

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Great Southern Regional Trail Master Plan (RTMP) provides a coherent and clearly outlined program of trail infrastructure development across the Great Southern region over a ten-year period (2020-2029). It has been developed to guide decisions about the management of, and investment in, trails and provides a vision of what the trail network across the Great Southern will look like in the future.

This plan has been developed in partnership with all eleven local governments in the Great Southern region - Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet, and Woodanilling. It 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 RTMP is identified as a priority project in both the Great Southern Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2019-2021, and the Great Southern Regional Sport and Recreation Plan (2018). It supports the key objectives of the Western Australian Strategic Trails Blueprint to develop a state-wide network of sustainable trails, facilities and associated infrastructure; to raise the recreational and tourism profile of Western Australian trails; and to develop a diverse revenue stream to ensure economic sustainability.

This plan aims to establish the Great Southern as a World-Class Trails Destination.

Supporting this vision are the following four agreed strategic objectives which are central to the successful implementation of the Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan:

## VISION STATEMENT

By 2030, the Great Southern Region will provide a diverse range of quality trail experiences that showcase the region's unique landscapes, biodiversity, geology, Aboriginal culture and settler heritage.

The trail network will be built to a high standard and managed on a sustainable basis to enhance environmental and educational outcomes.

Trail experiences will be highly valued by local communities who regularly use them for recreation.

They will also attract intrastate, interstate and international visitors, leading to improved health, wellbeing and economic outcomes for the region's people and places.

1



### Integrated Planning & Management

Adopt a strategic and coordinated approach to trail planning, management and maintenance through key stakeholder collaboration and prioritised and targeted investment.

2



### Sustainable & Accessible Trail Network

Develop, upgrade and maintain a network of high-quality trails and facilities that deliver outstanding experiences to a wide range of trail users and activity types.

3



### Promote the Visitor Experience

Encourage strong local community and visitor participation in recreational trail activities through effective promotion and marketing of the region's trails.

4



### Community and Economic Development Opportunities

Capitalise on the opportunities presented by a well-designed trails network for health, environmental, cultural, economic and liveability benefits.
















A multi-criteria assessment process was used to identify which trail proposals should be prioritised for development (see Section 3). The majority of the proposed priority trails are new trails or trail networks (see figure below). The timeframe for the delivery of these projects is based on a combination of factors, including the need to secure funding for construction, the need to undertake detailed environmental and heritage assessments as well as additional community consultation, and the need for complex land tenure negotiations with land owners and managers.







Developing these priority trails is integral to achieving the region’s vision of becoming a world-class trails destination. Therefore, this master plan recommends that the following eleven proposed priority trails are incorporated into local and state government planning documents as projects of regional importance and that funding be allocated to implement these projects. Other trail proposals included in this plan – including trail linkages and trail enhancements – are important but are of lower priority. They provide ‘value-added’ trail experiences for residents and visitors and should be incorporated into local trail plans and implemented when funding is available.

**Eleven regional priority trails or trail networks are proposed.** They are listed according to the anticipated timeframe for construction and are sorted by activity type (hiking, cycling, and paddling). They are **not** ranked by order of priority.





## ! PROPOSED PRIORITY TRAILS

TIMEFRAME	PROPOSED PRIORITY TRAIL OR TRAIL NETWORK	TRAIL TYPE
 <b>SHORT</b> 1-2 Years	Pwakkenbak (Tower Hill) MTB Trails	
	Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park Paddle Experience	
	Great Southern Treasures Recreation Circuit	  

TIMEFRAME	PROPOSED PRIORITY TRAIL OR TRAIL NETWORK	TRAIL TYPE
 <b>MEDIUM</b> 3-5 Years	Greens Pool to Lights Beach Coastal Hiking Trail	
	Albany’s Historic Whaling Station to The Gap Coastal Hiking Trail	
	Albany Heritage Park Trails	 
	Mt Hallowell MTB Trails	
	Porongurup MTB Trails	

TIMEFRAME	PROPOSED PRIORITY TRAIL OR TRAIL NETWORK	TRAIL TYPE
 <b>LONG</b> 6-10 Years	Albany to Whaling Station Dual-use Trail	 
	Grain Train Rail Trails	 
	Stirling Range Valleys Cycle Touring Trail	

In combination with the proposed trail linkages and improvements, these new trails will provide a diverse range of iconic trail experiences for hiking, cycling and paddling. Progressively implementing these projects over the next decade will ensure that the Great Southern achieves its potential as a nationally recognised trail destination.

TRAIL TYPE			
 Hiking	 Cycling/Mountain biking	 Paddling	 Snorkelling