

## Draft Trails Master Plan Comment Period Draws to a Close

The Great Southern community has only a short time left to give considered input to a plan mapping out safe and sustainable development of the region's recreational trails over the next 10 years. The draft Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan is open for comment until 19 January 2020.

The plan was developed by the Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence (GSCORE) in partnership with all eleven local governments in the Great Southern region. Its aim is to ensure future trails are developed in a manner which is ecologically responsible, while facilitating benefits for the community in recreation, improved health, wellbeing and economic growth.

Popular trail uses being considered include:

- Hiking
- Cycling
- Paddling
- Snorkelling
- Mountain bike riding
- Linking heritage and cultural sites

GSCORE Executive Director Dr Lenore Lyons explains the Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan provides a coherent program of trail infrastructure development across the entire region over a 10-year period (2020-2029). It has been developed to guide decisions about investment in, and management of, trails and provides a vision for a future Great Southern trail network.

“We're keen to hear from a broad range of people with an interest in outdoor recreation and trails in the region, as well as organisations and agencies from across relevant industries. We encourage these groups to bring informed comment to the table, so we can ensure that the full range of interests are accurately represented in planning,” she comments.

“The goal is to ensure that by 2030, the Great Southern Region provides a diverse range of quality trail experiences showcasing our unique landscapes, biodiversity, geology, Aboriginal culture and settler heritage.”

The RTMP aims to:

- Guide future growth and development of trails in the Great Southern;
- Map out a 10-year program of infrastructure delivery, considering different groups and their preferred trail use;

- Act as a critical tool in budget planning by State and local governments for trail development; and
- Prioritise trail experiences which are valued by local communities and visitors for recreation, improved health, wellbeing and economic outcomes.

The local government areas incorporated in the plan are:

- Albany
- Broomehill-Tambellup
- Cranbrook
- Denmark
- Gnowangerup
- Jerramungup
- Katanning
- Kent
- Kojonup
- Plantagenet; and
- Woodanilling.

The master plan has the support of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), and the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

The project is funded by Building Better Regions Fund and Lotterywest with matching funding support from all 11 local governments in the Great Southern region, as well as the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

To view the draft RTMP, please visit [here](#).

Comments can be emailed to [trails@gscore.com.au](mailto:trails@gscore.com.au) prior to 19 January 2020.

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