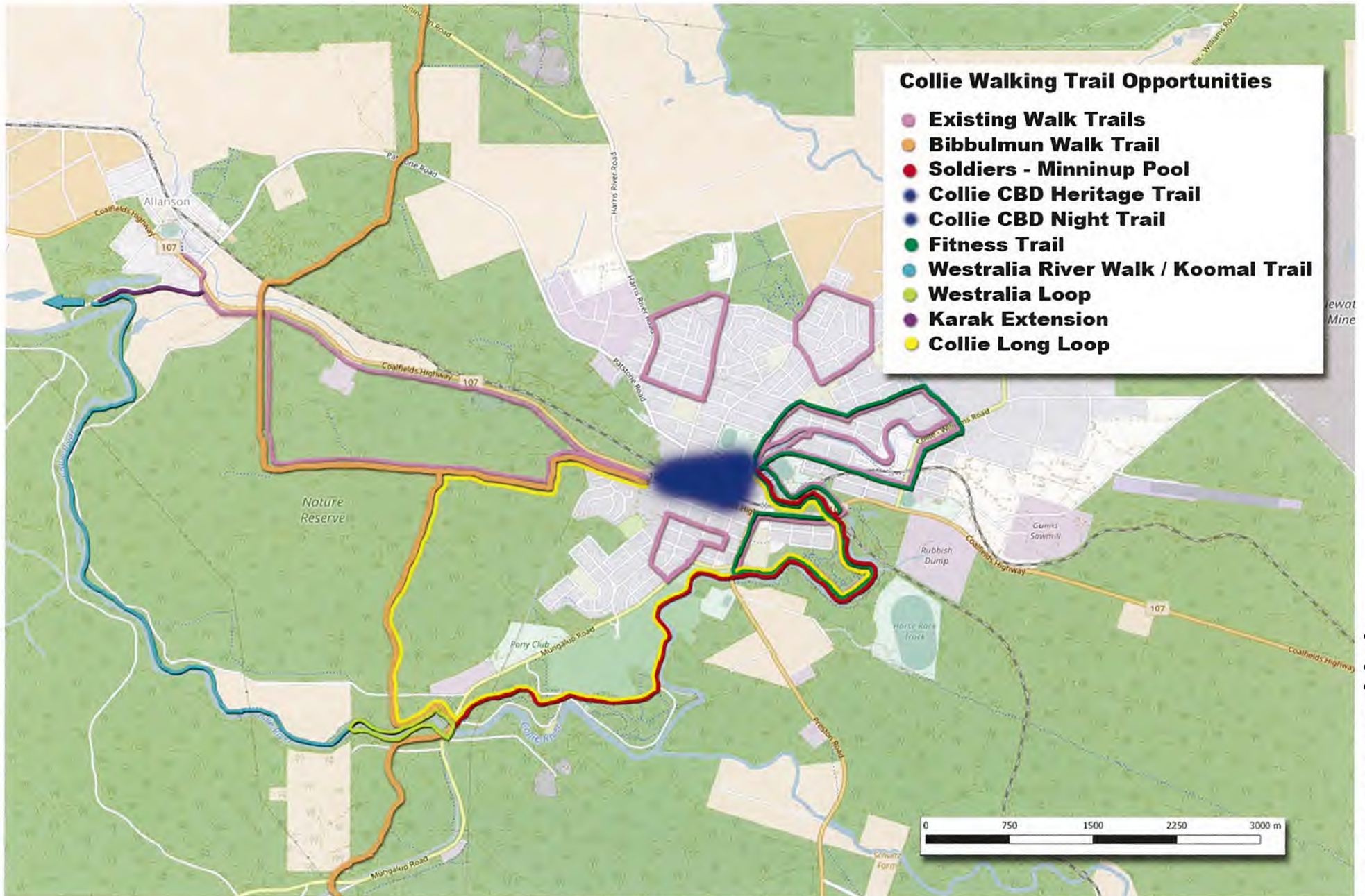


Fig. 37 – Collie Walking Trail Opportunities (Source: Erik Mellegers)

5.8 Walking Events

The Bunbury Cross Country Runners Club, South West Orienteering and school groups run various events including a triathlon, Duke of Edinburgh Award etc in Wellington National Park using the Jabitj Trail, Kurliiny Tjenangitj Trail, Sika Trails and Wellington Spur trails. The following are suggested as they provide a range of distances and experiences making use of the above trails.

PARK RUN

This event is a very accessible event which takes place at 8:00am every Saturday within most major towns in Australia. The event is not a race but is timed to provide motivation to achieve one's personal best. The Central Collie River Walk commencing at Soldiers Park is an ideal location for Park Run as it is an accessible location and parking, drinking water and toilets are available. This trail does not cross any roads and can be completed twice to achieve the approximate 5km necessary for the Park Run.



Fig. 38 – Karak Trail (Source: Why I #VisitCollie)

Alternatively, the Karak Trail can be used commencing midway along the trail at the Cemetery car park toward Allanson up to Flora Road and returning to the starting point. This trail also does not cross any roads and is a high quality trail. There are several other options for 5km – 10km distance walks including the individual walks listed in the Walking Audit.

MINI MARATHON (10KM – 21.1KM)

This is an intermediate distance which is accessible for leisure and casual users with a moderate level of fitness as well as athletes. There are a number of trails of various distances which can accommodate these events.

The Westralia Loop (8.5km) if commenced at the Visitor Centre will be 10km long. The Fitness Trail also will be a total of 10.2km long. They provide diverse but high quality routes with minimal road crossings and have parking, toilets and drinking water available.

The Collie Long Loop Trail is a further distance of 20km. This can be extended to 21.1km – a half marathon distance if part of the Fitness Trail is included.

The above trails will provide a wide variety of experiences and scenery along the routes and these distances are very popular with enthusiasts and amateur competitive walkers.

50KM ULTRA MARATHON/MARATHON (42.2KM)

50km Ultra Running - a long distance race of 50km is an emerging discipline recognised by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). The IAAF holds the World Championships competition at this distance as well as other events.

The Collie Long Loop Trail including the Fitness Trail (as described above) is a distance of 21.1km. This can be completed twice for a marathon with an additional 8km section completed 3 times for the 50km Ultra Running events.

These events are of international significance and would showcase the region and availability of walking trails within the region.

100KM ULTRA MARATHON

100km Ultra Running – a long distance race of 100km is also an emerging discipline recognised by the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF). The IAAF holds the World Championships competition at this distance as well as other events.

Various events in this category have been held in the region, however these have been a 25km circuit completed 4 times. The Koomal Trail (80km) combined with the Collie Long Loop Trail (20km) will be attractive for Collie to Coast 100km event as it is downhill, along the scenic Collie River and has an advantage over other 100km events as it is point to point rather than a several laps of a circuit. Alternatively, the Collie-Wellington Dam loop using the Bibbulmun Track South, the Spur Trail and the Wellington Dam-Collie Link is also approximately 100km and will be suitable for 100km Ultra Running with the advantage that it has the same start and finish point without completing any of the course twice.

These events are of international significance and would showcase the region and availability of walking trails within the region.

WT29 Investigate and develop Walking events of various lengths, at local, National and State levels, in conjunction with the Collie Walking Club and/or private enterprise.

6. Equestrian (Bridle) Trails

6.1 Strategic Context

TAKING THE REINS 2015

Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA) in partnership with the WA Horse Council, WA Endurance Riders Assn, Local Governments, Equestrian WA, Horse SA, Departments of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions have delivered the 'WA Horse Trails Strategy – Taking the Reins' document to help develop horse trail riding in WA. This master planning was identified as a High Priority in the Strategy Implementation list.

This strategy has the following vision and objectives: **For Western Australians to have the opportunity to enjoy diverse, quality horse trail experiences now and into the future.**

1. **Trails Inventory** - A Statewide network of diverse, well located, sustainable, managed, maintained and connected trails that meets the demand and range of experiences sought.
2. **Trails Access** - Easily located trails, with current and accurate trail information, that are readily and safely accessed.
3. **Infrastructure and Facilities** - Facilities and associated infrastructure, suitable for horse use and appropriately maintained.
4. **Education and Advocacy** - Enhance a mutual understanding of, and respect for, horse trail riding and other trail activities to maximise safety, enjoyment and trail harmony and minimise impacts.
5. **Management and Governance** - Establish a strong, sustainable and coordinated approach to the management and governance of horse trails and horse riding.

These objectives are included in the development of equestrian trails at section 6.5 New Equestrian Trails.

6.2 Background



70%

of riders regularly use horse trails (Trail Riding/Endurance/Trekking)



38%

of riders spend over \$5,000 per year



78%

of riders are unsatisfied about the number of trails available



84%

of riders view limited funding opportunities to develop new trails as a significant or critical issue

Fig. 39 – Horse Rider Demographics (Source: Western Australian Horse Trails Strategy - Owner/Rider Survey 2014)

There is a significant lack of information and statistics relating to Equestrian Trails within Australia. This results in an underrepresentation of trails with only one sanctioned Equestrian Trail in the Collie River Valley. Despite this, there is evidence that horse riding is extremely popular – it is the 3rd most popular trail use after Walking and Cycling with 7% of the population participating (2016 Census). This strategy goes some way to increase this representation. Trail usage statistics will be gathered to fill the information gap.

6.3 Trail Categories

TRAIL TYPES*

| | |
|--|--|
| Horse Trail Riding | Participants ride outside of enclosed areas for pleasure, challenge, experience and educational outcomes. |
| Endurance Riding | This is a more active and intensive form of recreational or competitive horse riding. It typically involves riding horses in planned and organised events, generally on loop trails with distances of approximately 80 kilometres. |
| Horse Trekking | Long-distance point to point riding involving the use of either pack horses or support vehicles to carry overnight camping equipment and supplies, or cloverleaf style which involves self catering and overnight camping. |
| Harness Driving *Taking the Reins 2015 | Trail users hitch a horse to a 2 or 4 wheel vehicle and drive on trails or quiet roads. |

LENGTH

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Short | Up to 10km |
| Medium | Between 10km and 20km |
| Long | Between 20km and 40km |
| Short Endurance | 40km |
| Medium Endurance | 60km – 80km |
| Long Endurance | 100km – 160km |

CLASSIFICATION*

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Green (Easy) | Most suitable for novices, social groups and other seeking a relatively short distance trail requiring a basic level of skill and horse and rider fitness. Most likely to be on fire roads or wide singletracks (Equestrian trails) with a gentle grade (not exceeding 10%) and a relatively obstacle free, hardened natural surface. Likely to be share-use and frequent encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers and runners can be expected. |
| Blue (Moderate) | Most suitable for individuals and smaller social groups seeking a short to medium distance trail requiring a moderate level of skill and fitness. Most likely to be a combination of single trail and/or fire road with obstacles, variable surfaces and a moderate slope. Likely to be shared use so encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders should be expected. |
| Black (Difficult) | Suitable for individuals and small social groups seeking a very challenging trail, requiring a very high level of skill and fitness and basic navigation skills. Most likely to consist of challenging single trail and/or fire road with many obstacles, variable surface and steep sections. Some trail routes may not be marked at all. May possibly be shared use so encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers, vehicles and other stock should be expected, however, many of these trails may be located in remote areas and encounters with others is expected to be minimal. |

*Taking the Reins 2015

6.4 Equestrian Trail Audit

While there are several unsanctioned Equestrian Trails around Collie, there is only one sanctioned trail which permits horses. This is the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail. In addition to these trails, horses are permitted on gazetted roads. The unsanctioned trails have issues with multiple road crossings, dieback and quality issues. It is considered that none of these trails can be sanctioned into the future. However, opportunities do exist to create new equestrian trails do address this recognised gap.

COLLIE-DARKAN RAIL TRAIL

This shared use trail (Equestrian, Walking and Cycling) followed the former railway line from Collie to Darkan, however has been cut short before Collie by open pit mining and the Coalfields Highway. The trail now commences at Buckingham and goes to Darkan, a distance of 47km. The trail is relatively flat and free of obstacles and is in a good condition. It includes several picnic areas and is maintained by the Shires of Collie and West Arthur. This trail is under used as it does not directly connect into Collie. A connecting trail to a similar standard to the existing trail will be constructed with the precise corridor to be determined at detailed design stage. This connection will also provides linkages to Stockton Lake and the main offices of Griffin Coal and Premier Coal directly from Collie making it likely that this trail is used on a daily basis by those commuting by bike.

An extension has also been constructed from Darkan for another 15km to Daradine (via Hillman Siding). There is the possibility for the trail to extend a 33 km from Daradine to Williams and possibly another 32 km to Narrogin. A spur trail is also planned by the Shire of West Arthur from Bowelling to Wagin along the rail route. These trails should be supported as visitors are likely to commence their journey in Collie.

ET01 Design and develop a connecting shared use trail (Equestrian, Walking and Cycling) between Collie and Buckingham to connect with the Collie to Darkan Rail Trail including trail head signage, signage along the route and a rest stop and toilets at Buckingham.



Fig. 40 – Collie-Darkan Rail Trail (Source: trailhiking.com.au)

6.5 New Equestrian Trails Opportunities

As there is only one trail which is suitable for Equestrian Trails within the Collie River Valley, it is necessary that a variety of trails be planned including trails of various lengths, difficulties and experiences. In addition, trails should be developed that are suitable for events. It is particularly essential to develop a trail of international importance.

CARDIFF RAIL TRAIL

This trail commences at the Collie Race Club and continues along the disused rail corridor past Collie-Burn. This trail is 7.7km long one way provides a shorter option of 4km to Collie-Burn with a low level of difficulty. There is the potential for shared use with walkers and cyclists, similar to the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail. This trail provides access to the Trail Centre for other trails which will be developed in this area. These trails will make use of the numerous natural features including the Collie River, vegetation and undulating topography.

ET02 Obtain the management/lease/licence for the rail corridor for the development of a Rail Trail from Collie Race Club along the disused rail corridor to Cardiff.

ET03 Design and develop an Equestrian Trail from Collie Race Club along the disused rail corridor to Cardiff, including trail head signage, signage along the route and drinking water at Collie-Burn and Cardiff.



