



Tasmanian Mountain Bike Plan

Project Outline

OBJECTIVE

To develop a state mountain bike plan for Tasmania that will provide a framework for the coordinated development and marketing of mountain bike opportunities in Tasmania.

CONSULTATION

Sport and Recreation Tasmania has engaged recreational planning consultants from Inspiring Place to undertake the key stakeholder and community consultations and develop the final plan. Inspiring Place has partnered with DirtArt – a trail design and construction company – to assist in the inventory of existing mountain bike facilities and identifying potential great mountain bike rides.

The consultation program will include meetings and other contact with key stakeholders, forums with land managers, and three community forums (one in each region). An online survey/feedback form will also be available to any interested individuals throughout the project period.

It is expected the community forums will be held during June 2009 and the final draft plan will be released for public comment in August 2009.

OUTPUTS

The final plan will include:

- an inventory of known mountain bike trails or venues and proposed mountain bike developments
- a supply and demand assessment that considers the different styles of riding and identifies gaps in provision
- a recommended list of potential 'great rides'
- assessment criteria used to classify 'great rides'
- a marketing plan for the great mountain bike rides of Tasmania
- a list that identifies existing or proposed trails that have the potential to be International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) EPIC rides with estimates of works/likely costs to develop the ride(s) to a suitable standard
- criteria to assess new trail developments
- a recommended trail classification and signage system for Tasmania
- prioritised strategies and actions to address current issues and help Tasmania realise its mountain bike potential.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The research paper *Mountain Biking in Tasmania: a summary of current trends and future opportunities* was published by Sport and Recreation Tasmania in July 2005. The report noted the rapid growth in mountain biking and identified issues around the sustainable management of the activity. The report noted the potential for Tasmania to be recognised as a mountain bike destination.

The *Trails Tasmania Strategy* was released by the State Government in December 2007. The strategy recognised the strong and growing demand for mountain biking trails and identified a lack of provision to meet current demand, particularly for mountain biking trails and facilities close to where people live.

The strategy recommended the development of a state mountain bike plan and presented several strategies directly related to mountain biking, the development of high-quality trails and mountain bike parks. The strategy recognised the potential to market a suite of 'great rides' for the state and suggested Tasmania was well placed to be the first state in Australia to have a trail recognised by the IMBA as an IMBA EPIC.

Tourism Tasmania commissioned a report *Mountain Bike Tourism Market Profile for Tasmania* that was released in December 2008. The report assessed the potential mountain bike visitor market for Tasmania and reinforced several recommendations of the *Trails Tasmania Strategy* including: the need to develop a state mountain

bike plan; the concept of developing and marketing a series of 'great rides'; supporting the planning and development of a range of high-quality trail and mountain bike parks around Tasmania; and the potential marketing power of an IMBA EPIC.

The State Government committed \$4 million in the 2008/09 state budget to support tracks, trails and city bikeways. Sport and Recreation Tasmania has allocated \$35 000 of this funding directly to the development of this mountain bike plan.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Sport and Recreation Tasmania will act as the lead agency and sponsor for the project. A steering committee for the project has been established with representatives from Sport and Recreation Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania, the Parks and Wildlife Service, Tourism Tasmania and the Wellington Park Management Trust.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Project updates and additional information can be obtained from the Sport and Recreation Tasmania website at

www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/mtbplan

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