

ALBURY MOUNTAIN BIKE STRATEGY

APPENDICES

May 2021



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Prepared by Common Ground Trails Pty Ltd for Albury City council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors of the Albury MTB Strategy respectfully acknowledge that the project area is Wiradjuri Country, and that the Wiradjuri people are the traditional custodians who have a rich social, spiritual and historical connection to this country, which is as strong today, as it was in the past.

Common Ground Trails wishes to acknowledge the significant contribution of the project steering committee as well as the valuable input from, stakeholders, organisation representatives, users and individuals.

Images Common Ground Trails unless otherwise noted on image

Cover image: Riding the trails on Nail Can Hill. Image credit: Visit Albury Wodonga

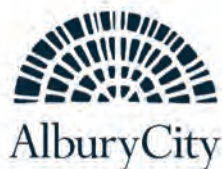
This page: View from Nail Can Hill. Image credit: Visit Albury Wodonga

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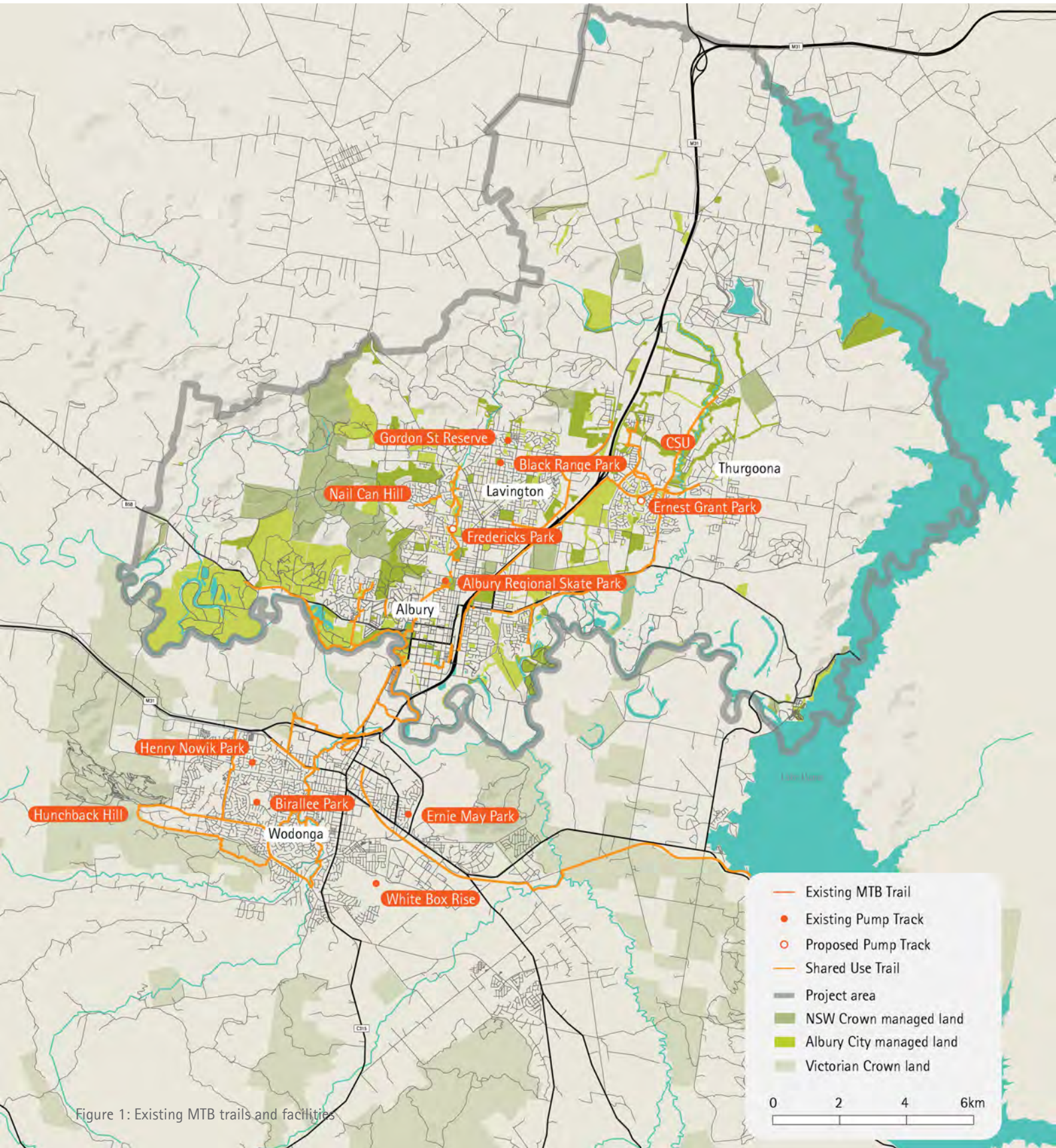
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APPENDIX A - EXISTING TRAIL STATUS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Key to development of a successful MTB Strategy is a good understanding the existing trail and infrastructure offer within Albury City and the immediate context. This status report provides a summary of the current situation. Figure 1 below locates local trails and facilities.



BROADER CONTEXT

There are several destinations within comfortable driving distance of Albury which offer local riders a diverse mix of riding opportunities. There is also opportunity for Albury to become a gateway destination for travelling riders accessing these and other networks in the Victorian High Country.

Riding destinations highlighted in the rider survey and in discussions with locals have been outlined in Figure 2 and located in context of Albury in Figure 3.

Bright and nearby Falls Creek are mountain biking destinations that attract a number of tourists each year. Albury is reasonably well placed to attract people driving from Sydney to these destinations.

There is also an opportunity for Albury to add to the mountain biking offering and attract seasoned riders who may be looking for a new mountain biking experience. Nail Can Hill trails are rocky and technical in nature, and so riders looking for this type of challenge may look to test their skills in Albury.

For residents of Albury/Wodonga, the High Country trails are within driving distance on a weekend and in the survey some residents noted the trails as a reason for moving to Albury.

In the rider survey, Yackandandah was a very popular riding option close to Albury. It was especially popular with the beginner and intermediate riding group. Albury residents of this level stated that they preferred to ride at Yackandandah as it was more within their skill set than Nail Can Hill.

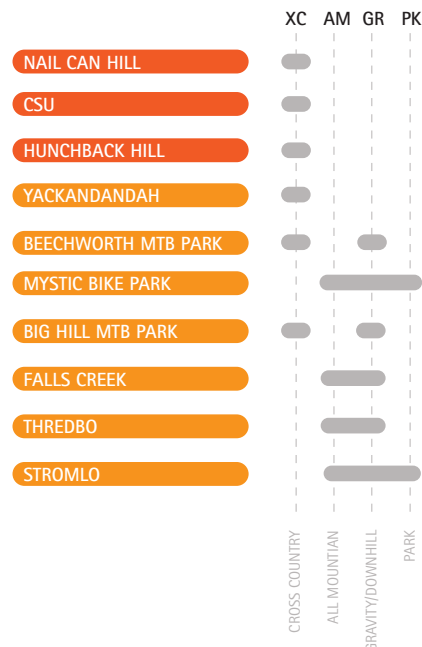


Figure 3: Summary of nearby MTB destinations trail style

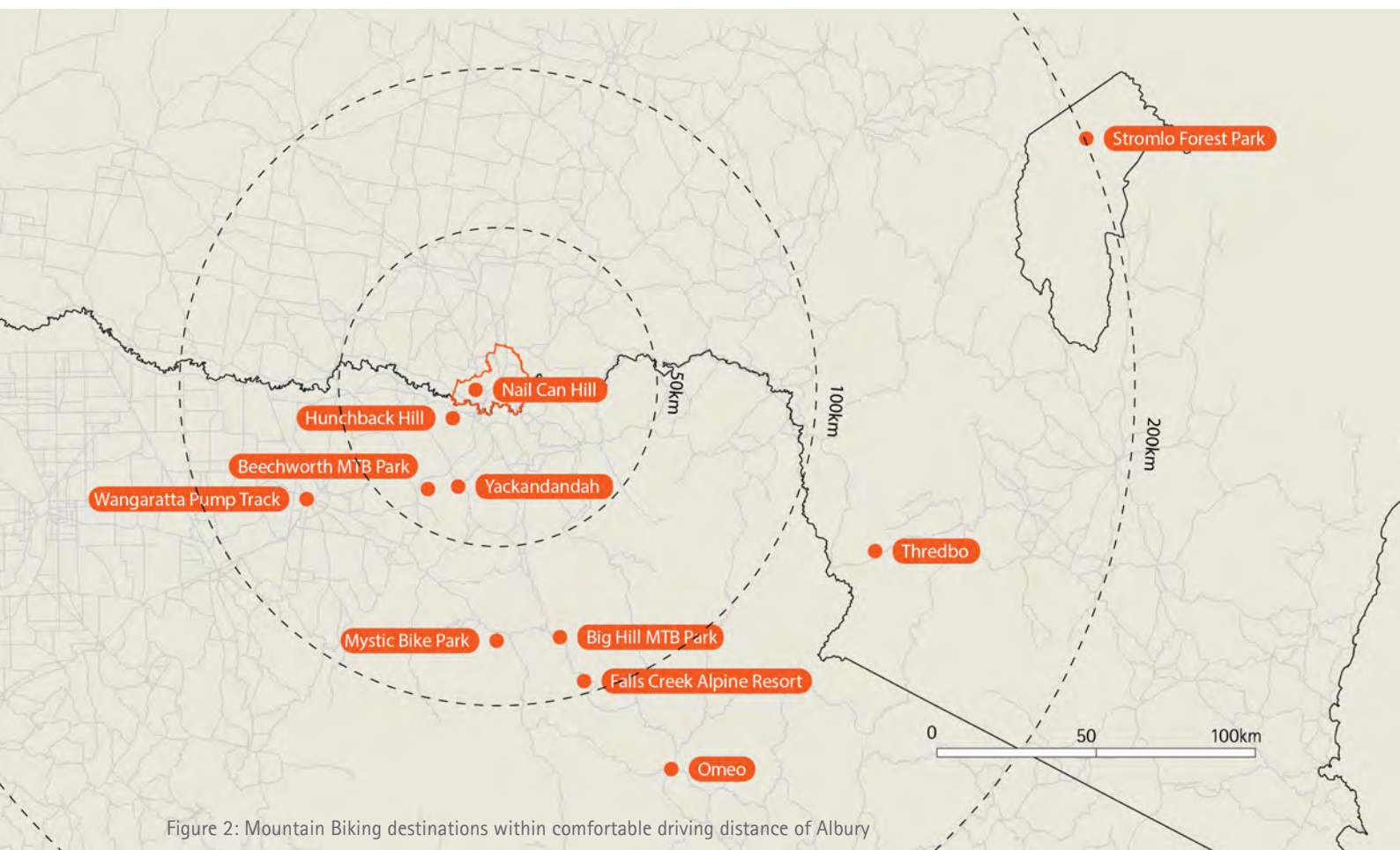


Figure 2: Mountain Biking destinations within comfortable driving distance of Albury