Fig. 41 - Horses Riding, Collie River (Source: Lomax)

COLLIE-BURN, STOCKTON LOOP

This trail commences at the Collie Race Club using the Cardiff Rail Trail to Collie-Burn, along a firebreak to Stockton Lake and returns to the Collie Race Club on the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail link into Collie (mentioned above) when completed. This trail is 14.5km and has the advantage that it is a loop trail rather than a return. It incorporates Stockton Lake which includes toilets, camping and photograph opportunity.

ET04 Design and develop an Equestrian Trail from Collie Race Club along the Cardiff Rail Trail to Collie-Burn along a firebreak to Stockton Lake and returns to the Collie Race Club on the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail link, including trail head signage and signage along the route.

COLLIE RIVER EQUESTRIAN TRAIL NETWORK

This network of trails commences at the Collie Race Club and uses the Cardiff Rail Trail to access the Collie River both to the east and west of the Rail Trail. Three singletrack single use loops will be developed near the Collie River providing a variety of distances and difficulty before connecting back to the Cardiff Rail Trail to return to the Collie Race Club. These tracks will provide 10km, 20km, 40km and 80km loops. The 3 singletrack loops are made up of 2 X 40km loops and 1 X 80km loop interconnected to provide a unique and high quality Equestrian Trail experience. These trails will be planned holistically, but developed incrementally as evidence of demand is demonstrated. This is the only Equestrian singletrack network planned or existing within the Collie River Valley and will be an iconic trail network of international standard.

ET05 Design and develop 2 X 40km and 1 X 80km Equestrian singletrack loops trails to an international standard adjacent to the Collie River with access provided to the Collie Race Club along the Cardiff Rail Trail, including trail head signage and signage along the route.

SOUTH WEST EQUESTRIAN NETWORK

The Warren Blackwood Group of Councils are developing an Equestrian Trail Network linking Augusta to Bridgetown and Broke Inlet to Bridgetown. This is at the procurement stage prior to construction. This network connects with other Regional and local trails forming a large network. The long distance trails from Augusta and Broke Inlet to Bridgetown mainly use firetracks and low traffic roads interspersed at 40km intervals with camp sites or towns. A link will be developed to connect to Augusta and Broke Inlet (and all the towns along the way) using the same method.

Building upon the above work by the Warren Blackwood Group of Councils a link from Bridgetown will connect firstly with Boyup Brook 31km away using the Dalamore Rd, Falnash Rd, Flax Rd and Brown-Seymour Rd. This is a 36km route using lightly trafficked gravel roads. Linking from Boyup Brook, the trail will continue along the Boyup Brook Rd North, Bowling-McAlinden Rd, McAlinden Rd and then connecting into the Cardiff Rail Trail and finally finishing at Collie Race Club. This is a distance of 71km and so will also cater for Endurance Riders. A camp site is required approximately the 35km point (at McAlinden) along this route. This is near Beryl's Riding School which can be used to provide accommodation for the riders, drinking water, toilets, showers, secure horse yards and trail information. Alternatively a camp site can be developed at this location.

A spur will also be developed north of the Beryl's Riding School to Buckingham/Bowelling to connect with the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail. A camp site similar to the above will be developed at Buckingham/Bowelling for riders to rest for the night prior to tackling the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail. This spur will then form a 60km loop with the main trail connecting to the Collie Race Club and the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail link (mentioned above at section 6.4).

Connecting the South West Equestrian Network to the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail will provide a network of trails from Narrogin (planned) in the north through to Augusta and Broke Inlet in the south. This is a network of international importance, exceeding 500km of trail.

- ET06 Design and develop an Equestrian Trail from Collie Race Club through Boyup Brook to Bridgetown using low trafficked roads including the construction of campsites, trail head signage and signage along the route.
- ET07 Develop an 'end-to-end' accreditation system for the South West Equestrian Network similar to the Bibbulmun Track



Fig. 42 – South West Equestrian Trail Network (Source: Erik Mellegers)

6.6 Equestrian Events

There are a number of events that are currently held and/or are planned within Collie River Valley. Temporary courses are developed for these events which require road crossings, traffic management and trail marking. As a result these trails are not available to be ridden outside these events. Events that have occurred include sponsored riding (rideathons) – up to 40km but will include a variety of shorter distances for fundraising and charity purposes, marathons of up to 3 loops of 80km, WAERA State Championships (80km and 160km) and the Tom Quilty Gold Cup (160km Endurance Ride). The Tom Quilty Gold Cup is planned to take place in Collie in 2020. The following are suggested as they provide a range of distances and experiences making use of the above trails.

160KM (TOM QUILTY GOLD CUP)

This is an annual event Endurance Ride which is held in each State by rotation. The 100 miles (160km) distance is one of the world's longest one day rides and attracts prominent international visitors as well as participants from across Australia to ride in this race. The full distance can be accommodated on the proposed Collie River Equestrian Trail Network.

(3 X 80KM) 3 DAY MARATHON RIDE

These rides are comprised of rides of 3 loops of 80km (one per day), 3 loops of 40km (one per day) or 3 loops of 20km (one per day). These events attract large numbers of riders and can be branded as an annual Collie Marathon Ride. The CEI/CEN (Concours De Raid D'endurance International/National) is the accredited International and National Endurance events ranging from 20km through to 160km. The only CEI (international accredited event) in Western Australia was held recently in Collie in May 2018 with local and international riders attending. These CEI/CEN events are frequented by national and international riders. These rides can be accommodated on the Collie River Equestrian Trail Network and a proposed Collie to Darkan return on the Collie-Darkan Rail Trail.



Fig. 43 – CEI1 Acharon Challenge, Collie (Source: Endurance World)

FUN RIDES

These rides are between 10km and 20km long to accommodate for different skill levels and age groups with prizes awarded for competing. These are popular with the community and across the State and are social local rides but has the potential to attract riders from across the region. These rides can be held on the proposed Collie River Equestrian Trail Network.

ET08 Investigate and develop Equestrian events of various lengths, at national and State levels, in conjunction with the Western Australian Endurance Riders and/or private enterprise.

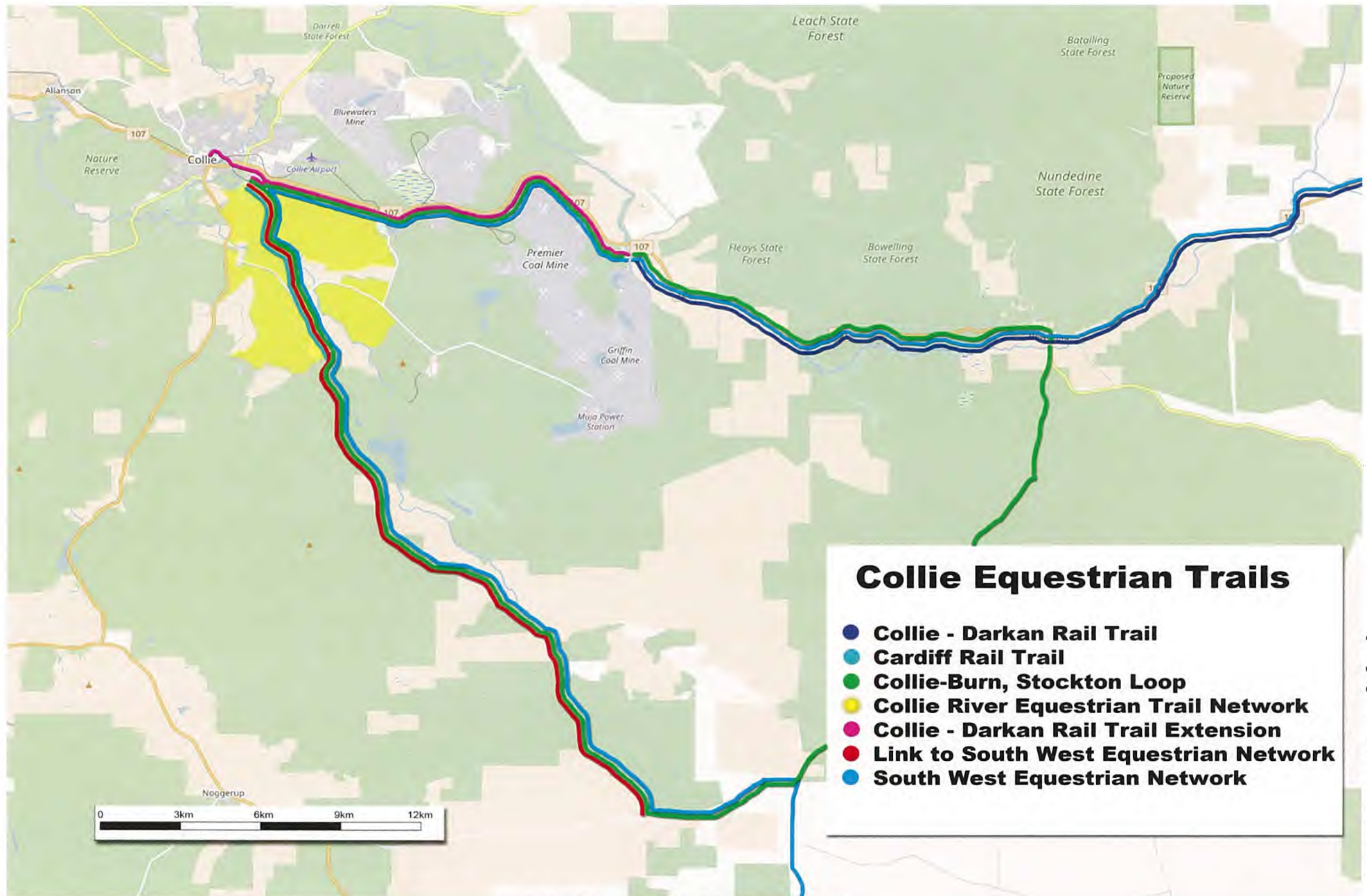


Fig. 44 – Collie River Valley Equestrian Trails – (Source: Erik Mellegers)

(Appendix ORD: 12.3)

Collie River Valley Trails Strategy 2018 – 2021

The priority projects identified in the Bunbury-Wellington 2050 Cycling Strategy's 5 Year Action Plan in the Shire of Collie are summarised below.

| Developing the Primary Network | |
|--|---|
| Action | Lead agency (or agencies) |
| Extend the Karak Trail from the intersection of Coalfields Road and Fergusson Road to Black Diamond Lake. | Shire of Collie |
| Upgrade the Karak Trail to primary route standard between the Collie Cemetery and Collie Visitors Centre. | Shire of Collie |
| Upgrade the Central Collie River Loop (between the Throssell Street Bridge and Coombe Street bridge) to primary route standard. | Shire of Collie |
| Construct a primary route standard shared path from Soldiers Park to Minnipup Pool. | Shire of Collie |
| Construct a primary route standard shared path from Minnipup Pool to Mungilup Bridge. | Shire of Collie |
| Developing the Secondary Network | |
| Action | Lead agency (or agencies) |
| Develop a two-way cycle link between the Collie Visitor Centre and Soldiers Park (via Collie CBD), connecting the Karak and Wagyl Biddi trails. | Shire of Collie |
| Developing the Tourist Trails | |
| Action | Lead agency (or agencies) |
| Design and construct a shared use trail providing a connection between the Collie town centre and the existing western terminus of the Collie - Darkan Rail Trail. | Shire of Collie |
| Developing the Road Cycling Routes | |
| Action | Lead agency (or agencies) |
| Develop a number of road cycling routes as outlined in <i>Collie River Valley Trails Strategy (2018-2021)</i> . Potential routes include those to Harris River Dam, Wellington Dam, Donnybrook, Coolangatta Hill, Stockton Lake and Mumballup. | Shire of Collie, Main Roads WA, Road Safety Commission, DoT |
| Additional road cycling routes to be considered following implementation of one or more trials (refer to Attachment 1). Routes to be identified both within the Bunbury-Wellington subregion and linking to adjoining subregions. | All LGAs, SWDC, Main Roads WA, Road Safety Commission, DoT |

The above actions have been taken from the draft version of this Collie River Valley Strategy document and are therefore all included as recommendations elsewhere within the document.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MOUNTAIN BIKE STRATEGY 2015-2020

This strategy provides a broad vision 'to embrace sustainable mountain biking as a leading recreational, sport and tourism experience by delivering opportunities, maximising participation and sharing the benefits.' To do this, this strategy has the following objectives:

- *Establish a strong and coordinated approach to mountain bike planning and governance*
- *Support and increase mountain bike participation and community involvement*
- *Develop a Statewide network of sustainable trails, facilities and associated infrastructure*
- *Raise the recreational, sport and tourism profile of Western Australian mountain biking*
- *Develop a diverse revenue stream to ensure economic sustainability*

These are achieved through the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan and the development of this strategy. This strategy has identified the following gaps within the context of the State:

1. *Cross-country is the most popular mountain biking style, but the majority of sanctioned trail is for off-road touring. This is largely attributable to the successful development of the Munda Biddi Trail.*
2. *The majority of riders prefer the challenge and experience of singletrack trails, but only 24% of singletrack used by mountain bikers is sanctioned.*
3. *Existing singletrack trails are largely suited to riders with intermediate skill levels and there are limited opportunities for beginners/less skilled riders and more advanced riders.*
4. *The proportion of riders who would like to participate in downhill (11%) and freeride (13%) significantly outweighs the amount of downhill (1%) and freeride (1%) trails, with infrastructure for shuttling also limited. In part, provision has been restricted by the limited availability of suitable terrain. As a result, the level of unsanctioned downhill and freeride riding is very high.*
5. *The desire amongst riders to build technical skills to enable progression is restricted by the limited availability and accessibility of facilities such as pump tracks, skills parks and dirt jumps.*
6. *Most people need to travel considerable distance to ride, but the majority would prefer to only have to travel for a short time and small distance.*
7. *Trails within or in close proximity to population centres are limited, with an acute lack of urban trails in the Perth Metropolitan region.*
8. *Access to trails is generally only practicable by private vehicle with bike and public transport access limited or unviable.*

SOUTH WEST MOUNTAIN BIKE MASTER PLAN 2015

The 2015 South West Mountain Bike Master Plan identified the Collie / Wellington area as one of three potential nationally significant areas in the South West, and recommended development projects for the short term to highlight river valley experiences through a trail centre model – a single site with dedicated visitor services and mountain bike facilities, serving multiple signed and mapped trails of varying type and classification. This plan has assessed the potential of the Collie River Valley region and has determined that it has potential to be nationally significant, has excellent opportunity in the short term and should be developed as a high priority. Trails 'should promote the deeply incised Collie River gorge with biodiversity and landscapes as its major core experiences. Trails could feature the powerful river and its granite outcrops, lush vegetation and steep and varied topography.'

