

Mt Hallowell Concept Plan

The Mt Hallowell Concept Plan is an ambitious plan for potential mountain biking and walking trail network in the Mount Hallowell reserve.

Our primary interest is the proposed plan for part of the Bibbulmun Track to be shared with mountain bikes and walkers, as well as need for the management of walker safety, trail maintenance, dieback, the protection of flora and fauna.

The proposal includes:

- A walking trail network that meets the needs of residents by consolidating existing informal tracks and firebreaks with the Bibbulmun Track and Sheila Hill Trail. The proposed walking trail network is 1.7km in length.
- Dual-use (walking and cycling) loop trail of 2.2km in length. The primary purpose of the dual-use trail is to connect the walking precinct to the mountain bike precinct.
- A mountain bike (MTB) trail network that consists of single-track cross-country style trails suitable for a diverse range of users and a skills area. The trail network will include an inclusive trail suitable for access by cyclists using hand-crank cycles or other all-abilities cycle equipment suitable for people living with disabilities. The total length of the MTB trail network is 8.8km (approximately 68ha)

The BTF has provided feedback on the Concept Plan. The following concerns were noted:

1. There has been no consultation with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation regarding the Plan's "dual use" trail involving a section of the Bibbulmun Track.
2. There is no risk assessment or impact survey regarding the impact of multiple bike and walking trails (planned activities) on the flora and fauna, and Bibbulmun Track
3. There does not appear to be any management plan in place to address these risks and for the ongoing monitoring and management of protecting flora and fauna
4. It is not known whether the 4 pages of recommendations of the 2014 Phytophthora Dieback Occurrence Survey – Mt Hallowell Reserve 46618 Shire of Denmark have been implemented. There is only one recommendation in the (4/2/21) Phytophthora Dieback Occurrence Survey – Mt Hallowell Reserve 46618 Shire of Denmark report - *That planned activities be subject to a risk assessment process as defined in Section B of the PDMM*
5. The *historic* sample locations are different to the 2014 doc, (6 in 2021 report and 14 in the 2014 report) so it is not known why the other historic samples were not included in the 2021 report as *most of these were infested areas* located in the concept design.

These considerations are critical to the management of the area and planned activities, so your public comment is strongly encouraged.

Background information

2014 Broad Scale survey of Phytophthora Dieback distribution across Mt Hallowell Reserve, Denmark and Reserve Hygiene Management Plan

P 11 Survey and MP-V1

Section 5. Disease Management Recommendations

1. No soil movement or extraction within priority areas
5. Develop annual monitoring and treatment program in dieback free protection areas

P12. Survey and MP-V1

2. Track rationalisation

- a. there are a large number of interconnected vehicle access tracks within the reserve...
They do however present a source of infested soil that can be transported Closure of all non essential tracks will reduce the risk and should be considered
7. Re-survey
.... A full interpretation must be undertaken after 3 years of original survey.

Observations

The Concept Plan appears to contradict the recommendations of the **Mt Hallowell Reserve Management Plan 2008**

P11.

Recommendation 2.2.1 The listing of the reserve to go under the appropriate heading of the relevant heritage list

Recommendation 2.2.2 The Core Area of the reserve should be protected from any further impacts, including clearing, feral animals and walk tracks

Recommendation 2.2.4 Ensure that development surrounding the reserve is consistent with the objective of preserving it as a conservation priority area.

The Concept Plan does not appear to be in alignment with the Denmark Shire Management Plan or survey, or how it plans to address these concerns.

If you would like to provide your comments on the Mt Hallowell Concept Plan , please visit <https://www.yourdenmark.wa.gov.au/talking-trails-at-mt-hallowell>

Comments close 4pm Mon 1 Aug 2022.