EXISTING LOCAL TRAILS AND FACILITIES

NAIL CAN HILL

Style: XC

Classification: Green / Blue / Black / Double Black

Trail length: 29km (70 individual trails)

Tenure: NSW Crown / Albury City Council

Trail manager: AWMTB Club

As outlined in the 2019 trail audit The Nail Can Hill MTB trail network originated as an unsanctioned, ad-hock, user-built facility which lacked a thorough planning process and understanding of sustainable trail alignments and construction as well as environmental and cultural values. An audit undertaken by IMBA Australia in 2011 made a series of recommendations on trail closures and improvements which have been progressively implemented by the Albury Wodonga MTB Club since.

Nail Can Hill contains granitic sandy soils which drain well but are susceptible to erosion in heavily trafficked areas and in cases where trail alignment hasn't considered drainage thoroughly. The 2019 audit outlines a series of general and specific maintenance tasks for each trail.

The network is currently accessed primarily from three trailheads – Range Road, Gap Road and Centaur Rd. Range Road and Gap Road access points provide some parking and signage with an overall map of the network. Centaur Road doesn't contain any formal parking or signage, with riders accessing the network from Ridge Trail.





Centaur Rd Trailhead

Range Rd Trailhead

Gap Rd Trailhead

- Easy - Green circle trail
- Intermediate - Blue square trail
- Difficult - Black diamond trail
- Extreme - Double black diamond trail

0 0.5 1km

Figure 4: Nail Can Hill Map

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY (CSU)

Style: XC / Skills Loop

Classification: Green / Blue

Trail length: 1.8km

Tenure: Freehold

Trail manager: Charles Sturt University

The CSU Trail is a 1.8km cross country trail incorporating technical trail features intended to allow for rider skill development. The track, classified as Easy – Green Circle incorporates optional Intermediate – Blue Square lines to features such as jumps, balance beams, and see-saws.

The trail was designed and constructed in 2018 as way for the University to contribute to the broader community, recognising the growth in popularity of mountain biking and the physical and social benefits for the community as well as students.

The intention was that the track be maintained by CSU students who would also measure the success and benefits of the facility however this has been adhoc with the trail currently in a poor state.

The trail has good supporting infrastructure including a formal carpark, nearby toilets and a picnic area. Trail head signage outlines the trail layout and technical trail features.

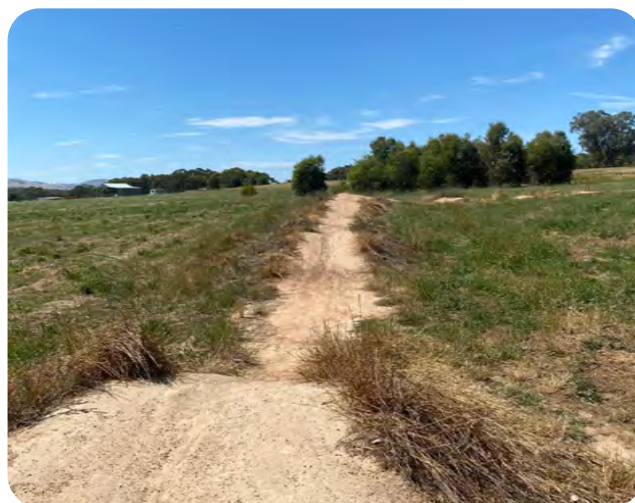




Figure 5: CSU Trail Map

BLACK RANGE PARK PUMP TRACK

Style: Natural Surface Pump Track

Track size: Approx 800m² riding surface

Tenure: Crown

Trail manager: Albury City Council

Black Range Park contains a natural surface pump track with an approximate riding surface area of 800sqm. The Track contains a series of rollers and berms laid out in an endless loop. The track has seen little maintenance recently and is showing signs of wear with erosion and general deterioration of the track surface.

Black Range Park contains a recreation oval and a toilet and carpark. The park neighbours Holy Spirit Primary School and is surrounded by residential development.

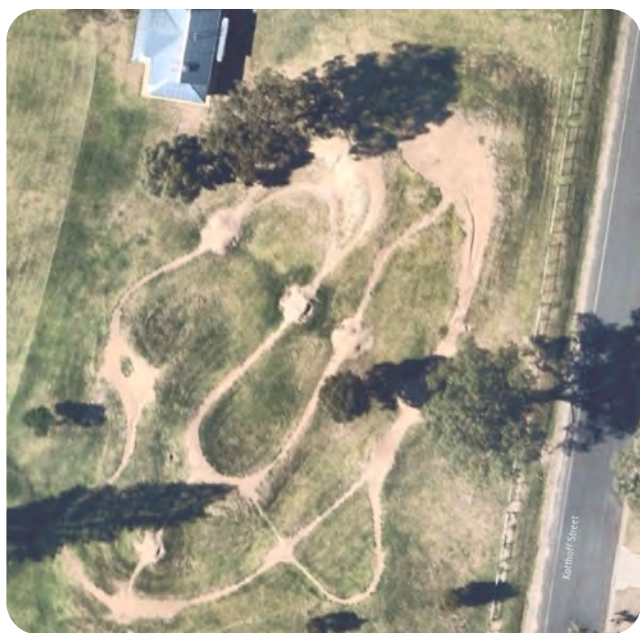


Figure 6: Black Range Park Pump Track



GORDON STREET RESERVE PUMP TRACK

Style: Natural Surface Pump Track

Track size: Approx 600m² riding surface

Tenure: Crown

Trail manager: Albury City Council

The Springdale Heights Pump Track is located in Gordon Street Reserve and is a natural surface pump track with an approximate riding surface area of 600sqm. The Track contains a series of rollers and berms laid out in an endless loop. The track has seen little maintenance recently and is showing signs of wear with erosion and general deterioration of the track surface.

The track is located in a residential area and the reserve contains no other supporting amenities.



Figure 7: Gordon Street Reserve Pump Track



BIRALLEE PARK PUMP TRACK

Style: Asphalt Surface Pump Track

Track size: Approx 400m² riding surface (Stage 1)

Tenure: Crown

Trail manager: Wodonga City Council

Stage 1 of the Wodonga Pump Track has recently been constructed in Birallee Park adjacent the BMX track. Stage 1 is approximately 400m² of asphalt riding surfacet. The track was proposed as part of the Birallee Park Master Plan as a way of enhancing the quality of the informal recreational opportunities available in the precinct.

Birallee Park contains a range of other sporting facilities including a BMX race track and contains a range of supporting amenities including carparking and toilets.

This pump track is easily accessible to residents of Albury who have the ability to transport bikes in their cars. The track contains a range of features and with expansion in coming years will become a regional scale facility and would potentially attract albury residents.



Figure 8: Birallee Park Pump Track



WHITE BOX RISE PUMP TRACK

Style: Asphalt Surface Pump Track

Track size: Approx 80m² riding surface

Tenure: Freehold

Trail manager: White Box Rise Real Estate Developer

White Box Rise contains a small asphalt pump track in a pocket park in the south east corner of the estate. There is a footpath connecting estate residents to the park but no other amenities.

This pump track is easily accessible to residents of Albury who have the ability to transport bikes in their cars. The pump track is a local scale facility and unlikely to attract Albury residents.

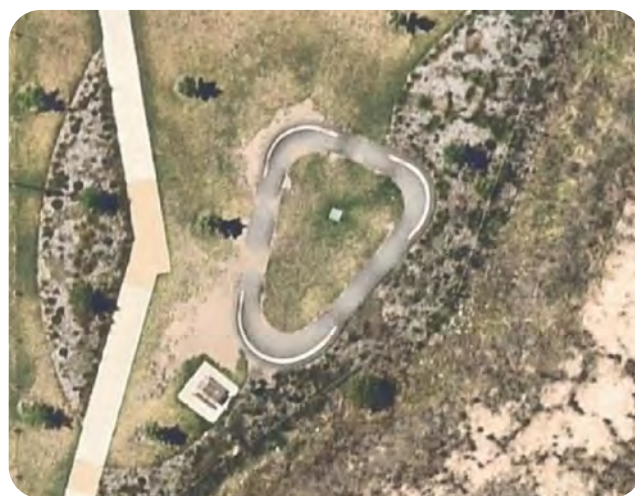


Figure 9: White Box Rise Pump Track

HUNCHBACK HILL

Style: XC / Down Hill / Flow

Classification: Green / Blue / Black

Trail length: 19km

Tenure: Crown

Trail manager: Wodonga City Council / Parklands Albury Wodonga/
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DEWLP)

The Hunchback Hill complex is located approximately 5.5km from the town centre of Wodonga. It forms the western border to the Wodonga suburbs. The network has developed informally over time, with Wodonga City Council recently formalising trails on Klings Hill.

The hills present a rural modified landscape view from the Hume Hwy of scattered trees in open paddocks with pockets of dense vegetation. The network contains an XC loop, slalom course, an intermediate down hill trail and a 3.5km flow trail.

The network is popular with Albury locals as it offers smoother flow style trail that provides a different ride experience to that found on Nail Can Hill.