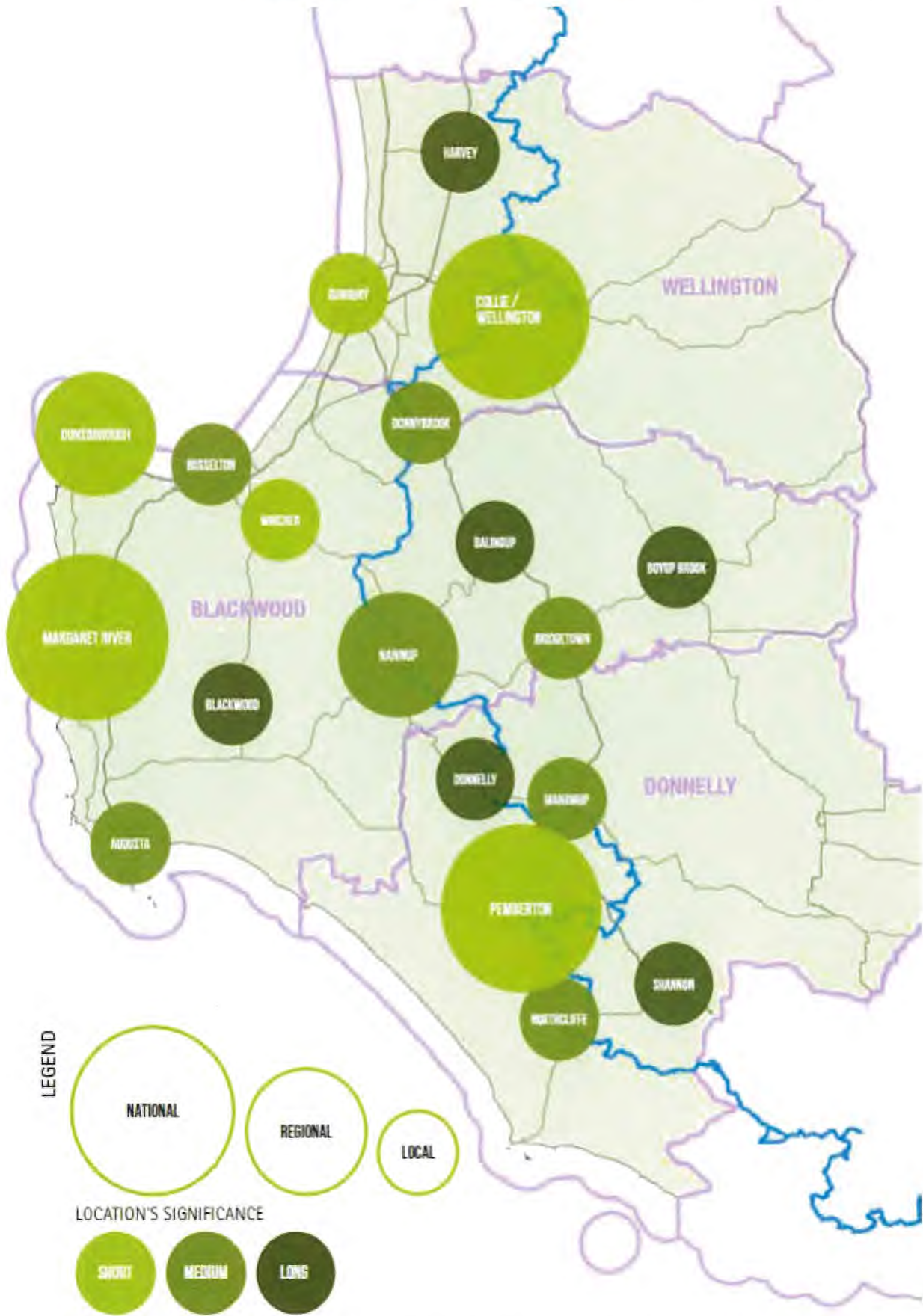


Fig. 46 – Mountain Bike Trail Priority Locations (Source: South West Mountain Bike Master Plan 2015)

This plan recommends that the following location be developed for mountain bike trails as a priority:

1. Wellington National Park
2. Westralia Conservation Park
3. Identified Commercial Private Land
4. Arklow State Forest
5. Shire Reserves
6. Identified Pine Plantation

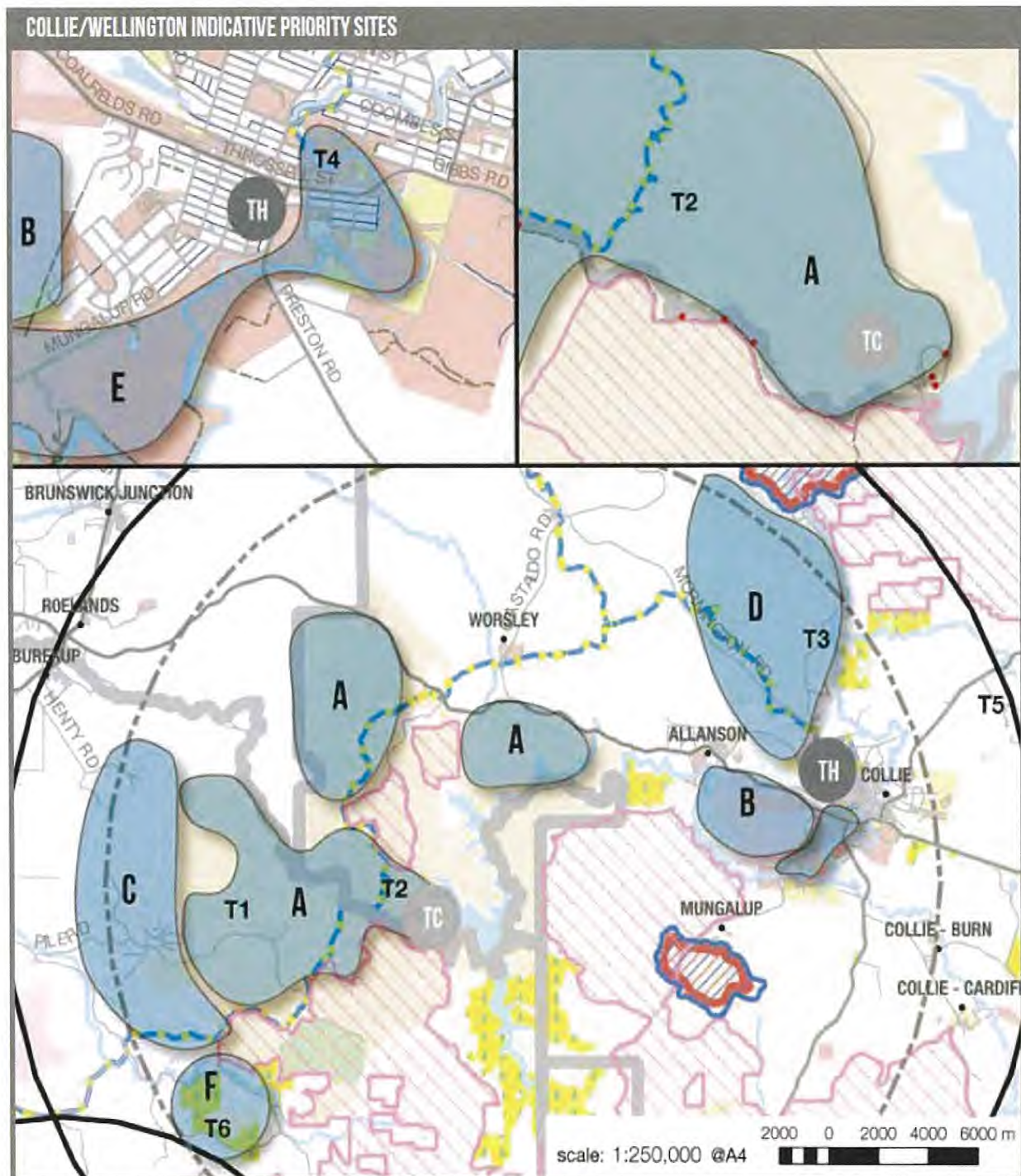


Fig. 47 – Collie Wellington Indicative Priority Sites (Source: South West Mountain Bike Master Plan)

The gap analysis identified the below gaps within the context of the South West region. Some of these accords with the gaps identified at the State level in the Western Australian Mountain Bike Strategy.

- *Only 18% of the South West residents have good access to purpose built mountain bike trails.*
- *Less than 20% of the South West's sanctioned mountain bike trails are purpose built singletrack and only 15% of these singletrack are in good condition.*
- *Fewer than 10% of all trails are well-signed purpose built singletrack.*
- *Existing purpose built singletrack trails are largely suited to riders with intermediate skill levels. Only 12% of purpose built singletrack trails cater for beginners and only 16% for advanced riders*
- *Only one location has trail quantities to rate as Regionally significant, although other key requirements preclude the rating.*
- *None of the locations assessed met national or Regional infrastructure, amenities or service requirements.*
- *Trail centres, trail hubs and visitor services make mountain biking more accessible, but there are currently no locations that have trail centres or locations that meet trail hub criteria.*

To close the above gaps, the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan specifically recommended the below actions to be completed in Collie River Valley:

- **0-3 years, development of a 30km trail at Wellington National Park**
- **In 1 – 3 years, development of a 50km trail through the Arklow State Forrest via link through the Westralia Conservation Park as the town's primary recreation area connecting to the Collie Township and Collie River**

These specific recommendations are included within section 7.7 New Mountain Bike Opportunities.

SHIRE OF COLLIE LOCAL BIKE PLAN 2015

The Shire of Collie Local Bike Plan has been developed in accordance with the Department of Transport's *Guidelines for Developing a Bike Plan 2014*. The main purpose of the Bike Plan is to:

- *Develop a coordinated and strategic approach to delivering cycling infrastructure in order to maximise funding opportunities.*
- *Provide connections to key attractors within Collie.*
- *Ensure safe connections and routes to schools.*
- *Maximise the potential of cycle tourism.*

This plan specifies various cycle paths to be constructed. Many of these are to improve local access whilst others are at a strategic level. These have been included in the recommendations and gap analysis in Section 7.4 Cycle Trail Opportunities of this plan.

7.2 Background

The South West Mountain Bike Project

A key action of the South West Regional Blueprint

The South West of Western Australia is internationally recognised as a must-visit mountain bike destination.

The Region has a network of world-class mountain biking locations that capitalise on the South West's unique experiences and landscapes.

A network that increases intrastate, interstate and overseas visitation to the South West, builds our communities and contributes to our local economies.

Mountain biking is growing fast.^a It is a significant travel motivator and destinations around the world are thriving on mountain bike tourism.

The South West is already an important cycle tourism generator and a significant mountain bike hotspot.^{a,2}

Demand for high-quality, sustainable mountain bike trails that embrace the South West's diverse environments, awesome scenery and active lifestyle is extremely high.² The Region is perfectly positioned to capitalise on this growth activity and the huge economic and social benefits it brings.

The South West Mountain Bike Project aims to develop trail networks at the 3 high priority, national locations identified by the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan (SWMP).

- 1 Collie/Wellington
- 2 Margaret River
- 3 Pemberton



119,000^a cycle tourists/year

\$17.5m
Total tourist spend

\$5,005
Spent by each overseas cycle tourist/trip

350+
Rides on 2 Collie/Wellington mountain bike trails in a single week

16,000+
Rides on 4 Margaret River mountain bike trails in just 3 months



The economic impact of mountain biking around the world is significant:^b

1 Whistler, Canada³



2 7 Stanes, Scotland⁴



3 Coed Y Brenin, Wales⁵



Mountain bike visitation will increase in the South West as a result of the Project.

On average, each rider will contribute:^c



Fig. 48 – The South West Mountain Bike Project (Source: Westcycle)



Fig. 49 – Mountain Bike Demographics (Source: Dirt Art)



\$1.42 the amount the economy generates for every km ridden³



\$21 the amount the economy saves per person per commuting trip on a bike⁴



1500kg of greenhouse gas emissions - the amount saved per person per year that cycles 10km each way to work⁵



Western Australians have 1.5 bikes per household - 8% higher than the national average²



#1 State for bike riding participation per capita in Australia⁶



85%

85% of people riding for sport or recreation rather than transport

Fig. 50 – What Cycling Means to Western Australia (Source: Westcycle)

The above statistics demonstrate that there is a demand for cycle trails of all types for sport and recreation as well as for commuting. There are 8,798 people in the Shire of Collie (2016 census). If 23% of these people cycle on a weekly basis, this translates to 2,024 regular riders with 1,721 of these people riding for sport or recreation rather than transport. In Western Australia there are 502,003 people that ride for sport or recreation on a weekly basis (based on a population of 2,567,788 people as counted in the 2016 census). The Investment in Active Transport 2015 Survey from the Heart Foundation found that 'more than one in two people would cycle more often if infrastructure was improved.' In addition, there are approximately 21,000 rides on the Munda Biddi Trail annually with a marked increase from when these statistics were obtained (ABC News, 5/4/17). It is thought that a high proportion of these trail users ride through the Collie River Valley Region. Wellington National Park data across two trails over a 2-week (Dec-Jan 2013/14) period indicates figures of peaks of up to 195 weekly singletrack users and peaks of up to 356 weekly singletrack trail rides. Recently on the newly opened Wagyl Biddi (Collie CBD) an average of 238 counts per week were recorded.

In addition to the existing mountain bike trails, several unsanctioned trails have developed. This is evidence of latent demand locally. Additional mountain bike trails connecting with the town of Collie should be developed to accommodate this demand.

7.3 Trail Categories

TRAIL TYPES

There are three main types of cycling, Mountain Bike Trails, Road Cycle Trails and Track Cycling. This Strategy considers each of these main cycling types.

