

Regional Mountain Bike Trails



Background

The Nationals WA are committed to establishing mountain bike trails, hubs and events in regional communities to ensure Western Australia becomes a destination of choice for domestic and international participants.

More than 120,000 mountain bikes are sold each year in WA, and a total of 19 per cent of Western Australians own a mountain bike. More than 50 competitive mountain bike events take place in WA every year with 1200 riders taking part in the Cape to Cape event in the South West and 1000 in an annual Dwellingup event.

There are more than 30 mountain bike trails in regional WA, ranging from local tracks and nature trails to a network of high-quality competition trails around Margaret River and the multi-day Munda Biddi Trail from Mundaring to Albany.

Well planned, purpose-built mountain bike trails attract local and international tourists, create employment and stimulate regional economies.

While regions like Peel, South West and Great Southern are already well positioned to capture the benefits of mountain biking, the Pilbara, Kimberley, Wheatbelt, Gascoyne, Goldfields and Midwest need to be part of this growing economy.

Trail Network for the South

The Nationals WA plan is to underpin the development of a world-class network of trails that offer a variety of experiences and cater for diverse styles of riding while maintaining local character.

Our initiative supports foundations that are already in place not only for high level competition but also for recreational groups and family participation. Examples of existing ideas include:

South West Mountain Bike Hubs: Development of Pemberton, Collie and Margaret River into a mountain bike destination of “National Significance” with world-class trails and supporting infrastructure hubs and events centres in each of the three towns.

Great Southern Adventure Trails Project: An adventure tourism investment in major trail centres and hubs for mountain biking and other trail types. These include the Valley of the Giants, Porongurup and Torndirrup Trail Centres as well as the Denmark and Albany Trail Hubs.

Peel Trails Plan: Potential trails and hubs developments at Dwellingup, Waroona and Boddington at sites identified by the Peel Development Commission. Dwellingup has been listed as a priority project because of its natural linkages to the Perth and Peel Mountain Bike Strategy.

Northam Mountain Bike Trail Network: The Nationals WA support the establishment of an international-quality Mountain Bike trail network with Northam as a hub to take advantage of the vast tourism opportunities of the Avon Region.

Trail Network for the North

The Nationals WA are committed to supporting mountain bike participation and associated tourism opportunities in northern WA, mirroring investment and planning in the south.

The development of local mountain bike trails in communities across the north with linkages to trails planned in the Northern Territory will deliver a plan for initial trails in Geraldton, Exmouth, Karratha, Broome, Halls Creek and Kununurra.

Kimberley and Pilbara Trail Development: Construction of sustainable eco-sensitive mountain bike trails in appropriate Pilbara and Kimberley localities as part of the Northern Mountain Bike Route. We also intend to develop iconic mountain biking events in the Pilbara and Kimberley that attract participation from domestic and international competitors to grow the sport in the north.

Exmouth Tourism Trails: Construction of mountain bike trails in Exmouth to complement existing aquatic-based tourist attraction is also a high priority.

Regional Mountain Bike Trails and Events Fund

The Nationals WA are committed to accelerating development of the network across the regional Western Australia and if re-elected will allocate \$24 million through Royalties for Regions to a Regional Mountain Bike Trails and Events Fund.

The fund will be delivered over four years through grant rounds administered by the Department of Sport and Recreation and allocated through Local Governments and Regional Development Commissions.

Where possible, the fund will focus on leveraging additional funding from other government and non-government sources to develop a State wide network of high quality trails, facilities and associated infrastructure.

The Nationals WA commit \$24 million over four years to deliver a plan for regional mountain bike trails.

The Nationals WA welcome your feedback on this policy:

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