BIRALLEE PARK BMX TRACK (WODONGA)

STYLE	Natural Surface BMX Track
TRACK SIZE	Approx. 400sqm riding surface
TENURE	Crown
TRAIL MANAGER	Wodonga City Council
DESCRIPTION	Significant BMX facility in Wodonga. Managed by Border BMX club, this facility is a natural surface facility, suitable for training and hosting BMX events. The Wodonga pump track in Birallee Park is directly adjacent to the BMX facility.
FACILITIES	Carparking, toilets, clubrooms.



HENRY NOWIK PUMP TRACK (WODONGA)

STYLE	Concrete Pump Track
TRACK SIZE	Approx. 80sqm riding surface
TENURE	Crown
TRAIL MANAGER	Wodonga City Council
DESCRIPTION	Small local scale pump track located on Samantha Terrace.



ERNIE MAY PUMP TRACK (WODONGA)

STYLE	Concrete Pump Track
TRACK SIZE	Approx. 50sqm riding surface
TENURE	Crown
TRAIL MANAGER	Wodonga City Council
DESCRIPTION	Small local scale pump track located on Koetong Cres.



BROADER CONTEXT

Yackandandah (Yack Tracks)

The goal of Yack Tracks Inc. is to create a sustainable network of well mapped and well managed long-form cross-country mountain bike trails highlighting the mining heritage of the local area that will be attractive to locals & visitors alike.

An 'Epic' mountain bike trail is soon to be constructed from Beechworth to Yackandandah (funding approved 2019). The Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail is also in construction.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	30 minutes
GOVERNANCE	Yack Tracks volunteers and DELWP
TRAIL STYLE	Easy to intermediate, long form cross country trails
TRAIL QUANTITY	Approx. 50km
POPULATION	1,800 people
FACILITIES	Signage and wayfinding, toilet, Car parking.

Beechworth – Beechworth Mountain Biking Park and Flame Trees

Beechworth has two main MTB options. The Beechworth MTB park, and Flame Trees which is a series of longer cross- country loops.

An 'Epic' mountain bike trail is soon to be constructed from Beechworth to Yackandandah (funding approved 2019). The Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail is also in construction.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	40 minutes
GOVERNANCE	Not for profit group Alpine Community Plantation (ACP).
TRAIL STYLE	Machine built gravity flow trails. Cross country hand built trails.
TRAIL QUANTITY	Approx. 50km
POPULATION	3,800 people
FACILITIES	Signage and wayfinding. Car parking.

Bright – Mystic Mountain Bike Park

Mystic Mountain Bike Park is in Bright and has become a hub of mountain biking over the past few years. There are cross country trails by the Ovens river that cater to beginner riders as well as a pump track to practice. The trails in the park are machine-built gravity flow trails, in particular Shred Kelly's Last Stand, is a blue flow trail that can be achieved by intermediate riders. ACP was created by HVP Plantations, Alpine Shire Council, the Alpine Cycling Club, the North East Victoria Hang Gliding Club and the Bright & District Chamber of Commerce.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	1 hour 30 minutes
GOVERNANCE	Beechworth chain gang and Alpine Shire council.
TRAIL STYLE	Downhill, technical single-track. Cross Country
TRAIL QUANTITY	100km+
POPULATION	2,000 people
FACILITIES	Trail Head, Shuttle Service, Road to drive shuttles up, signage and wayfinding, pump track in town, jumps park in town. Toilets and drinking water. Bike hire Pubs, Cafes and restaurants.

Mount Beauty – Big Hill

Mt Beauty's Big Hill Mountain Bike Park has over 40 kilometres of top quality cross-country and downhill trails suitable for beginner, intermediate and advanced riders. Mount Beauty is an older network and the trails are mostly hand built. This network of trails has quite a different feel to the other trail networks in the region.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	1 hour 20 minutes
GOVERNANCE	Team Mount Beauty, Alpine Shire Council, AGL and DELWP
TRAIL STYLE	Mostly hand built, challenging downhill and cross country riding. Some beginner and intermediate runs.
TRAIL QUANTITY	40km+
POPULATION	800 people
FACILITIES	There is trail signage and wayfinding, New trail head built in 2020 Bike wash facilities, toilets, carparking, shelter, picnic tables, drinking water station, BBQs, bicycle repair stand.

Falls Creek – Falls Creek Mountain Biking Park

Falls Creek is a summer alpine mountain bike resort. The trails surround Falls Creek village and all of the amenities this provides. The main focus of the resort is shuttle-able, gravity flow trails that cater from the beginner to the advanced rider.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	2 hours
GOVERNANCE	Falls Creek Resort.
TRAIL STYLE	Machine built gravity flow trails. Also cross country hand built trails.
TRAIL QUANTITY	40km+ (recently received regional infrastructure grant \$500,000 funding for 11km more trails).
POPULATION	300 (fluctuates depending on season)
FACILITIES	Trail Head, Shuttle Service, Sealed road to drive shuttles up, signage and wayfinding. Toilets and drinking water. Cafes and small supermarket, Accommodation on the mountain in the resort. Skills coaching offered.

Omeo – Omeo Mountain Bike Trails

Omeo is a proposed trail network that is has passed the planning process and is soon to be in the construction phase. It is a 4.5 million dollar project due to start construction in 2021.

Significant work has already been completed in the Omeo township with Common Ground completing an asphalt pump track and adjacent skills park in 2020.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	3 hours
GOVERNANCE	East Gippsland Shire Council, Omeo Region community members, DELWP, Parks Victoria, and Regional Development Victoria.
TRAIL STYLE	Beginner-friendly, long distance gravity flow trails. Large loop cross-country
TRAIL QUANTITY	100km+ (proposed)
POPULATION	400
FACILITIES	Asphalt Pump Track, Skills Park, Signage, wayfinding, trail head (all proposed), toilets.

Thredbo – Thredbo Mountain Biking Park

Summer mountain biking resort with chairlift accessed gravity trails. Thredbo focuses helping riders to progress and offer clinics and MTB guides to help people learn skills to ride.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	3 hours 20 minutes
GOVERNANCE	Thredbo resort
TRAIL STYLE	Downhill, flow, cross-country and all-mountain Catering for beginner to advanced riders.
TRAIL QUANTITY	34km+
POPULATION	400
FACILITIES	Natural surface pump track, Skills Park, Signage, wayfinding, trail head (all proposed)Chairlift ticket is \$85 per day. Resort facilities, Guides and skills clinics

Canberra – Stromlo Forest Park

The mountain bike trail network at Stromlo Forest Park boasts over 50km of professionally built and maintained trails. There is a dedicated beginner's area, pump track and extensive skills park. The park is a shared use facility and has horse riders and walkers sharing the park with mountain bike riders.

DRIVE TIME FROM ALBURY	3 hours 40 minutes
GOVERNANCE	Stromlo Forest Park
TRAIL STYLE	Downhill, flow, cross-country and all-mountain
TRAIL QUANTITY	48km+
POPULATION	400
FACILITIES	Asphalt pump track, Jumps park, Skills Park , Signage, wayfinding, Car parking, Toilets, Café at base of trail, future BMX facility planned Stromlo shuttle service.



Hero Trail, Mystic Bike Park, Bright. Image source: <https://flowmountainbike.com/features/ride-high-country-bright/>

APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Albury landscape is diverse and offers a variety of accessible experiences for mountain biking. Albury City has identified that mountain biking is a growing sport locally and are looking to ensure trail and facility development is undertaken in a sustainable way. The aim of this project is to establish a vision and strategy for provision of mountain bike trails and facilities throughout the City. Refer to figure 10 for project area.

Consultation is an integral component of the MTB Strategy delivery. Stakeholder and community input will assist in identifying and determining the region's sustainable long-term vision for provision of mountain bike facilities. In order to ensure the success and longevity of facilities developed it is essential to engage with both the users and managers of the facilities. Through a combination of meetings, workshops and surveys the consultation process aims to empower the local community to take stewardship and pride in their public spaces.

The consultation undertaken assisted in identifying the following:

- Local rider profile
- Existing trails and their demand
- Local constraints and objectives
- Locations potentially suitable for trail development
- Governance opportunities for on going management
- Infrastructure requirements
- Event opportunities

METHODOLOGY

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Project stakeholders and partners have a vested interest in ensuring that the outcomes of the MTB Strategy support their organisations strategic direction and management plans. It is intended that this Strategy becomes a planning tool for Albury City Council and other relevant land managers in the region with partnerships encouraged to progress trails development in the region.

Identified stakeholders and partners include:

- Wodonga City Council
- NSW Crown Land
- Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike Club
- Albury Local Aboriginal Lands Council
- Local bike shops
- Albury City Youth Council
- Albury City Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Friends of Nail Can Hill
- Border Bushwalking Club
- Murray Valley Bushwalkers
- Parklands Albury Wodonga
- Private land owners adjacent Nail Can Hill

Stakeholders were engaged through various means including a project introduction email, online survey, meetings and phone calls.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Broader consultation with the community was undertaken via a drop in session and social pin point survey/interactive map. The Social Pin Point web page included a survey targeted at riders and an interactive map which enabled pins to be placed identifying specific trail and infrastructure opportunities and issues.

The intention of the Social Pin Point was to:

- Develop an understanding of the local rider demographics
- Understand user skill level and frequency of usage.
- Understand local park usage and user location preferences to understand user needs and requirements based on their current habits.

The survey and interactive map were available for input for a period of 4 weeks from 2nd November to the 27th November and was promoted via the Albury City website and social media.

The MTB Strategy Facebook campaign reached just over 31,000 people, with 428 link clicks back to the City Have Your Say page. There were 134 reactions, 19 comments and 26 shares. One post to Instagram saw a reach of 401 with 6 clicks back to the Have Your Say webpage, 33 reactions and 1 comment. There were a total of 1,854 page views to the Have Your Say webpage, with majority of traffic coming via Facebook referrals (44%) followed by direct and organic traffic.

A total of 376 survey responses were submitted and 147 comments dropped on the interactive map.