CLASSIFICATION*

- Easiest (White)** Typically wide trail with smooth terrain and low gradients. Surface may be uneven, loose or muddy at times but free from unavoidable obstacles. Recommended for novice riders.
- Easy (Green)** Typically flowing open trails on firm terrain with gentle gradients. Surface may be uneven, loose or muddy at times. Riders may encounter small rollable obstacles and technical features. Recommended for beginners mountain bikers
- Moderate (Blue)** Typically narrow trail with loose, soft, rocky or slippery sections and hills with short steep sections. Riders will encounter obstacles and technical trail features. Recommended for riders with some technical mountain biking experience.
- Difficult (Black Diamond)** Trails with variable surfaces and steep gradients. Riders will encounter large obstacles and technical trail features. Recommended for experienced riders with good technical skill levels.
- Extreme (Double Black Diamond)** Trails may contain highly variable surfaces, very challenging terrain and/or very steep sections. Riders will encounter committing and unavoidable obstacles and technical trail features that may not be rollable. Recommended for very experienced riders with high level technical skill levels.

*Source: South West Mountain Bike Master Plan

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL TYPES*

- Cross Country (XC)** Primarily singletrack orientated with a combination of climbing and descending trails and natural trail features of varying technicality. Cross Country trails appeal to the majority market and can cater for timed competitive events. Typically bikes are lightweight with shorter travel dual suspension or no rear suspension.
- All Mountain (AM)** Similar to Cross Country and primarily singletrail orientated, with greater emphasis on technical descents, with nontechnical climbs. All mountain trails can cater for timed endure competitive events. Bikes are typically light-medium weight with medium-travel dual suspension.
- Downhill (DH)** Purely descent only trails with emphasis on speed and technical challenge. These trails can cater for timed downhill competitive racing. Downhill trails appeal to the more experienced market and typically require uplift to the trailhead via chairlift or vehicle shuttle. Bikes are designed for descending and are typically long-travel dual suspension and built for strength over weight.
- Freeride (FR)** Typically descent focused trails with emphasis solely on technical challenge. Freeride trails feature both built and natural terrain technical features with a focus on drops and jumps. Appeals to the more experienced market and caters for competitions judging manoeuvres and skills only. Bikes are typically medium to long-travel dual suspension and are built for strength.

- Park (PK)** Built feature environment with emphasis on manoeuvres, skills and progression. Appeals to wide market including youth and can cater for competitions judging aerial maneuvers. Can include jump and pump tracks and skills park. Typically dirt surfaced but can include hardened surfaces. Bikes are typically built for strength, with short travel suspension.
- Touring (TR)** Typically long distance riding on reasonably uniform surface conditions and lower grades. Touring trails are dual direction linear trails or long distance circuits with a focus on reaching a destination. Touring trails can include rail trails, access/fire roads and singletrack. While there is a limited market for long distance mountain biking, touring trails can be ridden in sections making them accessible to all. If carrying panniers bikes are usually robust with limited suspension, however, for short sections or day trips most mountain bikes are suitable.

*Source: South West Mountain Bike Master Plan

LENGTH

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Short | Up to 7km |
| Medium | Between 7km and 15km |
| Long | Between 15km and 25km |
| Single Day | Between 25km and 80km |
| Multi Day | Over 80km |

7.4 Cycle Trail Audit

| Trail Name | Location /Route | Category | Land Tenure | Connections | Condition | Length | Classification | Recommendations |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Munda Biddi Trail | Perth - Albany | Multi Day Mountain Bike | State Forest and National Park | Karak Trail, Wellington Dam Spur Trail | No handcycle access. Toilets, picnic areas, camping facilities, accommodation, trail towns, pick up/drop off points along route. Showers, toilets, storage, visitor information at Visitor Centre trail head. | 1051km | Medium | CT01 Realign the Munda Biddi Trail to include the town of Collie on the main alignment and provide connections to the Mountain Bike Trails in Arklow and Wellington National Park. |
| 1A. Northern Munda Biddi Trail | Yarri Hut - Collie | Multi Day Mountain Bike | State Forest and National Park | | | 44km | Medium | As above. |
| 1B. Southern Munda Biddi Trail | Collie – Nglang Boodja Hut | Multi Day Mountain Bike | State Forest and National Park | | | 46.5km | Medium | As above. |
| 2. Karak Trail | Collie - Allanson | Short Road Cycle (dual use - walk) | Shire of Collie | | Handcycle access, drink fountain, playground, visitor information, parking, no defined trail head, rest points along route. | 6km | Easy (dual use – walk) | CT02 Upgrade the Karak Trail by providing additional drink fountains, a spur to Black Diamond Lake, connecting the trail to the Visitor’s Centre and install trail head signage at both ends. CT03 Widen the 1.8km stretch of the Karak Trail from cemetery to Visitor’s Centre to 2.5m. |
| 3. Arklow Trail Network | Arklow | Medium Mountain Bike | State Forest | Munda Biddi Trail | No handcycle access. Parking at trail head. Includes Rays Trail, Dead Cats Loop, Pet Cemetery Trail, Jarrah Jaunt, Railway Rise, Highland Highway, Round About Arklow, Little Ray of Sunshine and Marty’s 220 Trail | | Easy/ Medium | CT04 Develop and implement Arklow Mountain Bike Trail Concept Plan to provide a 50km trail network connecting Arklow with the Collie town via the Munda Biddi Trail. |
| 4. Wellington National Park Trail Network | Wellington National Park | Short Mountain Bike | National Park | Munda Biddi Trail | No handcycle access. Visitor Information and parking at trail heads. Includes Boylan Trail, Butchers Trail, Grizzly Trail, Lennard Half Circuit, Mill Brook Trail, Pallet Track, Wals Trail and Sika Trail | 53km | Easy/ Medium/ Hard | CT05 Develop and implement the Wellington National Park Mountain Bike Trail Concept Plan to provide a future planning document for the development of 60km of unique trails, including an EPIC class trail. |
| 5. Currawong Pump Track | Wellington National Park | Pump Track | National Park | Sika Trail | Beginner and advanced loops incorporated in the Potters Gorge campground | N/A | N/A | Nil. |
| 6. Central Collie River Loop | Collie CBD | Short Mountain Bike | Shire of Collie | Wagyl Biddi | No handcycle access, drink fountain, picnic areas, playground, parking, toilets at trail head | 2.2km | Medium (dual use – Walk) | CT06 Upgrade Central Collie River Loop surface, improved trail head signage, provide additional signage and install rest points along the route. |
| 7. Wagyl Biddi | Collie CBD | Medium Mountain Bike | Shire of Collie | Central Collie River Loop | 7km loop handcycle access. Toilets, drinking fountain, skate part and parking at trail head. | 9km return | Easy/ Medium | CT07 Complete the Wagyl Biddi dedicated mountain bike trail from Soldiers Park to Venn Street. CT08 Extend the Wagyl Biddi by an additional 1km loop including the ox-bow lake and downhill section. |
| 8. Collie-Darkan Rail Trail | Buckingham – Darkan | Single Day Mountain Bike | Shire of Collie, Shire of West Arthur | Nil | No trail head, or other services provided at Buckingham. Adequate services provided at Darkan. | 47km | Easy | CT09 Design and develop a connecting shared use trail (Equestrian, Walking and Cycling) between Collie and Buckingham to connect with the Collie to Darkan Rail Trail including trail head signage, signage along the route and a rest stop and toilets at Buckingham. |

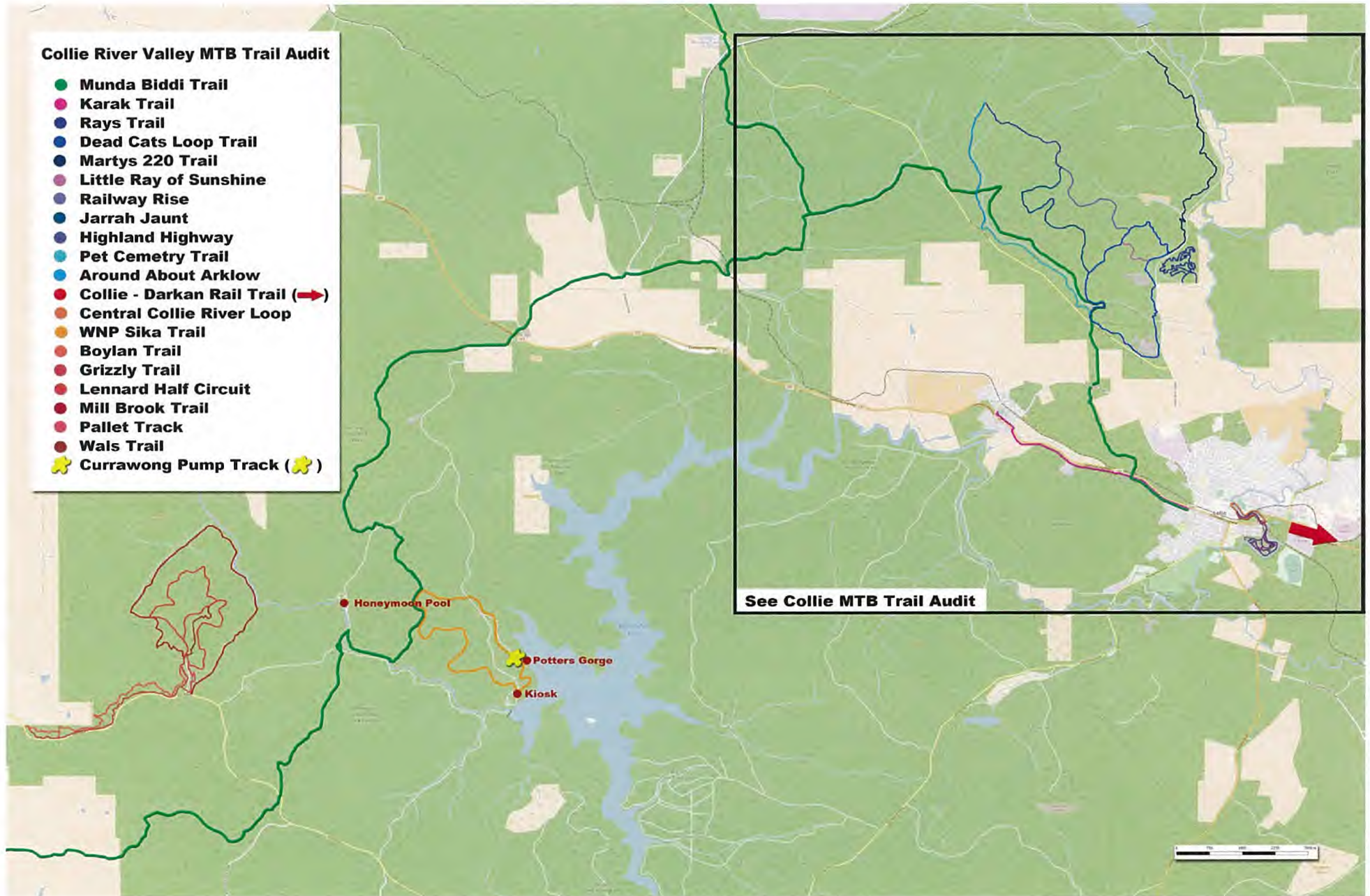


Fig. 51 – Collie River Valley Mountain Bike Trail Audit (Source: Erik Mellegers)

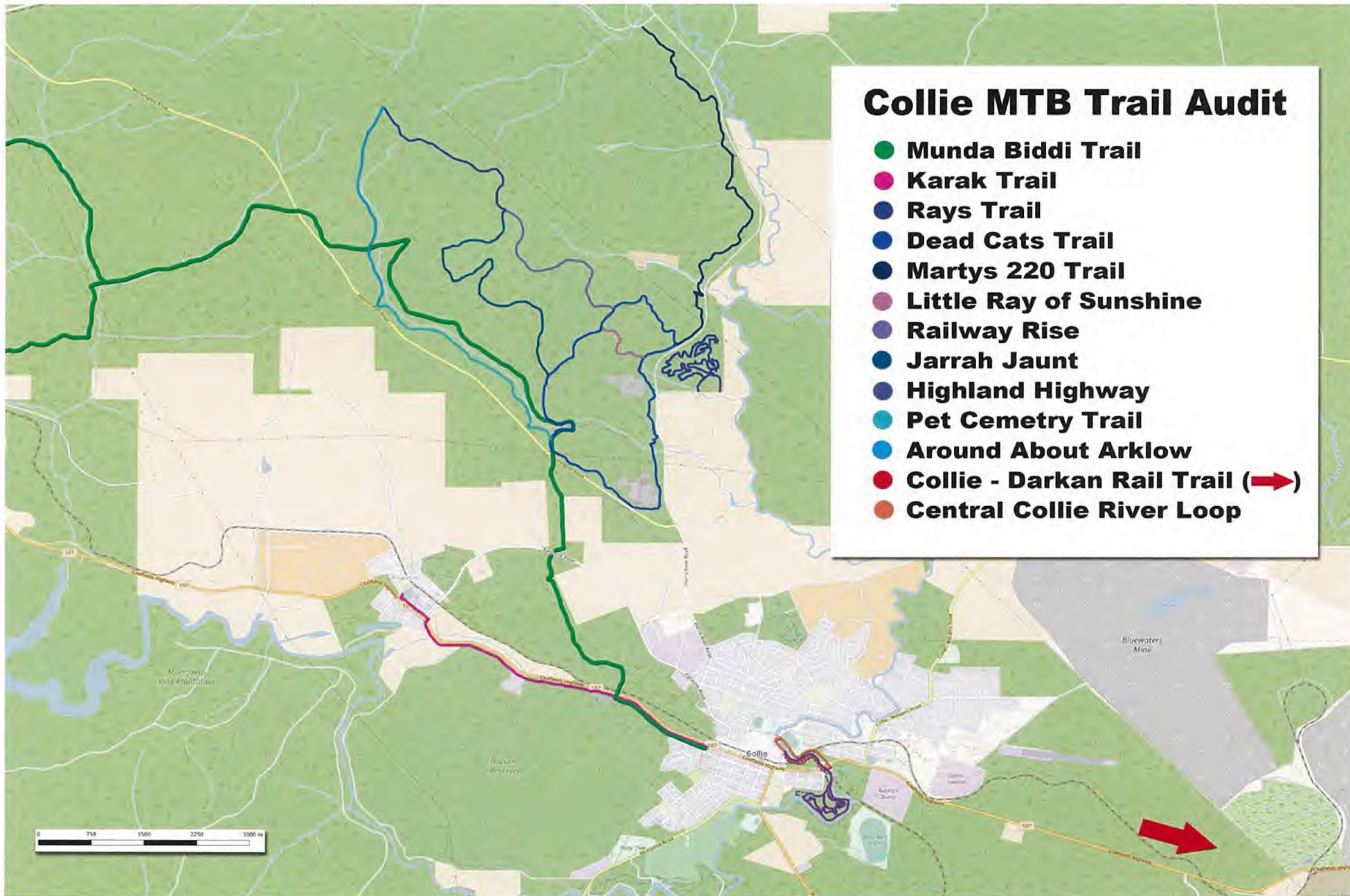


Fig. 52 – Collie Mountain Bike Trail Audit (Source: Erik Mellegers)

7.5 Cycle Trail Opportunities

The Cycle Trail Audit reveals a wide variety of trails including Trails of International/National, Regional and Local significance, as well as a variety of distances, difficulties and trail types within Collie River Valley area. The identified gaps and opportunities from the Cycle Trail Audit above are:

1. Showpiece mountain bike trail to an international 'Epic' standard which incorporates iconic local scenery and connects with the Munda Bididi Trail;
2. Additional singletrack trails;
3. New road and track cycle trails;
4. Accessible trails close to Collie within riding distance of Collie CBD;
5. Formal pump track and facilities; and
6. Connections/links between trails and between significant/popular places (i.e. Collie CBD - Minninup Pool, Visitor Centre - Collie CBD, Collie – Wellington Dam, Collie – Bunbury).

