

## **Turner Road Mountain Bike (MTB) Trail Network Project – Avoidance & Mitigation**

As mentioned in the cover letter, the Turner Road Reserve has been heavily disturbed over the years through former use as a gravel extraction pit. The Shire has undertaken revegetation of pockets of the Reserve, however multiple disturbed areas remain. The concept design brief to develop a Mountain Bike (MTB) network at Turner Road Reserve was framed so that any proposed trails be aligned to minimise clearing and utilise the existing cleared sections where feasible. Several of the proposed trail alignments subsequently take advantage of the existing tracks within the Reserve.

The first draft of the concept plan had a carpark proposed in an area at the base (north boundary). This was reconsidered when priority flora was identified, and as such the car park is now adjacent to an existing cleared area used as parking and circulation for the Scotsdale Shadforth Bushfire brigade (who also occupy the site). This carpark area also takes advantage of utilising the existing access track, thus alleviating the clearing that would be required to construct a new access driveway had the carpark been in the original location.

The outcome of the biological surveys conducted by Southern Ecology during 2023 and 2024 has led to several minor track alterations during the design phase to mitigate impacts to DBCA Priority-listed flora. The locations of cockatoo habitat trees have also been recorded to assist with planning and avoidance.

Key mitigation strategies for the project include:

- Ensuring a 1.2m maximum width for all the MTB trails;
- Aligning the trails to avoid impacts on priority flora and cockatoo nesting trees; and
- Avoiding the removal of any eucalypts over >100mm DBH.

As the proposed project is still at concept design stage, further detailed design will refine the trail corridors to minimise environmental impacts. The principles of avoidance and mitigation will be maintained as the project progresses, and the spatial data and EIA will be updated as part of finalising the design.

Finally, given that Denmark currently has no sanctioned MTB trails, informal trails are being developed and used to the detriment of the environment, and there is increasing pressure to alleviate the unsanctioned trail activity currently experienced, the development of the Turner Road MTB trails should result in the broader offset of reducing the incidence of unsanctioned trails being developed elsewhere.