The community drop in session was held on the 27/11/20 from 4–7pm in the Robert Brown Room at Albury City Council office. The session was advertised on the Albury City Have your say website and invitations sent to stakeholders and their contact lists. A total of 14 people dropped in to have a chat with Common Ground Trails and Albury City Staff. Discussions reiterated findings from the survey and provided further insights into potential trail development opportunities across the City.

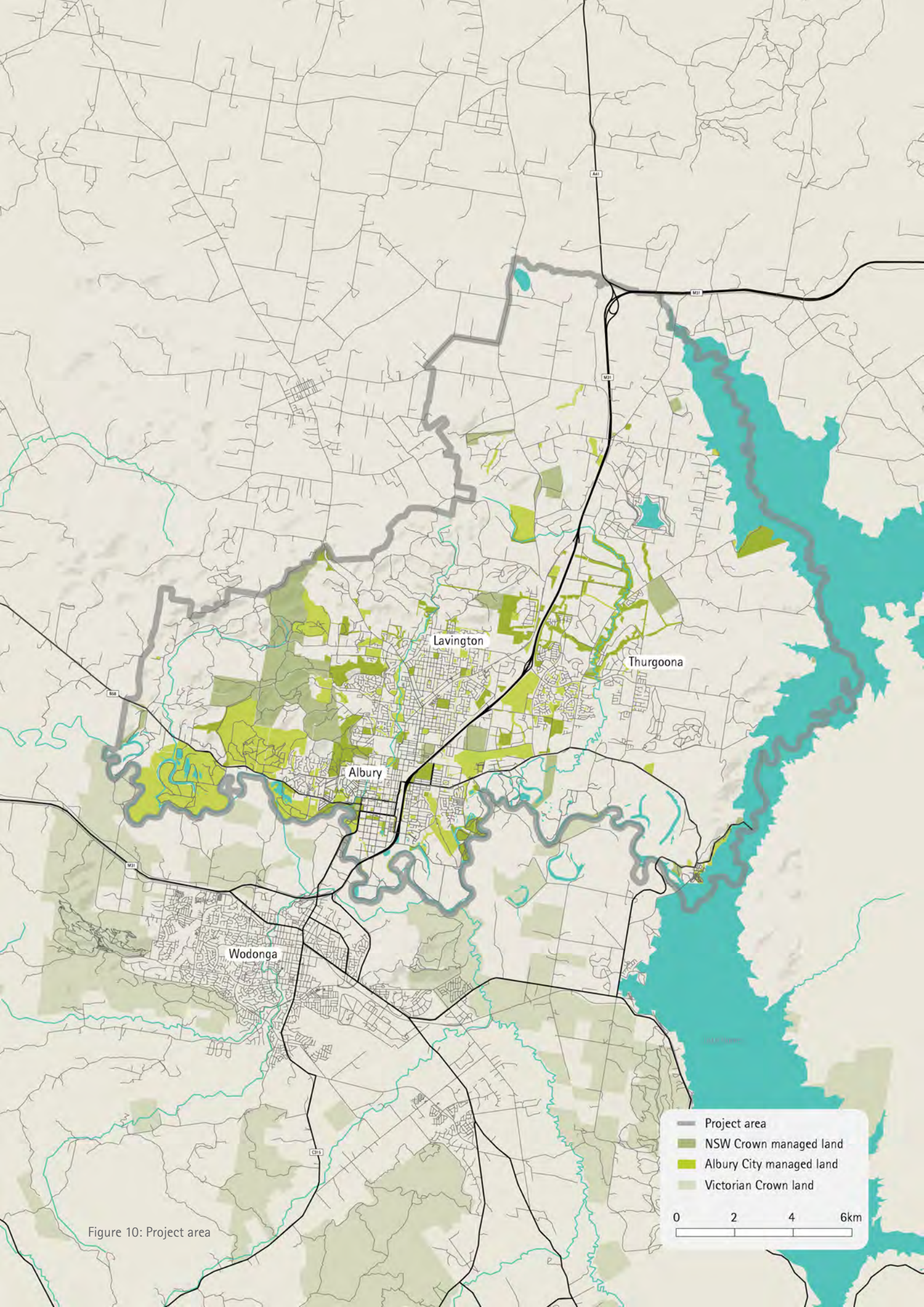


Figure 10: Project area



RESULTS



376
online surveys submitted
147
comments on the
interactive map



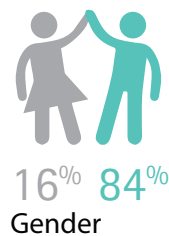
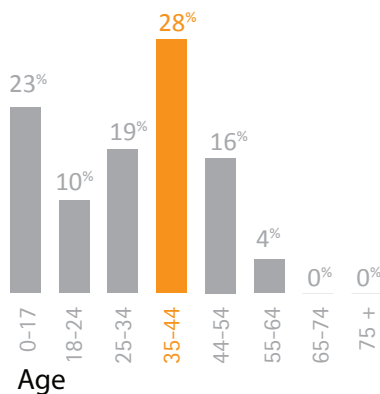
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Conversations with the identified key stakeholders are ongoing, key outcomes from discussions to date are outlined below.

- Mountain bike trail and facility development opportunities occur on a range of tenures across the City, a coordinated approach is required and partnerships between agencies/land managers will be integral to successful delivery and ongoing maintenance
- Mountain biking is one of many popular recreational activities in the City and any trail and facility development will need to consider other users
- There are significant environmental and cultural values throughout the City. Conservation of these values needs to be considered highest priority
- Thurgoona, Lavington and North Albury in particular are predicted to see significant population growth in the coming years, access to facilities for these growing communities will be important
- The Albury terrain has potential to be attracting visitors for mountain biking specifically, proposals for trail development should consider local and national trends in trail style
- There needs to be a focus on taking pressure off Nail Can Hill
- Covid lockdowns have seen increasing number of users at Nail Can especially, on bikes and walking/running.
- Unsanctioned trail building is occurring across the City, including in areas containing significant flora and fauna.
- Events are a significant part of the Albury Wodonga MTB Club with enduro racing being the most popular at the moment especially with younger riders. There is potential to grow the event scene with development of appropriate supporting infrastructure and suitable trail development.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 376 surveys were submitted online with a majority of respondents residing in Albury (62%) or Wodonga (25%). 82% of respondents were male, with age range of respondents overall indicating mountain biking locally has appeal for both youth and adults.



13%
Further afield

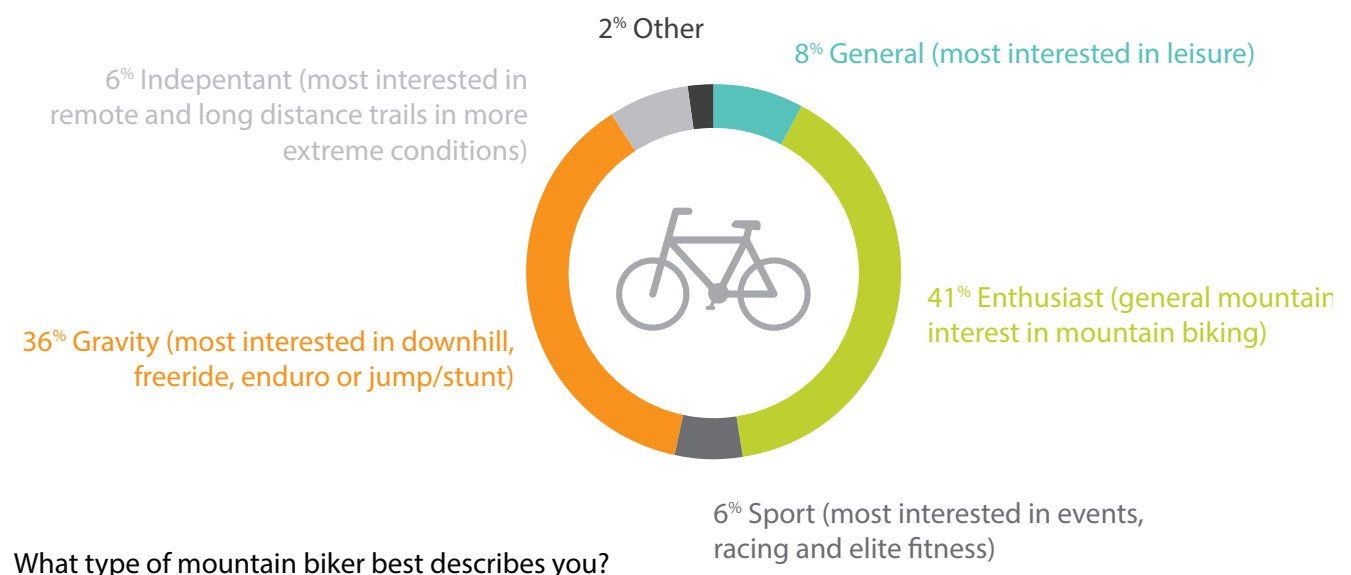
62%
Albury

25%
Wodonga

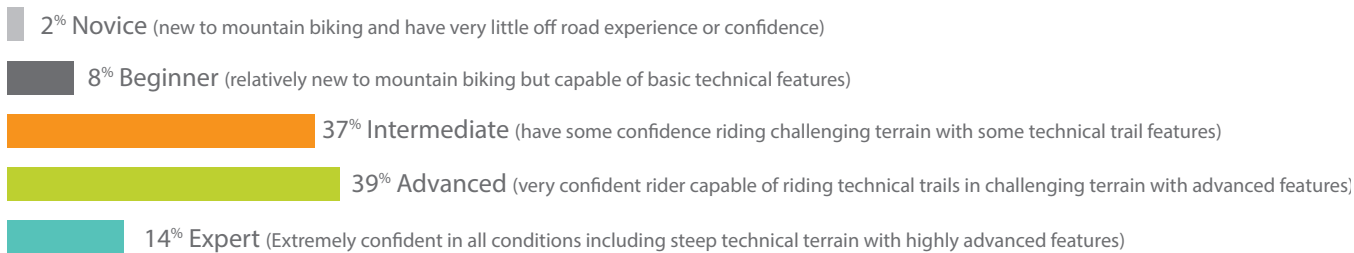
Post code

In terms of mountain biking cohorts the survey indicated local riders are likely either in the enthusiast or gravity categories. Enthusiasts are typically purely recreational mountain bikers with moderate skills and variable fitness, and ride weekly. They are typically aged 29-49 and form the existing market majority. Enthusiasts typically don't compete in events and they possess limited outdoors experience. They prefer trails with good trail signage and seek technical but not too challenging trails. Enthusiast mountain bikers are the most likely to take short breaks to different areas and have moderate market potential.