The following additional trails will fill these identified gaps and provide high quality trails developed in accordance with the Principles of this document for the benefit of locals and to enhance the visitor experience.

7.6 New Paved Bike Trails

SOLDIERS PARK TO MINNINUP POOL

This trail will connect Collie CBD to Minninup Pool utilising existing sections of the Wagyl Bididi alignment along the Collie River, connecting with the Karak Trail and Munda Bididi Trail through the Collie CBD Cycle Link (below). This trail will also link the Wagyl Bididi, Pump Track and trails at Minninup Pool with the CBD. This will be an 8km dual use trail (see Walking Trail Opportunities section) sealed to limit environmental degradation, reduce maintenance and ensure that it is handcycle accessible. The Collie River is a Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site with significant cultural value to the local Noongar people. It will be interpreted through art and sculpture for the length of this trail in conjunction with the Ngalang Boodja Aboriginal Council. A trail head at Soldiers Park and Minninup Pool will be established. Facilities along the trail will include drinking fountains, toilets, BBQ, picnic areas, playground, future camping and caravanning facilities and parking. This is outlined as recommendations 1 and 21 of the Local Bike Plan and is area E of the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan.

CT10 Construct a 2.5m wide dual use trail from Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool, including aboriginal interpretation, signage and facilities.

COLLIE CBD CYCLE LINK

This trail will link the Visitor Centre with Soldiers Park via Collie CBD. This will provide the linkage mentioned above between the Munda Bididi Trail and Karak Trail with the Wagyl Bididi and Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool trails. The connection with the Collie CBD provides opportunity for cyclists to join the trail and also use the facilities within Collie such as the cafés, restaurants, parks, toilets, showers, community facilities, specialist shops etc. This is a 1km link, 2km return. Trail heads will be at both the Visitor Centre and Soldiers Park which will include bicycle maintenance, bicycle racks, signage and information about bicycle friendly businesses. This includes recommendation 19(1) and 19(4) of the Local Bike Plan to incorporate Mixed Traffic Cycling (shared road) on Forrest and Lefroy Streets.

CT11 Design and develop a two way cycle link between the Visitor Centre and Soldiers Park via Collie CBD and develop trail heads at both of these locations.

MINNINUP POOL LINK

Following on from the link along the Collie River from Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool a dual use path will be constructed to connect Minninup Pool to Scenic Drive and the Bibbulmun Track. This path will be to the same quality and standard of the Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool Trail as per recommendation 2 of the Local Bike Plan and is area E of the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan.

CT12 Construct a 2.5m wide dual use trail from Minninup Pool to the Bibbulmun Track at Mungilup Bridge including signage and facilities.

7.7 Draisine (Rail Cycle)

While rail trails are popular, draisine rail cycling on the railway track is unusual, although it is conducted in a number of places across the world. Draisine provides that point of interest as well as being accessible for older and various fitness levels. The trail will use the disused rail line from 'Burmuda', 800m from Soldiers Park - beside the East End Bridge bounded by two rail lines and the Collie River to Cardiff. This is a distance of 9km or 18km return commencing close to Collie CBD with shorter distances possible. However, it may not be possible to get permission to cross the railway bridge over Collie River and so the terminus would be at the Collie Race Track.



Fig. 53 and Fig. 54 Left Cycle Draisine and Right Hand-Lever Draisine (Source: Kulturreise-Ideen and trail-photo.ru)

CT13 Investigate the use draisines (rail cycle) on the disused Cardiff railway track from Collie CBD or alternatively from Collie Race Track.

7.8 New Mountain Bike Trails

MINNINUP POOL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

This popular day use destination is the terminus of the Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool dual use trail. A feasibility study is currently being conducted to determine the suitability and viability of camping and value adding facilities e.g. a kiosk/cafe/restaurant/interpretation centre at this location. Previous plans for this have been completed, notably the Tourism Opportunities Study for Collie 2016 which identified the opportunity of developing camping in this area in conjunction with a mountain bike trail. This plan proposes:

'A mountain bike circuit trail is proposed for the bushland within the precinct. The circuit could:

- provide views of the Collie River and Golf Course;
- have graded tracks to suit different skill levels;
- offer technical features and an iconic jump that provides a photo opportunity to market the site and of course for participants to be photographed and shared on social media; and

- *present sculptures and interpretation signage or app triggered by QR Codes that assists with telling Aboriginal stories to biker markets. Content could also be presented in English and Noongar. This could create a differentiated mountain biking experience to any others in the region, and perhaps any others in Western Australia.'*

CT14 Design and construct a mountain bike trail at Minninup Pool in conjunction with the development of this site for camping or other uses.

BLACK DIAMOND MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

This popular day use destination is accessible through a number of other trails including the Karak Trail, Munda Biddi Trail and proposed Westralia MTB Trail Network. This location is one of the top 10 Instagrammed locations within Western Australia. Similar to Minninup Pool, there is potential for camping and value adding facilities at this location, however there are significant land tenure issues hindering the development of this site.

CT15 Investigate the opportunity for mountain bike trails at Black Diamond Lake in conjunction with any camping and formal day use of the facility.



Fig. 55 – Cycling on the Munda Biddi Trail, Collie (Source: Jim Kier)

PUMP TRACK AND SKILLS LOOP

This trail will be located in 'Bermuda', 800m from Soldiers Park. The trail will be accessed from the Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool trail with the Trail Head at Soldiers Park, near the newly constructed skate park. This trail will be designed for all ages and riders to enjoy with a variety of features and alternate lines that can be traversed at a variety of speeds depending on the ability of the rider. An optional raised starting hill will be included, joining the loop at a safe place to accommodate BMX riders. The track will be designed to be low maintenance including in construction materials and design. This is the development of trails in area E of the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan.

CT16 Design and construct a low maintenance pump track and skills loop near the East End Bridge with a variety of features for all abilities including a BMX starting hill.

PRIVATE COMMERCIAL LAND AND PINE PLANTATION

There is potential to develop private land for mountain bike parks near Roelands and Wellington Mills due to the scenery and topography as well as the willingness of landowners to develop mountain bike trails in these areas. As some of this is private land, there is wide scope to develop commercially viable trails of various types depending on the market. This is the development of trails in areas C and F of the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan.

CT17 Design and develop mountain bike trails on a commercial basis near Roelands and Wellington Mills.

WESTRALIA MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

This trail will connect the Munda Biddi Trail, Visitor Centre and Minninup Pool to Black Diamond Lake via Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool Trail along the river. The Westralia MTB Trail will start at Minninup Pool and follow the Collie River on the northern side either adjacent to Scenic Drive or at the river edge itself to Black Diamond Lake, connecting with the Karak Trail. The trail will be a minimum of 10km long (one way) and will include climbs, descents and scenic photo opportunities. The trail will connect the camping areas located on Scenic Drive to Minninup Pool and Collie CBD providing additional access to the services and attractions available in the town. This is the development of trails in area B of the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan and also part of the Scenic Drive future upgrade.

This trail network will create an optional loop from Minninup Pool to Black Diamond and return via the Visitor Centre using the Karak Trail and the abovementioned Collie CBD Cycle Link and the Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool trail. This loop will total approximately 29km.

CT18 Design and develop a mountain bike trail of 10km in Westralia Conservation Park between Minninup Pool and Black Diamond Lake connecting to the Munda Biddi Trail and Karak Trail including the installation of a trail head and signage at key locations.

ARKLOW TRAILS

Arklow Forest Area (Collie/Wellington) forms part of the five unique mountain bike locations in the South West. The development of the Arklow Mountain Bike Trail Concept Plan has highlighted up to 50km of unique mountain bike trails of various levels, combining with some already well established trail networks. Work has begun on upgrading sections of the existing trails to create high quality and sustainable trails. The commenced construction of the 1st Hand Cycle Mountain Bike Trail in the south west and will provide a unique experience that has not been available in the past. The Arklow network has a key direct cycle link to Collie and its network of trails via the Munda Biddi Trail from the Tourist Centre.

CT19 Design and develop up to 50km of high quality mountain bike trails of various technical levels as per the Concept Plan for Arklow with the trail commencing at the Visitor Centre Trail Centre.

WELLINGTON NATIONAL PARK NETWORK (EPIC TRAIL)

The Wellington National Park (Collie/Wellington) has also been listed in the South West Mountain Bike Master Plan as one of five unique mountain bike locations in the South West. The development of the Wellington National Park Mountain Bike Concept Plan has highlighted its uniqueness and ability to provide an area for some of the best high quality mountain bike trails in the State. Approximately 60km of trail of various technical levels including an EPIC Trail that traverses through the Collie River Valley, taking in some spectacular vistas and diverse landscapes will provide a destination for local and international visitors. (an EPIC Trail is a defined iconic trail accredited by the International Mountain Bike Association.) With links to the Munda Biddi Trail through to Collie and a Trail Centre at the Kiosk at Wellington Dam as well as camping, bush walking, canoeing, white water rafting, fishing and visiting the many local attraction in the surrounding Collie River Valley and Ferguson Valley will provide a popular destination for visitors to the area.

CT20 Design and develop up to 60km of high quality mountain bike trails in Wellington National Park, with an integrated link to Collie, including an EPIC Trail of various technical levels as per the Concept Plan for the Park.

CT21 Investigate opportunities to develop private land connecting Wellington National Park to commercial attractions featuring wine and food attractions, and accommodation, cementing the location as a top trail provider, attracting intrastate, interstate and international markets.

MUNGALUP DOWNHILL NETWORK

The area south of the river south of Westralia Conservation Park and Allanson townsite is easily accessible from Collie and contains several high quality opportunities for steep mountain bike trails and downhill racing trails as well as scenic vistas, striking rocky outcrops and the Collie River gorge. The development of downhill racing fills a gap in the Collie mountain bike offering. To fill this gap, several downhill trails should be developed including different difficulties and include vehicle uplift facilities as well as signage. Direct access to this area can be obtained from Minninup Pool Trail Centre via the above Westralia Mountain Bike Trail, crossing the river at Roberts Rocks or an alternative bridge crossing the spectacular river gorge. This bridge in itself would be an attraction and experience providing magnificent views and height – allowing for bungee jumping to occur. Other access will be from Wellington Dam Walk Trail should this trail also be developed for cycling. Road access also is essential for downhill racing which can be provided from one of the many bush tracks in the area.

CT22 Design and develop several downhill racing mountain bike trails of various technical levels including uplift facilities and signage at Mungalup with an integrated link to Collie via the Westralia Mountain Bike Trail.

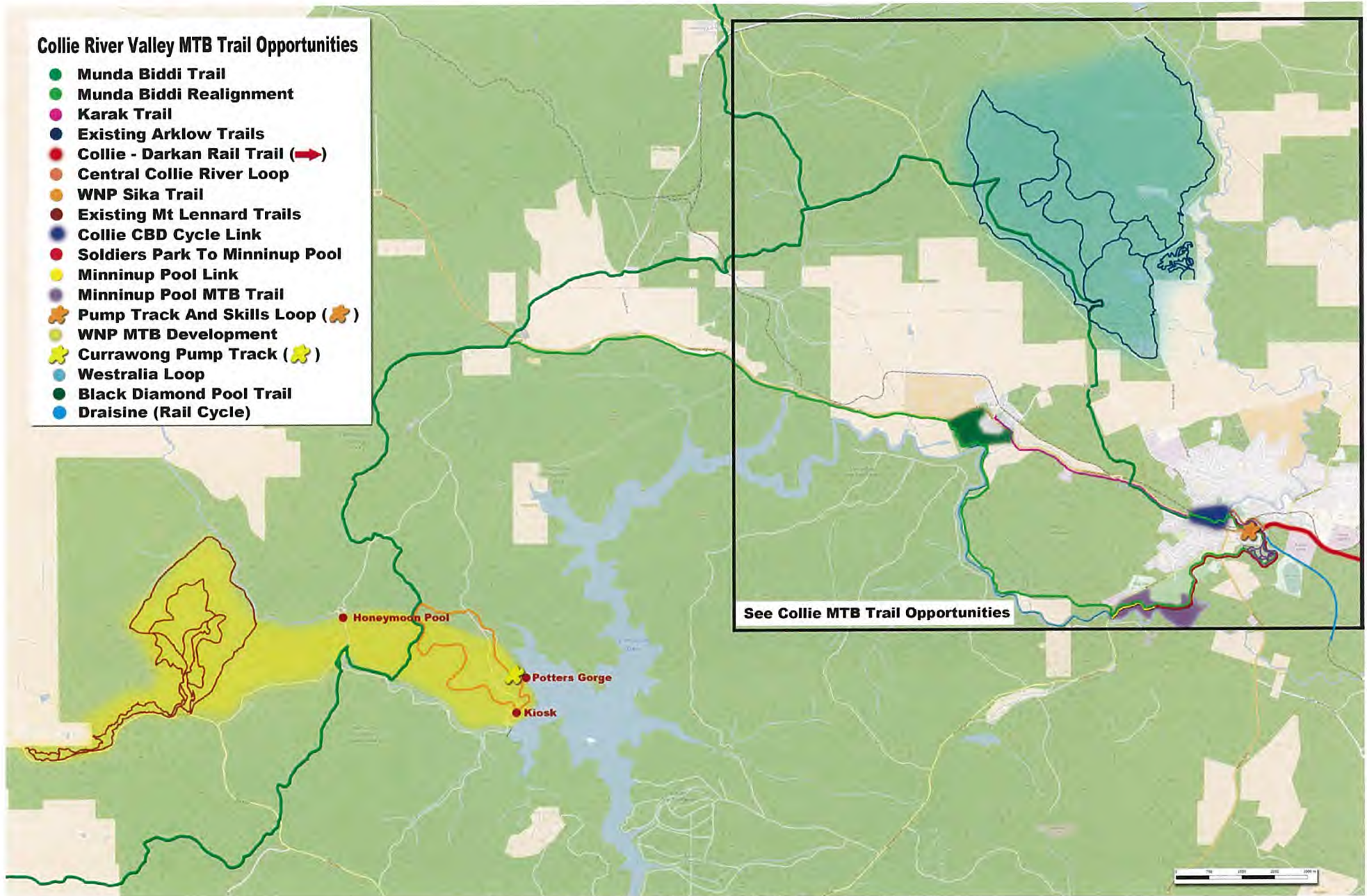


Fig. 56 – Collie River Valley Mountain Bike Trail Opportunities (Source: Erik Mellegers)