Gravity riders are typically highly skilled technical riders who seek very challenging trails, typically ride at least once a week and are often members of mountain bike clubs. They represent a small market that requires purpose built trails, which are repeatedly used in a concentrated manner. Gravity riders generally seek specific trails with the highest classifications (black diamond and double black diamond).

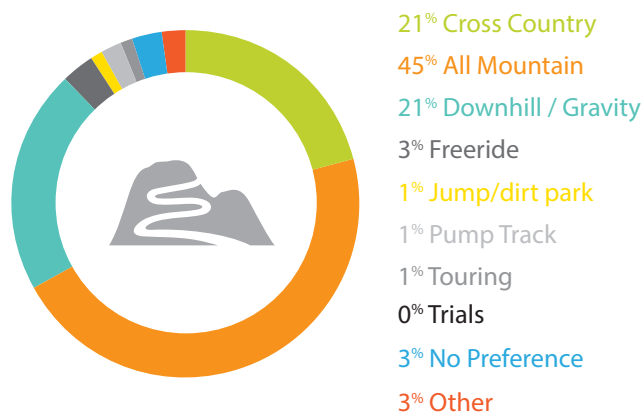


Overall a majority of survey respondents indicated they are intermediate or advanced level riders. Female riders indicated they are beginner to intermediate riders while males rated their ability intermediate to advanced. Younger riders indicated more advanced skills while adult riders were more evenly spread between intermediate and advanced. When considering these results it is important to consider survey bias towards those currently participating in mountain biking meaning the survey unlikely captured those novice and beginner riders new to the sport.

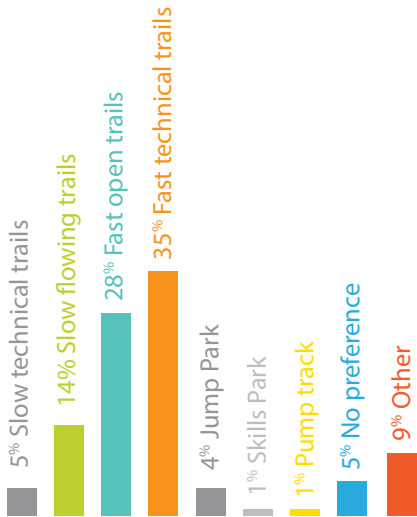


How do you rate your level of mountain biking ability?

In terms of trail style All Mountain rated the highest with Cross Country and Downhill / Gravity also rating highly. Females and older riders showed a preference for Cross Country trails while younger and more advanced riders prefer Downhill / Gravity trails. Trail type responses indicated a preference for faster open and technical trails however it is apparent that riders prefer a variety of trail types, which was conveyed in comments provided in the survey and on the interactive map.



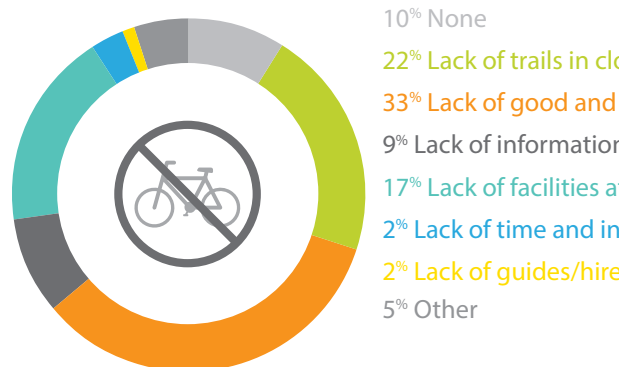
Which style of mountain bike riding do you prefer?



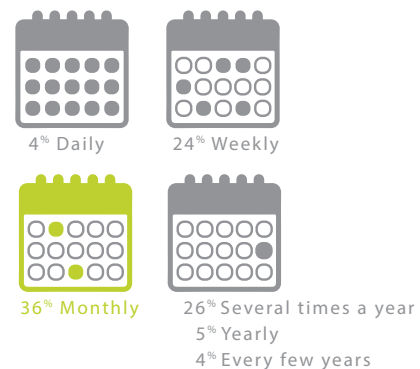
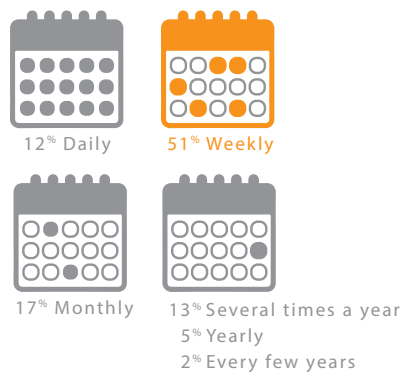
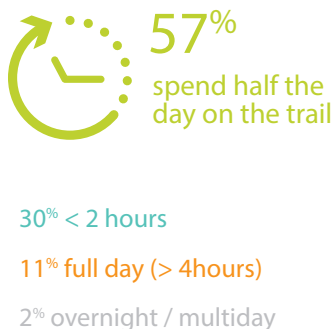
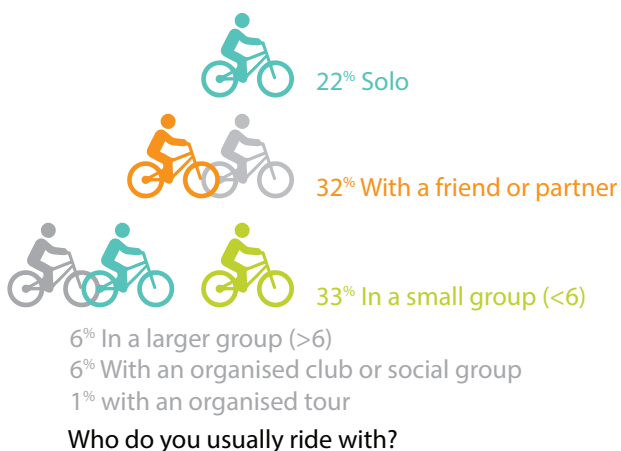
Which type of mountain bike trails do you prefer to ride?

Riders indicated they typically ride with at least one other person and typically spend at least half a day or up to 4hrs on the trail each ride. Most riders get out on the local trails at least weekly and travel to other trail networks in the region on a monthly basis. Websites/apps and word of mouth are the most common sources of information regarding trails.

Riders indicated they ride for exercise and physical challenge and enjoy the opportunity to spend time in nature with friends and family. In terms of barriers to participation a lack of good and new trails was shown as the main barrier with proximity of trails and facilities to home rating high as well. These results indicate a suite of facilities which provide for a variety of trail style and are located throughout the City is needed.



What barriers prevent you from riding more?



**PHYSICAL
CHALLENGE
FITNESS
SOCIALISING**

Why do you ride?

GENERAL COMMENTS

The following themes were evident in the general comments submitted as part of the survey.

MTB POTENTIAL IN ALBURY

Growing sport of MTB

Nail can hill very close to city

Could be World Class

Could attract visitors to Albury

Rocky challenge of Nail Can is fun to ride

Existing visitors could bring bikes

Very engaged and large local community of Mountain bikers.

Locals and clubs willing to be involved in maintenance

One respondent stated they would be willing to pay for the experience if trails network upgraded

Unique in the proximity of Nail Can Hill to the city of Albury

Very accessible for a lot of people in Albury

Right on the doorstep

Overall, there was clear enthusiasm in the survey responses for Albury to invest in Mountain Biking. Many respondents believed that there is a lot of potential in Albury to develop the Mountain Biking offering.

Several people noted that Albury is unique in that Nail Can hill is in close proximity to the city. These respondents felt that it is unique to have such a natural resource on their doorstep that is very accessible to much of the city's population. Some mentioned it was a reason they chose to move to the city.

It also came up in some responses that the rocky technical terrain in Albury's Nail Can Hill provides a different riding experience that makes Albury unique. However, other responses indicated that the rocky terrain and lack of trail maintenance, currently deters them from riding at Nail Can, these riders indicated that they were travelling outside of Albury for a Mountain Biking experience.

It was noted that Albury has a large community of engaged mountain bike riders who are willing to do trail maintenance and look after the network. It was also noted that Mountain Biking is a growing sport across Australia and more investment is needed in Albury to update the existing trail network to improve the 'wow factor' and attract riders.

Many people talked about the tourism opportunities that Mountain Biking can bring to a region. Many respondents drew comparisons with surrounding towns, and the way that mountain biking infrastructure has attracted tourists. One regular visitor to Albury indicated they would be more likely to bring their bike when they visit Albury if the trails are upgraded.

An opportunity to coordinate the offering in Wodonga and Albury to make Albury – Wodonga a must ride destination was also suggested.

Several riders felt that Albury has the potential to be a world class mountain biking facility and attract visitors to the region.

FACILITIES

No existing amenities

Car access and car parking

Signage

Toilets

Water

Rubbish bins

Bike wash

Change room

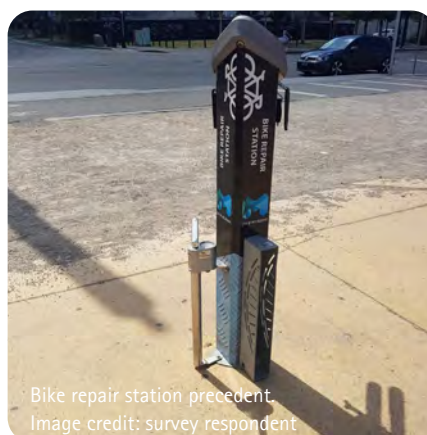
Shade/shelter

Lift/shuttle

Several respondents gave an indication of the kinds of facilities they would like to see to support mountain biking. It was noted that the existing amenities are limited.

Suggestions of amenities that mountain bikers would like to see included better signage, to make users aware of where to ride and how to link trails together within the trail network. Toilets, several comments noted how important this is, particularly for female riders. Drinking water was another facility that was mentioned several times. It was noted that Nail Can and Albury can be a hot place to ride, and so users will go through more than one water bottle in a ride.

Car parking and clear signage for car access also came up as a desired improvement, especially at the Nail Can Hill network of trails. Additional facilities that were mentioned included rubbish bins, change rooms, shade, shelter and a bike washing station. A couple of riders mentioned they would like a lift/shuttle to get to the top of the hill.



DESIRED TRAILS AND TRAIL TYPES

Happy with the existing offering, just needs more maintenance.

Needs a better planned access to trails, kids and family, up and down trails

Better 'up' option at Nail Can Hill

Flow trails

Gravity Trails

Downhill trails

Jumps

Some built features in the trails

More trails in general

More diversity for different skill levels

Pump track

Skills track

More places to ride in thurgoona

Longer trails and better linkage between trails in the network

Long distance trail improvement – Hume and Hovell.

The survey indicated an appetite for more Mountain Biking trails in Albury City. Responses indicated a desire for more flow, jumps, gravity and downhill trails. One commenter mentioned incorporating more built features and berms into the existing trail network. A few comments mentioned getting a professional trail building company in to build trails to make the trails more sustainable. Several people wanted to see more variety in the trails in general.

Commenters desired more beginner and intermediate riding options, with a pump track and skills park to facilitate their skills progression. Flow trails that are less rocky for beginners and intermediate riders also came up as a consistently desired trail for this group of riders.

One rider mentioned ambitions to race at world cup level and would like a downhill specific, shutable race course to facilitate this. Other riders felt there needed to be more challenging trails with advanced trail features in Albury.

Several riders mentioned wanting a better 'up' track at Nail Can Hill to make the ride to the top of the network and the lookout more enjoyable.

There was a desire for some longer loop trails, and better linkages between trails in the network. One commenter also mentioned considering improvements to the Hume and Hovel long distance trail.

Thurgoona also came up a few times as a place where residents would like closer trails to be built, trails that are within riding distance.

It should be noted that there were a significant number of respondents who felt Albury City already has a good network of trails, but that these trails needed more maintenance to bring the sustainability of the trails and the riding experience up to standard.

SKILLS PROGRESSION

Lack of beginner options – trails in the area, especially nail can hill are rough and not good for beginners

Challenging for a beginner to identify where to ride

Would like more information on how to get started, where to ride, especially with kids

CSU track was mentioned as currently the place where beginners go to practice their skills.

Would like a skills park or pump track

The survey responses indicated that in general, there is a lack of beginner and intermediate options in Albury City. The trails at Nail Can Hill are considered rough and not good for beginners, especially with the erosion issues. The CSU track was called out as a place where beginners currently go and practice, however, there is not a lot of existing opportunity within Albury City to progress from the easy CSU track to the much more challenging Nail Can Hill.

It came up in several responses that beginners would like to see a pump track or skills track to practice their riding.

In addition, beginners indicated that they would like more information on how to get started and where to ride, especially with kids. Better signage would also assist beginners to navigate the trail network.

EXISTING TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Better trail maintenance needed

Lack of maintenance leads to rough, eroded, rocky trails

Opportunity to work with locals to help maintain trails

Poor maintenance makes riding less safe

Trail network is unplanned, old/out of date

More clarity is needed for trails that are closed

The general comments in the survey strongly indicated that better maintenance of existing trails is needed. The trails at Nail Can hill in particular were mentioned as suffering from erosion, drainage issues, and a lack of planning of the network in general. Several comments mentioned that the trail network grew over time and there is an opportunity to upgrade the trails and build a more sustainable and coherent network. The track at CSU was also called out as needing maintenance.

Several comments mentioned that the Mountain Biking Club and other locals would be willing to assist with maintenance of trails. The recent hold on trail maintenance at Nail Can hill was reported in a few comments as a cause of trail damage and erosion.

Comments indicated that trail closures could be better communicated, and signage improved in this regard.

Several riders indicated that the erosion and lack of Maintenance at Nail Can hill makes the riding less safe for beginner and intermediate riders. Other riders made a connection between poorly maintained trails and increased unsanctioned trail building.

UNSANCTIONED TRAILS

Riders are creating shortcuts to avoid more technical trail features

More investment and better planning of the network could deter unsanctioned trail building

Lack of trail maintenance is encouraging DIY versions of trails

A small number of comments mentioned the unsanctioned trail building, especially at Nail Can Hill and suggested possible reasons for this activity.

Commenters mentioned that the lack of trail maintenance is encouraging DIY versions of trails and that riders are creating short cuts to avoid the more technical trail features.

It was noted that more investment and better planning of the network could deter unsanctioned trail building.

OTHER VALUES AT NAIL CAN HILL

Conservation values at Nail Can Hill

Keep motorbikes out

Mountain bikers need to respect the natural values of the places they ride

Nail Can Hill has awesome bird and reptile numbers – it should be kept that way

Seen incidents where MTB do not respect other park users/walkers etc

In a small number of the general comments, the multi-use value of Nail Can Hill came up.

One commenter believed there is a need to keep Motorbikes out of the network at Nail Can Hill.

In addition, the high conservation value of Nail Can Hill was mentioned, with reference made to the 'awesome bird and reptile numbers.' There was desire to keep Mountain Bikers out of environmentally sensitive areas.

It was commented that there had been several incidents where Mountain Bikers have not respected other park users/walkers in the Nail Can Hill area.

OTHER MTB DESTINATIONS MENTIONED

Hunchback Hill

Yackandandah

Beechworth

Bright

Falls Creek

Mount Buller

Stromlo

Rotorua

Taupo

Maydena

Derby

Thredbo

Several survey respondents spoke about the surrounding towns and trail networks as examples of places that have been positively impacted by mountain bike infrastructure. They spoke of tourism dollars being attracted to the towns as a result of mountain biking and how Albury could benefit from similar trail infrastructure. There was desire for similar investment in Albury Mountain Biking, to bring the standard to Albury trails to a comparable standard to the trails built in these towns. Several riders mentioned, they were more likely to travel outside Albury to mountain bike as they felt the mountain bike offerings in the surrounding towns was of higher quality.

An opportunity to coordinate the offering in Wodonga and Albury to make Albury – Wodonga a must ride destination was also suggested.



INTERACTIVE MAP

The interactive map provided useful insights into current use patterns and potential new opportunities across the City. Table 1 below provides a summary of reserves/locations identified on the interactive map and which will form part of the site assessment phase of the project. These sites will be assessed for their suitability through a thorough analysis process considering things such as tenure, environmental values, cultural values, topography, hydrology, existing use, accessibility and scale.

Table 1: Identified sites for trail development opportunity

Site	Opportunity
Nail Can Hill	Mountain Bike Trail Network
Eastern Hill	Mountain Bike Trail Network DH/Freeride
Black Range Park	Pump Track
Gordon St Reserve	Pump Track
9 Mile Hill Travelling Stock Reserve	Family friendly MTB network
Bowna Reserve	XC loop
CSU Trail	Upgrade existing track
Corry's Wood	XC trails
JC King Park	Pump Track
Billson Park	Skills / learn to ride
Alexandra Park	Pump Track
One Tree Hill	AM ,DH and XC Trails
Bells Travelling Stock Reserve	XC Trails
Albury Wodonga Equestrian Centre	Pump Track / Skills
Powerline Easement	Pump Track
Mungabareena Reserve	Walk/cycle tracks
Padman Park	Pump Track
Private Property north of Urana Rd	XC Trails

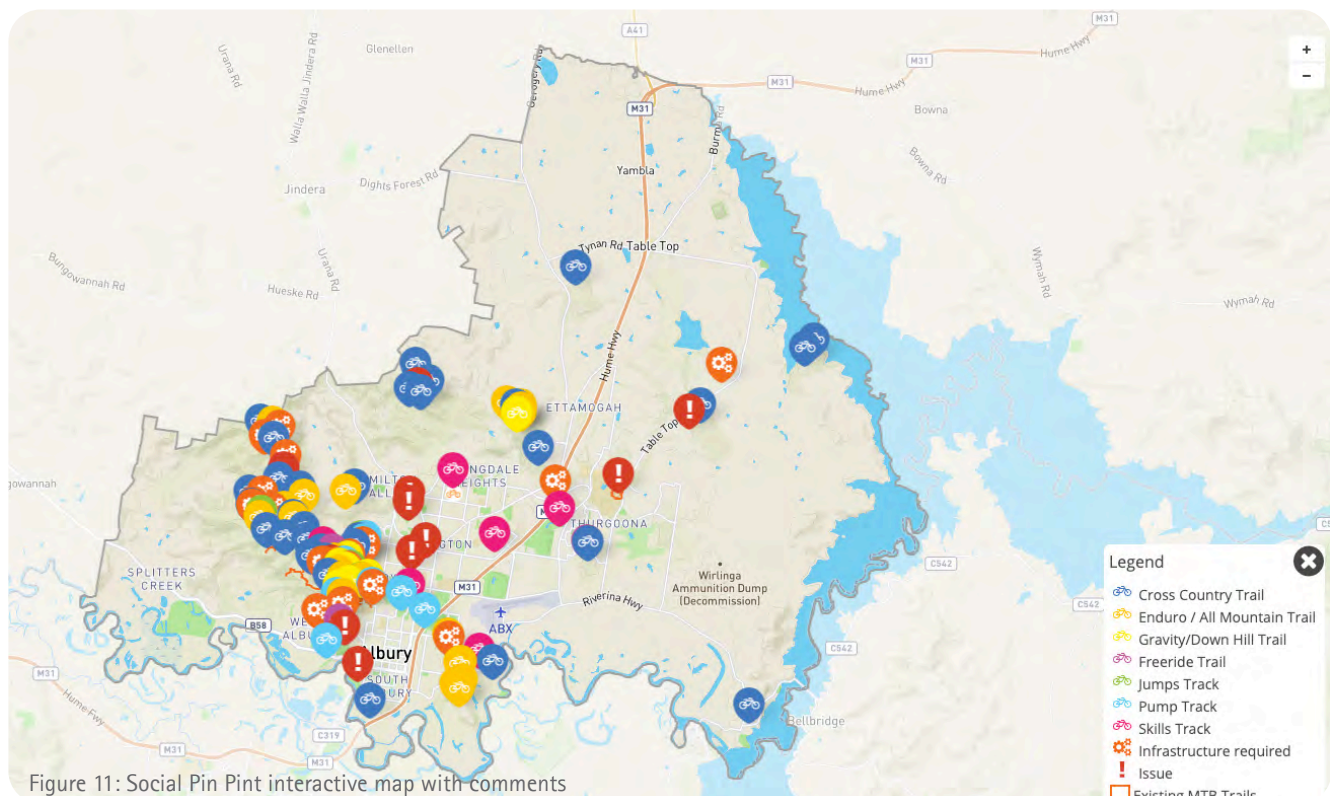


Figure 11: Social Pin Pint interactive map with comments

Comments placed on the interactive map provided the following insights:

- Gaps in the current trail and facility offer include, entry level and beginner friendly experiences, variety of trail style, progression opportunities, linking trails and support infrastructure
- In some places unsanctioned trail building is a problem, as people are trying to fill the gaps in the current MTB infrastructure themselves.
- Several spaces were suggested for pump and skills tracks around the city. This type of facility was suggested as a way to provide opportunity for MTB within the city, allow people an avenue to get into the sport and reduce the pressure on high environmental areas.
- Potential to locate trail features along existing paths such as Thurgoona bike path.
- Upgrade to the old BMX track in Lavington area suggested.
- Disability access features raised as an opportunity.

Nail Can Hill

- Nail Can Hill is viewed as the site with the most potential for trail development within the City.
- Trail head infrastructure is desired at Nail Can Hill – better car parking, toilets, picnic tables, shade, rubbish bins, signage.
- Possible pump and skills track location close to trail head for riders to warm up and practice skills.
- There are nice views across the valley into Wodonga, and lookouts were suggested at a few locations.
- Water tanks were also suggested to be placed in the network
- There is potential for all types of riding on Nail Can Hill.
- The network could be better planned, several linking trails were suggested within Nail Can Hill.
- Some riders reported the network is confusing, consolidation of tracks, improvement of key trails and closure of redundant ones were suggested.
- Longer loop trails in the Nail Can Hill network were also suggested.
- Maintenance to existing trails is required
- Existing 'up' track is a very steep fire road. An easier, more enjoyable 'up' trail was suggested.

Bowna Reserve

- Suggested as a cross country loop
- Existing facilities and picnic area
- Suggested as a good option for family/junior riding

CSU Track

- Good for beginners and a great trail to teach MTB skills
- In need of maintenance

Eastern Hill

- Could be a good location for enduro/all mountain trail, flow and jumps trail development.
- Opportunity to provide machine built flow trails similar to Rock n Roller in Wodonga.
- Links to Mungabareena reserve
- Could put a beginner loop and skills park nearby.
- Possibility to use East Street Lookout car park as a trail head
- Kids are cutting in DIY tracks 'every school holidays' in this location.
- Unauthorised trails on one side of the reserve should be closed due to environmental damage in the area. Significant plants in this area including patches of sun orchids.
- Regular management presence was suggested to address unsanctioned trail construction.
- Opportunity to formalise and maintain sanctioned trails and engage residents of East Albury.

One Tree Hill

- Interest in this area as an Enduro/All mountain with some gravity/downhill trails in the network. Cross country trails also suggested for this area.
- Suggested as an opportunity to create trails for all skill levels and attract new members to the mountain biking community.
- Good views and terrain.
- Easy access via roads to this area
- Closer to Thurgoona allowing residents in this area to ride there.
- There are sections of steep and rocky terrain, 'perfect for a downhill track'

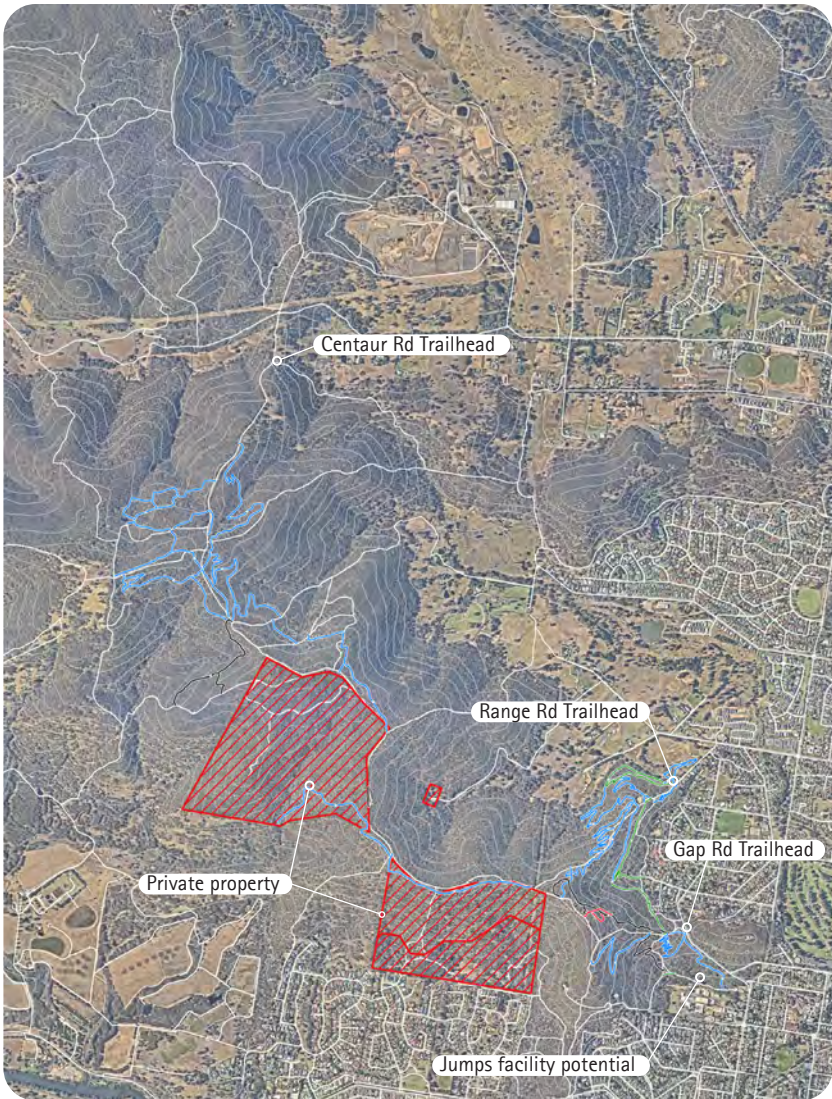
APPENDIX C - DETAILED SITE ASSESSMENTS

DETAILED ASSESSMENTS

The following pages provide an overview of analysis of opportunities and constraints of sites that were further investigated.

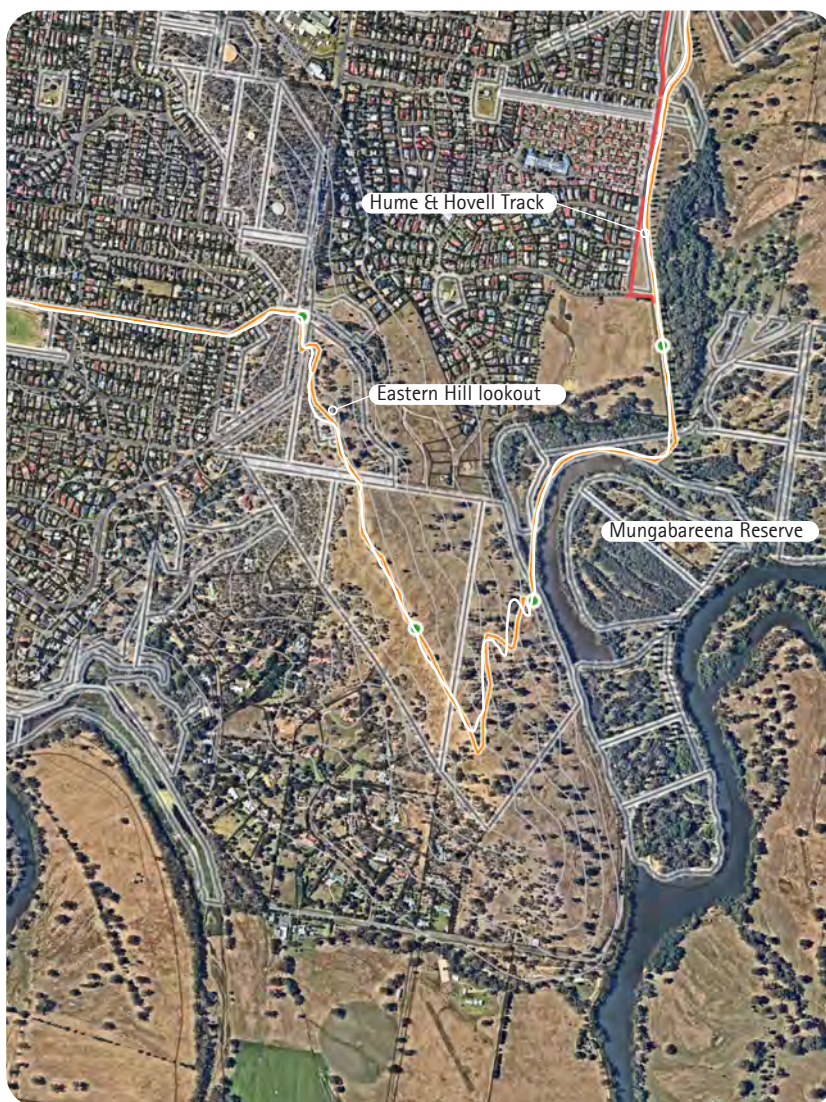
Nail Can Hill

TENURE	Crown
ZONING	E2 - Environmental Conservation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City/NSW Crown/AWMTB
SCALE	1,200 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	Up to 250m of elevation range Areas of steep and rocky slopes providing a point of difference Existing established MTB trail network as a basis for refinement/development Scenic vistas over Albury Kalianna area has potential to be formalised as a community managed jumps facility
CONSTRAINTS	Significant ecological and cultural values throughout the reserve Critical patch of native vegetation Multiple user groups value the site Multiple land managers Private property parcel inliers High fire risk Limited existing facilities



Eastern Hill

TENURE	Freehold
ZONING	E2 – Environmental Conservation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City Council
SCALE	75 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Up to 100m of elevation range</p> <p>Scenic vistas over Albury</p> <p>Established access and car park at Eastern Hill Lookout including toilet facilities</p> <p>Minimal tree cover. Revegetation plan will have significant environmental outcomes for the site.</p>
CONSTRAINTS	<p>Pockets of high ecological value.</p> <p>Adjacent to residential properties trails must consider sightlines and noise.</p> <p>Adjacent to declared Aboriginal place.</p> <p>Interface with Hume and Hovell Track to be considered.</p> <p>Limited Access to the site.</p>



BLACK RANGE PARK

TENURE	Crown
ZONING	RE 1 – Public Recreation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City Council
SCALE	3 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	Existing natural surface pump track could be used as basis for facility development. Existing supporting amenities including car park and toilets.
CONSTRAINTS	Surrounded by residential properties, sightlines and noise are potential issues. Other competing uses including organised sport Other current proposals for site include increasing oval size.