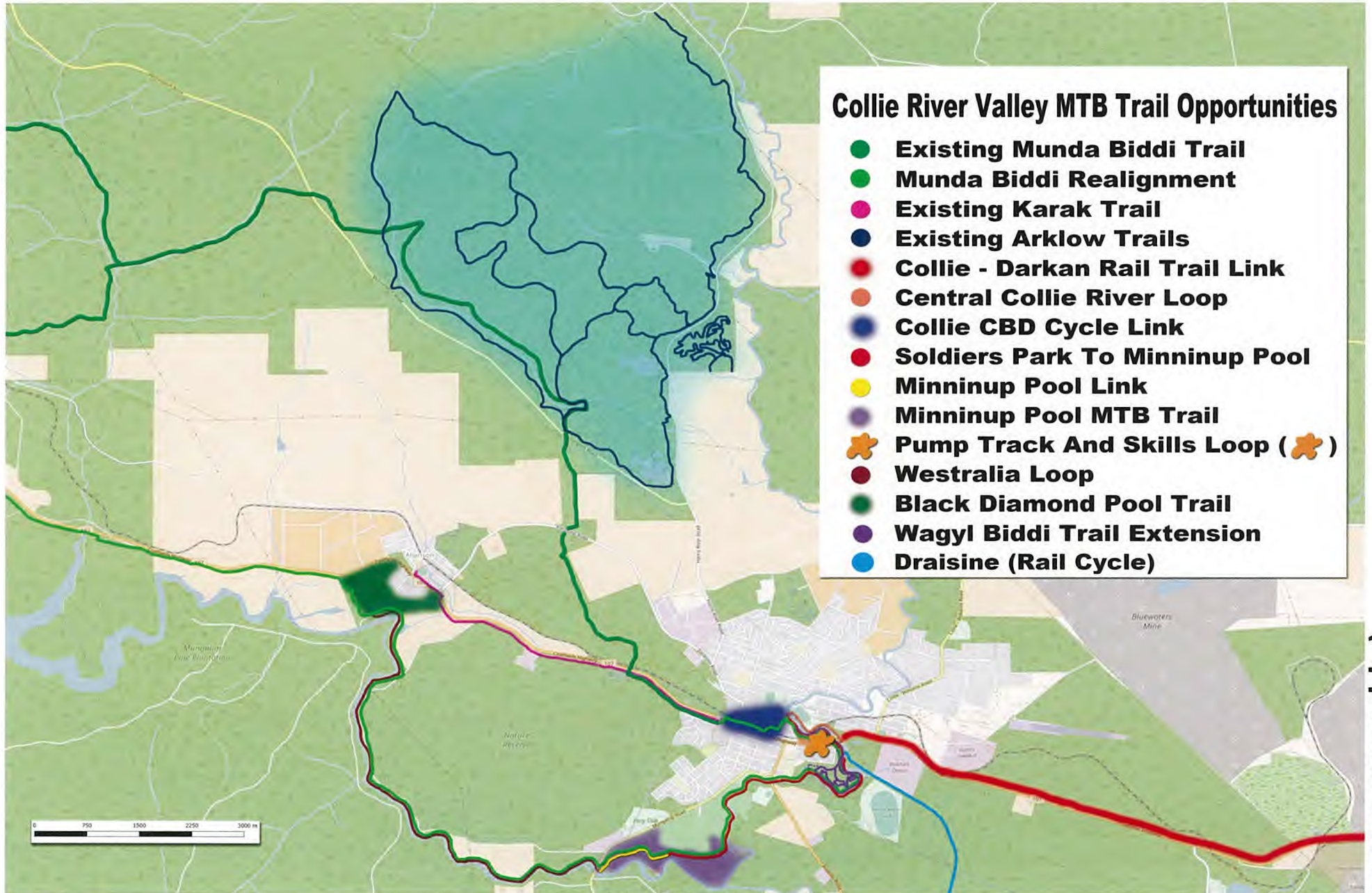


Fig. 57 – Collie Mountain Bike Trail Opportunities (Source: Erik Mellegers)

7.9 New Track Cycling Facilities

COLLIE VELODROME

This facility has been substantially used in the past and provides for the recreational use of cycling away from busy streets. However it is in such a State of disrepair so that it is unusable for cycling. In addition, the track length of 320m is an outdated length as 5 laps make a mile, however modern tracks are metric and are either 250m or 500m to be lapped 4 or 2 times to make a kilometre. These two factors mean that the Collie Velodrome will have to be substantially rebuilt to be used for any events.

CT23 Investigate (including a feasibility study) and design a velodrome to an international event standard at the existing or another location including an internal flat circuit of a minimum of 5m and access to suitable amenities and facilities.

7.10 New Road Cycle Trails

HARRIS RIVER DAM RETURN

This trail will commence at the Visitor Centre and go to Harris River Dam, a distance of 14km and includes a cumulative rise of 153m. The total distance is 28km return and is downhill the majority of the return leg. Harris River Dam is an impressive structure, tourist destination and lookout in its own right. Harris River Estate (restaurant and accommodation) is situated midway along the trail. The short urban section of the route (Prinsept St, Forrest St, Atkinson St North, Moira Rd and Patstone Rd) are part of the local bike path network while the majority of the route is on Harris River Rd which is only lightly trafficked.

CT24 Design and develop a road cycle trail from the Visitor Centre to Harris River Dam using local roads including the installation of trail head signage, signage and end of trip facilities.

COLLIE TO DONNYBROOK RETURN RACE ROUTE

This trail commences at the Visitor Centre and follows the 51.8km race route along the Coalfields Hwy, Collie-Preston Rd and the Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd from Collie to Donnybrook. This race totalling 103km has been a feature of Collie Cycling for almost 100 years and is an integral part of the Element Road Series making it a must ride for road cyclists in or visiting WA. As a return, the historic town of Donnybrook breaks the journey, providing accommodation, restaurants, cafes, repairs as well as various tourist attractions. Breaking the trail further, the Mumballup 'Mumby' Pub offers refreshment and relaxation at approximately the halfway mark so that riders are less than 30km from facilities at Collie, the Mumby Pub or Donnybrook at all times.

CT25 Design and develop a road cycle trail from the Visitor Centre to Donnybrook using local roads including the installation of trail head signage, signage, enhancement of attractions and end of trip facilities.

COOLANGATTA HILL RETURN

This trail commences at the Visitor Centre and terminates at the top of Coolangatta Hill mostly on Collie-Williams Rd. There is a total climb of 208m and is a total of 28km return. Collie CBD, the Whispering Pines Bed and Breakfast, Collie Speedway, Collie Hills Village and Collie River provide points of interest and accommodation along the route to the lookout.

CT26 Design and develop a road cycle trail from the Visitor Centre to Coolangatta Hill along Collie CBD using local roads including the installation of trail head signage, signage, enhancement of attractions and end of trip facilities.

LOWRY LOOP

This trail will commence and return to the Visitor Centre via the country village of Collie Burn, the Collie River East Branch and Stockton Lake near Shotts, a distance of 22.5km. Stockton Lake is one of the main attractions within Collie with deep blue water, camping, swimming and sufficient space for a wide variety of boats and jet skis. The trail includes Preston Rd, McAlinden Rd, Powerhouse Road, Piavanini Rd and the Coalfields Highway and is through bush areas for the majority of the distance.

- CT27 Design and develop a road cycle trail from the Visitor Centre through Collie Burn and Stockton Lake using local roads including the installation of trail head signage, signage, lookouts and end of trip facilities.



Fig. 58 – Water Craft on Stockton Lake (Source: Mail Times)

MUMBALLUP FOREST RIDE

This trail traverses the Mumballup State Forest commencing at the Visitor Centre and connects the country villages of Collie Burn, Cardiff, Mumballup and Preston. The trail follows Throssell St, Collie-Preston Rd, Mcalindan Rd and Donnybrook-Boyup Brook Rd, returning via the Collie-Preston Rd. The trail is an 80km long loop on lightly trafficked bitumen roads. Other attractions along the trail include the Collie River East Branch; the famous Mumby Pub and accommodation; Glen Mervyn Lodge; Glen Mervyn campsite; and views over Lake Kepwari and Glen Mervyn Dam.

- CT28 Design and develop a road cycle loop trail from the Visitor Centre along Collie Burn, Cardiff, Mumballup and Preston using local roads including the installation of trail head signage, signage, lookouts and end of trip facilities.

WELLINGTON DAM AND FOREST TOUR

This trail commences at the Visitor Centre and loops around Wellington Dam, connects with the Kiosk and accommodation, traverses the Dam Wall, has an optional loop around Gnomesville and King Jarrah Tree at Wellington Mill (Shire of Dardanup) and accommodation before returning along the bottom of the Dam and back along the Collie River and via the CBD to terminate at the Visitor Centre. This trail is 80km long and with the optional loop to Gnomesville and King Jarrah Tree is 100km. The route includes Harris River Rd, Mornington Rd, Gastaldo Rd, Worsley Back Rd (or alternatively Coalfields Hwy), Wellington Dam Rd, Falcon Rd, (Optional - Pile Rd, Wellington Forest Rd, Wellington Mill Rd, King Tree Rd), Mungalup Road, Minninup Pool Link, Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool Trail and Collie CBD Cycle Link. This trail links many of the attractions of the Collie Rive Valley region providing plenty of interest points and facilities including public toilets, accommodation, restaurants and cafes along the route. As a result, this trail should be developed to a national standard and be recognised as the premier road cycling trail in the region.

CT29 Design and develop a road cycle loop trail from the Visitor Centre along Harris River Rd, Mornington Rd, Gastaldo Rd, Worsley Back Rd (or alternatively Coalfields Hwy), Wellington Dam Rd, Falcon Rd, Mungalup Road, Minninup Pool Link, Soldiers Park to Minninup Pool Trail and Collie CBD Cycle Link with an optional additional loop along Pile Rd, Wellington Forest Rd, Wellington Mill Rd, King Tree Rd connecting with Gnomesville and King Jarrah Tree including the installation of trail head signage, signage, lookouts and end of trip facilities.



Fig. 59 Gnomesville Shire of Dardanup (Source: Gnomesville.com.au)

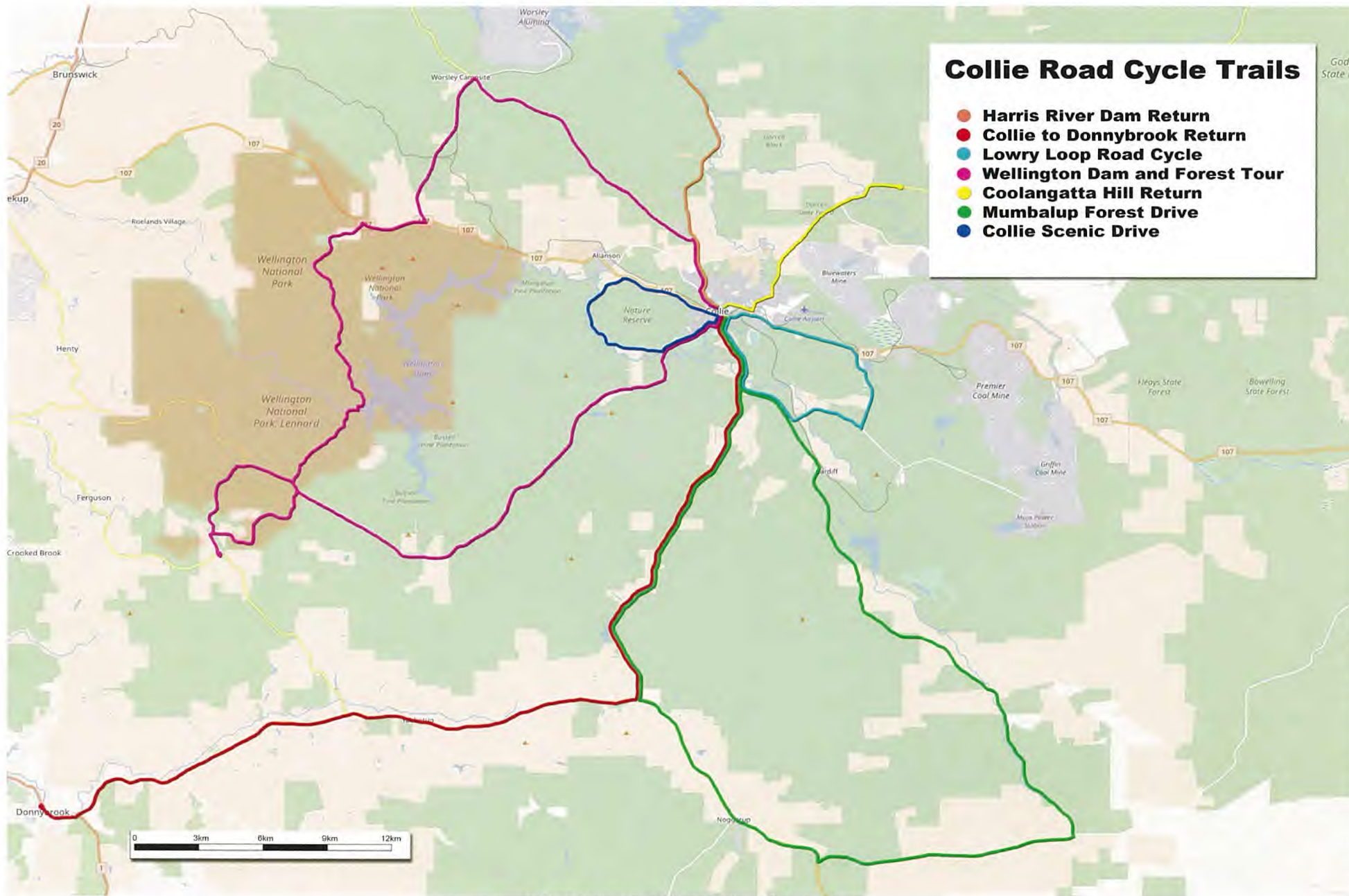


Fig. 60 – Collie River Valley Road Cycle Trails (Source: Erik Mellegers)

7.11 Cycling Events

The Collie Cycle Club, South West Cycle Club, Collie Mountain Bike Club, South West Mountain Bike Club and private event companies run various events. There is the potential for Schools to run events as well. This includes the disciplines of BMX, road cycling and various disciplines of mountain biking. There also is potential for Velodrome cycling activities and events with redevelopment of the Collie Velodrome. Handcycling and disability access trails allow for inclusion of more user groups at some of these events, as is being seen currently in some mountain biking and off road events in the State. The following offer some suggestions as to trails and trail areas and the type of events they are able to host.

ROAD RACING

This type of event is held on open bitumen sealed roads and cover a distance of between 50km and 120km. There are two State level events currently being run in the Shire of Collie by the Collie Cycle Club. This is the Tom Lowry Memorial and the Collie to Donnybrook and Return. These events attract the more experienced athlete for the racing, but generally offer a 'participation' ride of around 20km for a novice to take part during the event. The Collie to Donnybrook and return route and Collie Motorplex to McAlinden and return route are the routes used by these two events.

There are currently no local club level events being run as races, but there is opportunity for this to develop as rider numbers grow in the region. There are, however, a number of 'social' group rides that do depart from Collie and use the roads surrounding Collie for recreation and fitness.

The Wellington National Park has also been a desirable location for State level racing, having hosted the Western Australian State Road Racing Championships on a number of occasions. The hilly terrain and windy roads lend themselves to being a great racing circuit. The race has started at the Wellington Dam Kiosk and raced down through Lennard Road, up River Road, left on to Pile Road and descend back into the Dam area on Falcon Road. There are a number of laps completed of this circuit prior to the finish of the race.

These events are of State Significance, with the potential to become of National Significance with the right partners and funding. They are a great showcase of the region and the opportunities that exist to ride in the region.

ENDURANCE ROAD CYCLING EVENTS

There are a number of 'Sportif' and 'Gran Fondo' type events that are becoming popular, with a focus more on achievement of the individual riders, rather than a pure focus on racing. They generally are a long ride, over 100km, with a focus on finishing the ride rather than how fast the rider is able to complete it in. They tend to have a more social and relaxed atmosphere and attract a much wider demographic than pure road racing. These events are capable of hosting over one thousand entries.

There are a number of potential routes, but the most suited would involve a ride from Collie to Wellington Dam and return. There is a ride in the Perth Hills Area that is named '3 Dams' and '5 Dams' that links together a number of water bodies around a long circuit. Something similar would be able to be hosted in the Collie region.

A key consideration with Endurance Cycling Events is the ability to stage them over a number of days. Events staged this way would increase the economic return for the region with accommodation and other outgoing expenses being spent directly in the local economy.

These events tend to be of State Significance, although if marketed effectively are a great gateway to National Marketing and National Significance. They are a good avenue to showcase the local routes that are ideal for cycle touring.



Fig. 61 – Collie to Donnybrook & Return, Finishing Sprint, Throssell Street, Collie (Source: pdcc.asn.au)

CRITERIUM RACING

Criterion Racing is similar to road racing, but is staged on a smaller circuit with the competitors completing multiple laps of the same circuit for a given amount of time. They race from between 20 minutes and an hour, and are visible to spectators the entire race. The race circuit is anywhere from 600m to 2km long.

Most competitive Criterion racing is held during the period of late Spring, Summer and early Autumn, and generally are part of a series of races that accumulate points for riders to determine a series winner. The other regular Criterion racing is where a single race is linked to a Road Race and raced on the following day, or the evening before. Criteriums are very exciting to watch as there are plenty of corners that the riders navigate and accelerate out of, and spectators are always close to the action.

Similar to Road Racing, most Criteriums are marketed at experienced athletes, but there is regularly a participation ride of a short duration for kids and locals to ride around the closed circuit.

The Tom Lowry Memorial Road Race in Collie has a Criterion race event the day prior to the event, and the Collie to Donnybrook will most likely see the return of a Criterion Race in 2018 to encourage overnight visitation of competitors in Collie. There have been Criteriums raced in the main street of town as part of a South West Criterion series in the past.

These events tend to be of State Significance. They are a great draw card for spectators to cycling events as they are able to see all of the racing close up. There are several options in the Collie CBD to host a State level Criterion race and showcase the town to the athletes and spectators.

VELODROME RACING

Velodrome racing is a very specific cycling discipline that requires a closed oval shaped circuit with banked corners and single speed fixed gear bicycles. Similar to Criterium Racing it brings the racing to the public as the spectators can line the outer barricades of the track and watch the riders around the entire circuit. Velodrome sizes vary from 133m, 250m and up to 500m for sanctioned racing. The standard for world championship events is 250m.

There are a number of track cycling disciplines including the individual time trial, team time trial, sprint, points race, scratch race, pursuit racing, madison, omnium and kieren racing. These vary from individual timed events to mass start events with over 20 riders on the track at the same time. Most Competition is held over the warmer summer months on outdoor velodromes, although enclosed velodromes can be utilised all year round. Spectators can watch a variety of cycling disciplines in one session.

Races are marketed to experienced athletes who have the skill and confidence to ride and race on a banked track. Riding a velodrome is, however, a great experience and opportunity for a less confident riders. Being on a closed circuit removes any conflict with other traffic, as is found on roads and foot paths.

Collie has held a number of large events since the opening of the Collie Velodrome in the mid 1900's. Although it has fallen into disrepair, there is a potential to revive track cycling in Collie and have the opportunity to be able to race all disciplines of cycling in the Collie region. Racing schedules often extend over a number of days, which has the potential to increase visitation stays in the region. Events which could be run on a refurbished Collie Velodrome would be of State and National Significance.

CYCLOCROSS RACING

Cyclocross is a mix of Criterium Racing and Off Road Cycling. Originating as an event which was run in the road cycling 'Off Season' in the middle of winter in Europe and America. It uses bikes which resemble road racing bicycles, but that are equipped with slightly wider knobby tires and frames that allow for some mud clearance. Racing occurs on a short circuit marked out in an open area, usually with some soft sand or muddy sections in addition to a number of obstacles or hurdles that the riders need to dismount and carry their bike over before remounting and continuing racing. Racing is held over a set time around the course, ranging from 20 minutes to 1 hour. This style of event is catered towards the spectator and provides exciting racing which can be viewed for the duration of the event.

Collie has the opportunity to hold Cyclocross events at a number of locations within the district. With the appropriate support a dedicated track is able to be set up at this, or similar location, and host dedicated Cyclocross event as part of the State Cyclocross series. Events would be run at a level of State significance, and would be able to be part of other events held over the same weekend to encourage visitation stays in the region.

MOUNTAIN BIKE CROSS COUNTRY RACING

Cross Country Mountain Bike Racing (XC MTB Racing) are races held on technical single track mountain bike circuit of approximately 6 km in length for a set number of laps. Each racing category will race for close to one hour. Slower grades will do two or three laps, and the elite riders will complete six laps of the circuit. Spectators mass at the start/finish area and will also head out along the race circuit at technical trail features to watch the riders as they compete. The courses are largely designed to test a riders technical ability.

Collie has hosted a round of the State Cross Country Series annually since 2014. The course used has been based from Harris River Estate Winery and links into "Rays Trail" in the adjacent Forest. The course is highly technical and aimed at the more experience rider. Competitor numbers normally range from 150 to 200 riders for a State level event.

These events are a great opportunity for participants to stay for an extra day and explore other local mountain bike trails. The event can also be partnered with another event such as a Cyclocross race or an

endurance event for a weekend of racing. They tend to be events of State Significance, although there is the opportunity to host a round of the national XC MTB Series with the right infrastructure and organisation. This would most likely be hosted in the Wellington National Park.



Fig. 62 - Wagly Biddi, Collie (Source: Why I #VisitCollie)

MOUNTAIN BIKE MARATHON RACING

MTB Marathon racing is similar to XC MTB racing but is held over a much longer course and takes in a much larger area of forest. Normally ranging from 80km through to 160km for the full course, with shorter 20km and 40km courses offered for the novice rider. Most of the course will generally use forestry roads with sections of more technical single track every 5km – 10km. The events are designed to test a riders endurance as well as technical riding ability.

The Wellington National Park is an area locally that has held MTB endurance events in the past. It has many tracks and trails through the park that are able to be utilised, plus has a range of more technical single track and steep climbs that are ideal to challenge the riders. The scenery throughout the park is magnificent and would be a drawcard to encourage riders to come and participate.

MTB Marathon Racing can also be held over a number of days, and is often called MTB Marathon Stage Racing. These events have a variety of courses staged over a number of days. These are regularly run over four or five days, and will contain five or six stages of varying distance and difficulty. The Collie Region is ideal for this style of racing as it has a variety of areas of MTB Trails which will give the riders variation of racing from day to day. This includes Wellington National Park, Westralia and Arklow Forest.

Marathon and Stage Racing events are normally run independently of other events and series. These events are of State and National significance. They are able to draw over a thousand competitors with the right event management and funding. It is one of the premier ways to showcase the region and availability of trails and tourism.

GRAVEL RACING

Gravel Racing is a fairly new form of off-road racing and is run on a much less technical course. The races are normally defined by a long distance course using only fire roads through the forest. Participants are able to use their choice of mountain, hybrid or Cyclocross bicycle depending on their preference. It is very similar in structure to single day MTB Marathon Racing, but with the exception of technical single track sections. Distances and organisation is the same as Marathon MTB Racing. The structure of the course opens the event up to a wider range of participants who do not believe they have the skill to ride the more difficult sections of trail offered up in Marathon MTB events.

These events are of State Significance, although can be a great marketing tool nationally for what the area has to offer for the less serious off road cyclist.

GRAVEL RIDING / TOURING

Gravel Riding and Touring is less structured than an organised race. It will take riders on a marked course, like the Munda Biddi Trail Cycle Trail, or riders will make their own way across the forest using a mix of fire trails to get to their destination.

It is largely done independent of event organisations, and offered as organised group events or self guided solo touring.

The forestry areas around Collie and the Wellington National Park make for some great local gravel riding and touring. Incorporating existing tracks like the Munda Biddi Trail and old logging and forestry roads make for a great adventure out in the forest.

ENDURO MOUNTAIN BIKING

Enduro Mountain Biking is a relatively new off road sport. It takes the more technical sport of Downhill Mountain Biking and mixes it with normal Trail Riding. During an Enduro event competitors will ride down four or five timed 'Runs', and ride from the end of one timed run to the start of the next. The times runs are held on primarily downhill technical sections of trail. These trail sections are around 3km long, and involve some technical downhill sections and some pedalling sections (as opposed to pure 'Downhill MTB Racing' which uses only highly technical downhill trails with very little pedalling required).

There is a series of Enduro events around the State, and Collie would be able to host an event once a suitable number of trails are built in one area. There is an opportunity for trails to be built locally in the Arklow forest that are able to host such an event. Events that could be hosted would be of State Significance, and could showcase the region and availability of good technical mountain bike trails.



Fig. 63 – Wagyl Bididi, Collie (Source: Why I #VisitCollie)

DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN BIKING

Downhill Mountain Biking is a very specific discipline. It requires a very high level of skill, specific bicycle and protective equipment. It is a very high risk sport. A course will have an elevation drop of over 100m vertically and cover only 1km. Downhill MTB racing is a great spectator sport, with riders passing at very high speed over very technical and tricky trails.

Locations for events are limited in the immediate surrounds of Collie, but are regularly held in the Ferguson Valley at the 'Wellington Mills Downhill Track'. A common occurrence is to run a Downhill event one day and follow with an Enduro MTB event the following day. This is a good opportunity for Collie to capitalise on riders that would already be in the area. Downhill events would be of State Significance.

MOUNTAIN BIKE ORIENTEERING

Mountain bike orienteering sees competitors navigate along tracks and trails, and route choice becomes important while riding at speed. The bicycles used have special map holder devices mounted on the handlebars for the riders to navigate.

There have been events held in Wellington National Park, but there is no local club or organisation which takes part. Collie and surrounds are a great location for the sport, with plenty of open forestry trails in the Arklow, Westralia and Wellington forest which could be utilised.

BMX RACING

BMX Racing, originally called 'Bicycle Moto Cross', has recently been elevated to an Olympic Sport. Many young riders take part in racing on local tracks and will travel throughout the State and interstate to take part in racing series. Competitors range in age, but is predominantly dominated by the youth categories. The track is a circuit specifically built for the BMX bicycles and riders start alongside one another at a 'start gate' on top of an 8m high ramp, which is 10m wide. The track itself needs to be at least 6m wide and has a series of jumps and berms which the riders race around before crossing the finish line.

The Collie BMX Racing Track has hosted many events over the years, but being an older track is not built to the specifications required for State level racing. Collie BMX Club hosts local training and racing weekly on the track at Wallsend Street. For State Level racing riders travel to Bunbury, which has a track built to the required specifications for State and National level racing.

24 HOUR CYCLE RACING

24 Hour Cycling Endurance Racing is organised for both road events and off road events. Competitors will race through the day and the night for 24 hours continuously. These races are not only a test of physical endurance but also of mental toughness. Many 24 hour events will also have a shorter 6 hour or 12 hour category for competitors to test their mettle before they enter a 24 hour event.