GORDON STREET RESERVE

TENURE	Crown
ZONING	RE 1 – Public Recreation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City Council
SCALE	3 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	Upgrade/resurface and maintain existing pump track
CONSTRAINTS	<p>This reserve is not currently directly connected to a shared use path.</p> <p>Distant from CBD and main business precinct.</p> <p>Surrounded by residential properties, sightlines and noise are potential issues.</p> <p>Close proximity to pump track at Black Range Park.</p>



BOWNA RESERVE

TENURE	Crown
ZONING	E3 – Environmental Management
LAND MANAGER	Albury City Council
SCALE	124 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	Established recreation site with support infrastructure including toilets, picnic areas and playground. Potential for beginner family friendly trails
CONSTRAINTS	Out of town and relatively isolated site currently. (On the edge of Thurgoona growth area so has potential to become a more viable option in future) Long distance to ride to and Existing Hume and Hovel Track is 4.1km away via Old Sydney Road. Terrain is flat without notable feature, would require significant investment to attract bulk of MTB market.



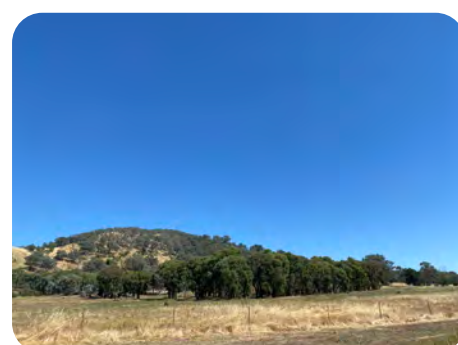
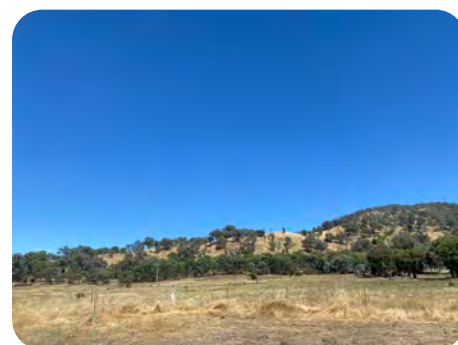
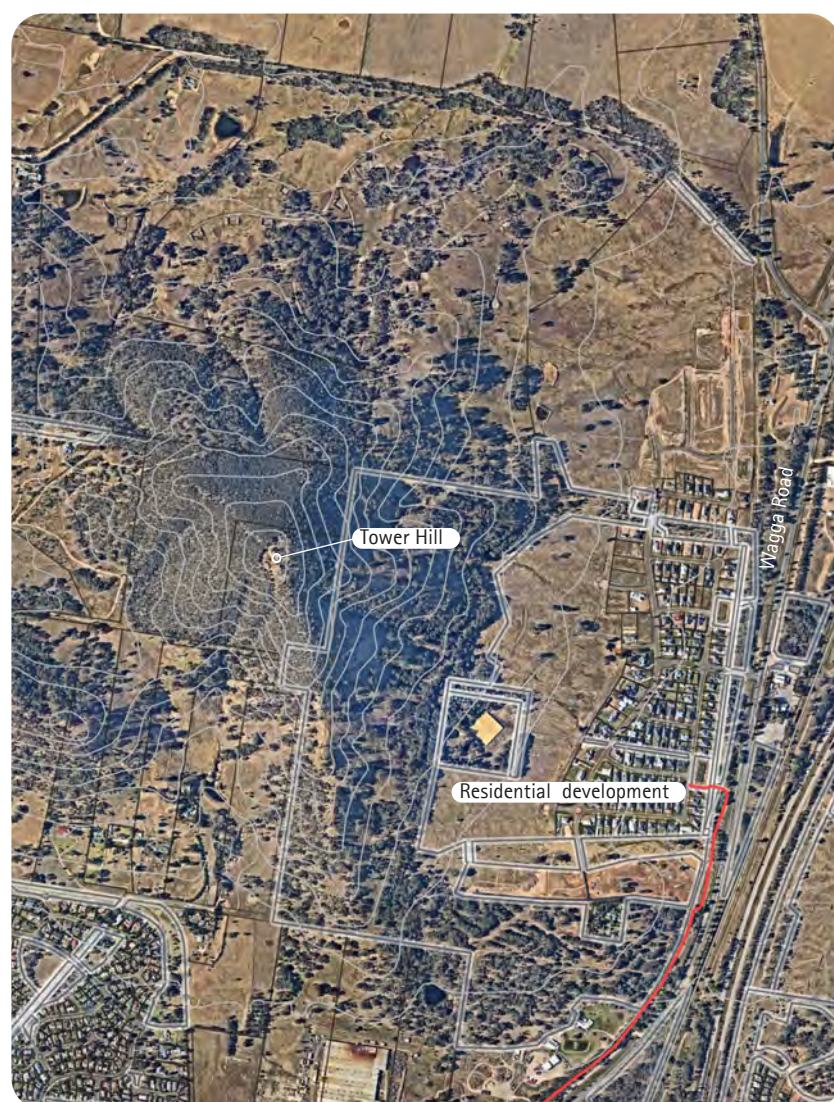
CSU TRAIL

TENURE	Freehold
ZONING	SP2 Infrastructure (Education)
LAND MANAGER	Charles Sturt University (CSU)
SCALE	12 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	AWMTB Club to investigate partnering with CSU to upgrade and maintain track. Implement an ongoing maintenance arrangement.
CONSTRAINTS	Land and facility is owned/managed by the University, and not necessarily a priority for maintenance/ investment



ONE TREE HILL/RED LIGHT HILL/ TOWER HILL

TENURE	Crown
ZONING	E3 -Environmental Management/ E2 - Environmental Conservation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City Council / NSW Crown
SCALE	150 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Up to 200m of elevation range</p> <p>Steep slopes suited to DH style trails.</p> <p>In an area where population growth is projected, opportunity to get on front foot in regards to provision of recreation facilities (Unsanctioned trail building is known to occur in the reserve).</p>
CONSTRAINTS	<p>High ecological value</p> <p>Currently distanced from CBD and bulk of population.</p> <p>Multiple land managers</p> <p>No current support facilities such as car park or toilets.</p>



MUNGABAREENA RESERVE

TENURE	Crown
ZONING	E2 – Environmental Conservation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City Council
SCALE	78 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Opportunity to have a Mungabareena trail head for Eastern Hill network.</p> <p>Existing recreation facilities and walk trails.</p>
CONSTRAINTS	<p>This is a significant Aboriginal cultural heritage site.</p> <p>High ecological value.</p> <p>Terrain is flat without notable feature, would require significant investment to attract bulk of MTB market.</p>



WEST ALBURY RESERVE (KREMUR STREET)

TENURE	Freehold
ZONING	RU/RE – Rural landscape / Public Recreation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City Council
SCALE	95 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Scenic Riverside reserve with potential to host a regional scale pump track and skills park.</p> <p>Very close to the Wagirra trail, easy to ride to.</p> <p>Potential to be linked to Nail Can Hill via shared use path</p>
CONSTRAINTS	<p>Cultural heritage values</p> <p>Will need to work within other proposed recreation development on the site (refer Murray River Experience Master Plan)</p> <p>Potentially a contaminated site</p>



BONNIE DOON PARK

TENURE	Freehold
ZONING	RE – Public Recreation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City
SCALE	2 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Potential to host a Regional scale pump track and a skills park.</p> <p>Close to southern edge of Nail Can Hill Reserve, potential to offer a complimentary riding experience</p> <p>There is some natural elevation at the site to play with.</p> <p>Established recreation site with support infrastructure including toilets, picnic areas and playground.</p>
CONSTRAINTS	Surrounded by residential properties, sightlines and noise are potential issues.



ERNEST GRANT PARK

TENURE	Freehold
ZONING	RE – Public Recreation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City
SCALE	6.5 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Potential to host a local scale pump track.</p> <p>Provides access to a MTB facility for Turgoona growth area residents.</p> <p>Established recreation site with support infrastructure including toilets, picnic areas and playground.</p> <p>Good access via shared use path network.</p>
CONSTRAINTS	Adjacent busy road.

Note recent master planning for Ernest Grant Park includes a pump track.



FREDERICKS PARK

TENURE	Freehold
ZONING	RE – Public Recreation
LAND MANAGER	Albury City
SCALE	4 Ha
OPPORTUNITIES	Potential to host a local scale pump track and /or a learn to ride track Established recreation site with support infrastructure including toilets, picnic areas and playground. Good access via shared use path network.
CONSTRAINTS	Surrounded by residential properties, sightlines and noise are potential issues.

Note recent master planning for Fredericks Park includes a learn to ride track.