An ideal circuit for 24 hour road racing in the area is the Collie Motorplex, which can be closed to all other traffic and has good facilities for the riders and event organisers. 24 hour mountain bike racing can also be held in the area, with plenty of tracks and trails that can be used for a circuit. One of the biggest issues with 24 hour mountain bike racing is providing facilities for the riders to use, such as toilets, showers and food. There are a number of locations, such as the Harris River Estate Winery and the Wellington National Park Kiosk that would be able to provide some of the services and are close to tracks and trails that can be used. There is also an opportunity to mark a track around the bushland at the Collie Motorplex and hold a 24 hour Road race and a 24 hour mountain bike simultaneously.

CT30 Investigate and develop Cycling events of various lengths, at National and State levels, in conjunction with the Collie and South West Cycle Clubs and/or private enterprise.



Fig. 64 – Cycle Race at the Collie Motorplex (Source: collierivervalley.com.au)

8. Off-Road Trails

8.1 Strategic Context

BACK ON TRACK: WA STATE TRAIL BIKE STRATEGY 2008

This strategy states that ‘Recreational trail bike riding is an outdoor physical activity that families can engage together which is exhilarating, challenging and delivers social, economic and health benefits.’

The objectives of the State Trail Bike Strategy are:

1. To identify suitable locations for the managed use of trail bikes in order to provide an attractive alternative to areas where trail bike use should be discouraged.
2. To balance the reasonable demand for all lawful types of trail bike riding with the need to protect the environment and the amenity of the community and other recreationalists.
3. To develop a continuous process that reflects the dynamics of changing land use and patterns of trail bike use.

The Trail Bike Strategy also identified areas around Dwellingup, Collie, Capel and Greenbushes have potential for development into managed facilities, and an extensive trails network could be developed in the region.

Because of the confusion around the legality of trail bike riding the below ‘What I ride = Where I ride’ diagram has been developed.



Fig. 65 – What I ride = Where I ride (Source: Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries)

This diagram demonstrates that there is a requirement for recognised trail bike trails as many of the areas available to other trail users do not permit trail bike riders. The above requirements are similar for 4WD drivers.

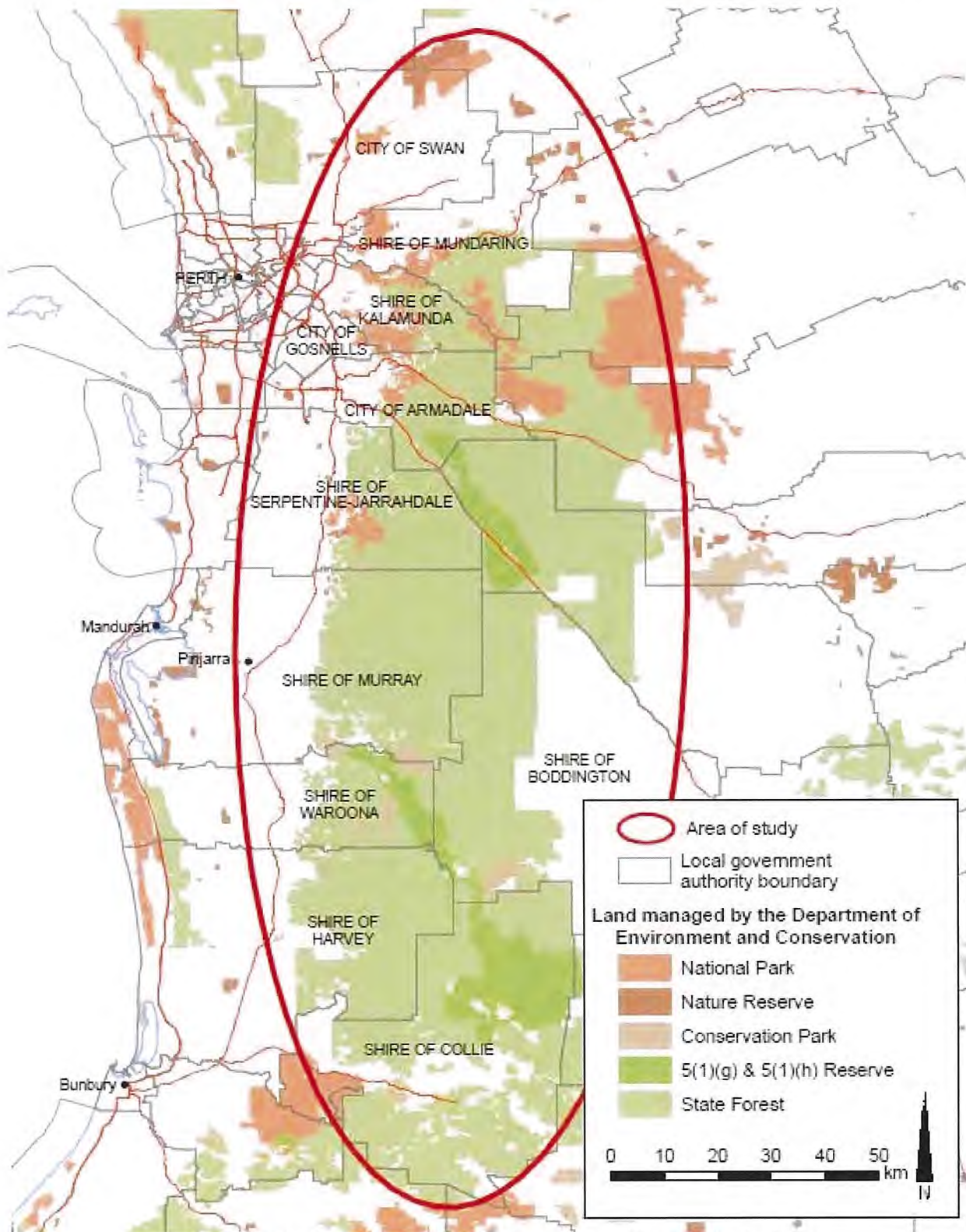


Fig. 66 – Off-Road Vehicle Regional Study Area (Source: Regional Land Use Planning Study)

4WD (FOUR WHEEL DRIVE) STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Nil, there is no Strategic Plan at either the State or National level for the development of 4WD Trails.

8.2 Background

Collie has a long and successful history with motorsport. The Collie Motorplex, Collie Speedway and Collie Motorcross are large well used facilities which demonstrate both the local demand for motorised sport, but also the willingness of people to travel from Perth and beyond to participate, spectate and support these motorsports. Both facilities hold events which attract thousands of visitors to each event. The Hon Mick Murray MLA, Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation stated: *“Already last month, the Gazzanats event was held at the Collie Motorplex and attracted 3000 people, including entrants, buddies and spectators”* (Collie Mail 19/03/18).

8.3 Trail Categories (Trail Bike Trails)

LENGTH

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Short | Up to 15km |
| Medium | Between 15km and 30km |
| Long | Between 30km and 50km |
| Short Endurance | 50km - 80km |
| Medium Endurance | 80km – 100km |
| Long Endurance | More than 100km |

TRAIL TYPE*

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Destination Riding / Touring | Destination riding is most closely aligned with the experiences sought by bushwalkers and mountain bike riders. A destination ride is a ride to somewhere and back again. It can range from a couple of kilometres of single loop or up to many hundreds of kilometres covered over several days. Short destination rides can be undertaken solely within forest areas and on forest trails, while the longer rides will almost certainly require an element of on-road riding to connect sequences of trails. |
| Cross Country | Cross-country riding is commonly associated with deserts and wide open spaces that are devoid of formed roads. Prevalent in the United States, cross-country riding in Western Australia is typically confined to private farms or beach and dune areas. |
| Family Trails | Research indicates an increasing demand for destination trail facilities that are accessible by family groups. Families report that trail riding enables the family to spend time together outdoors. Current vehicle registration and driver's license legislation precludes this activity from occurring on public land other than designated off road vehicle areas. |
| Freestyle | Freestyle riding is usually an extension of cross-country riding and typically refers to the discovery or building of obstacles such as jumps or other challenges. There is a parallel between the skate park and skiing terrain park culture and freestyle dirt bike riding, with proponents typically being younger and riding motocross bikes. |
| Circuit Riding | Motocross-style circuits can be formal or informal and provide a high-adrenalin experience in a relatively confined space. Motocross circuits typically have tight banked corners and jumps connected by short |

straights and provide the rider with racing practice or riding challenge. The circuits can vary in technical challenge from a simple flat loop for young riders up to international level super cross circuits requiring a special permit to access.

*State Trail Bike Strategy. This is equally applicable for 4WD, except that these vehicles are more frequently registered and if registered can be driven on gazetted roads.

8.4 Off-Road Trail Audit

There are no designated trails or areas for Trail Bikes within the Collie River Valley or wider region with the closest Trail Bike Park at Kirup, 66km away. There are currently only 6 listed trails or areas which accept Trails Bikes within the State as follows:

- Gnangara, Department of Parks and Wildlife;
- Pinjar, Department of Parks and Wildlife;
- Lancelin and Ledge Point, Shire of Gingin;
- Kwinana, City of Kwinana;
- York, Shire of York; and
- Karratha, City of Karratha.

There is one 4WD network within Collie River Valley which includes the following trails - Lennard Track, Sailors Gully and the Jump Ups. This is not heavily promoted due the environmental sensitivity of the National Park and the seasonality of the trail. The trail is closed during the winter months to reduce environmental damage. This trail is of medium difficulty, increasing in difficulty depending on the weather conditions. This trail is well used mainly due to the lack of other dedicated 4WD facilities. It is not intended to increase the use of this trail due to the environmental damage that would be created.

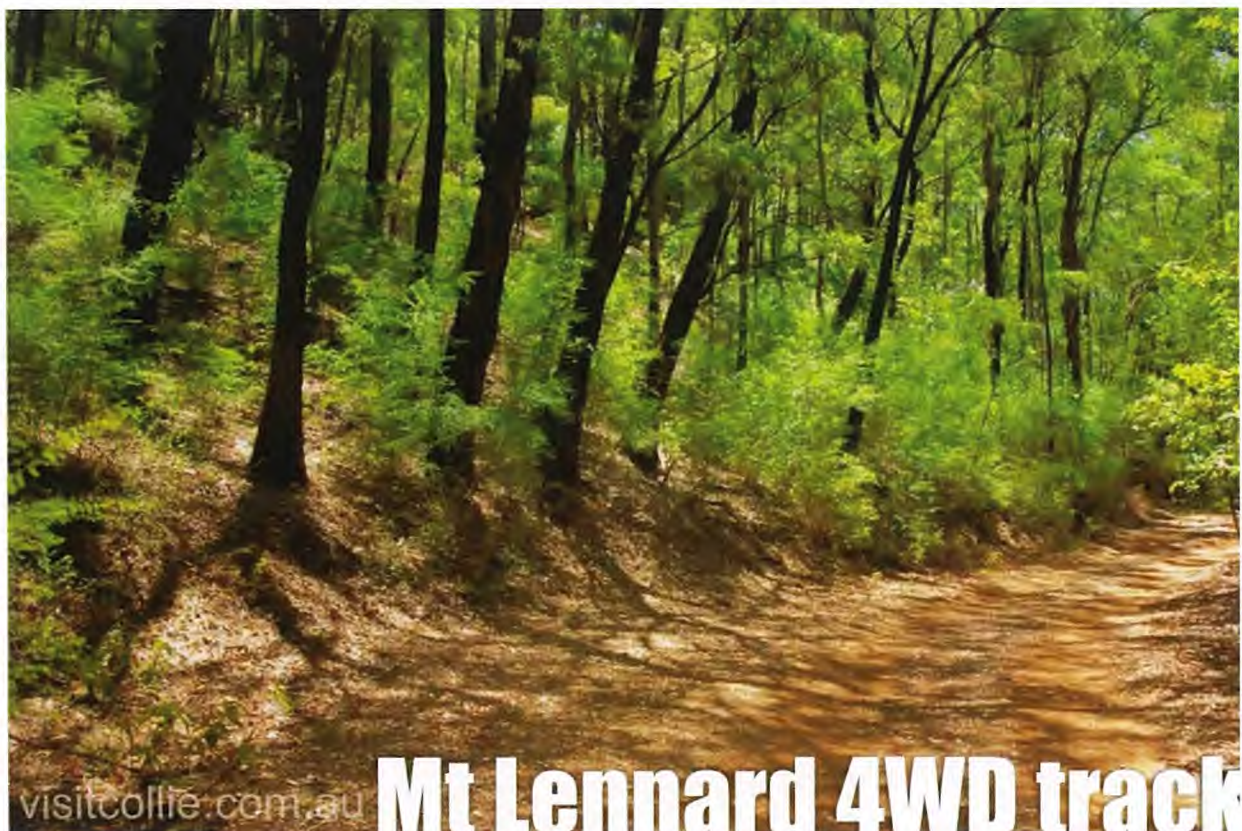


Fig. 67 – Lennard 4WD Track, Collie (Source: visitcollie.com.au)

8.5 Off-Road Trail Opportunities

As there are no designated trails or areas for Trail Bikes and one 4WD trail which is not intended to be further developed, the need exists for all types of Trail Bike and 4WD Trails to be designed and developed within Collie River Valley.

PERTH – ALBANY 4WD TRAIL (4WD Association)

This trail commences on the outskirts of Perth and uses gravel roads to reach Albany through Collie and a number of other tourist and historical towns. The exact route is flexible depending on weather and road conditions with the route provided through a mobile phone application which will be frequently updated according to these conditions.



Fig. 68 – Perth-Albany 4WD Trail (Source: 4WD Association WA)

OT01 Design and maintain the Perth to Albany Off-Road Trail including its route through Collie and the development of a mobile phone application to provide guidance about the route, local tourist attractions, accommodation and services.

POTENTIAL OFF-ROAD PARK, MUJA (Private)

This area includes the inactive Muja Pit (Yancoal) and Premier Coal Mine 3 as well as mine rehabilitated areas adjacent to Lake Kepwari and the Collie Motorplex, connecting between and with these facilities. The proximity of these facilities as well as their presence within Collie will give the Off-Road Park a competitive advantage and enhance Collie’s reputation for adventure sport. This Off-Road Park will cater for both 4WD and Trail Bike users on the same site with a common Trail Centre, management and facilities, but following different trails designed for their particular needs.