



Anglesea Heath

Mountain Biking Position Paper

Parks Victoria proposes to create opportunities for mountain biking at Area 9, a 110 hectare block of Crown land abutting the Anglesea Heath. Changes in this area will provide a connection between Eumeralla and the current Anglesea Bike Park. It is also proposed that three tracks in the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath) be made available for mountain bike riders, shared with bushwalkers. The community's feedback is invited on how areas identified for mountain biking can be linked and managed in a sustainable way.

Summary

Mountain biking is a growing recreation activity and is a popular way to enjoy the Great Otway National Park. Currently the Anglesea Heath does not provide any formal mountain biking trails.

Extensive community consultation occurred as part of the development of the **Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework**. As a result, Area 9 (110 hectares of Crown land bordered by the Great Ocean Road to the east and Coalmine Road to the north) has been set aside for active recreation including mountain biking. Parks Victoria will undertake detailed planning for this site and investigate how mountain biking links, on existing tracks within the area, can be provided to Eumeralla and the Anglesea Bike Park. Planning will incorporate any changes necessary once the permanent location of the Anglesea Bike Park is determined.

This paper outlines the current issues and future opportunities for mountain biking in the Anglesea Heath and surrounding parcels of land managed by Parks Victoria.

Context

Parks Victoria's strategy, **Shaping Our Future**, recognises the importance of conserving parks while providing opportunities for all people to enjoy these special places. Parks are great locations for a wide range of recreational

activities, including mountain biking, where these activities can be enjoyed while ensuring that the natural and cultural values of parks are sustained for the future.

The **Great Otway National Park Management Plan** aims to provide opportunities for people to enjoy cycling experiences in the park, including mountain biking and bicycle touring, where this is sustainable and compatible with the protection of park values. Conflicts with other park users must be minimised.

Mountain biking objectives

The **Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework** identified that for Area 9, conservation and active recreation were to be the main land uses, with existing trails and tracks to be used to establish mountain bike trails. For the Great Otway National Park area (incorporating the Anglesea Heath) the priority was to preserve and protect flora and fauna, with complementary active recreation supported where this would not detract from the main land use of conservation. This has informed Parks Victoria's approach.

The following objectives have been developed to manage the integration of the Anglesea Heath into the Great Otway National Park:

1. Investigate how the Anglesea Heath can provide mountain biking trails that link to areas of active recreation including Eumeralla, Area 9 and the Anglesea Bike Park
2. Make detailed planning decisions for Area 9, based on directions identified in the Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework, including:
 - a. Changes to the status of roads to facilitate recreation e.g. closing roads to cars and motorbikes so they can safely be used for mountain biking and walking
 - b. Determining the future layout of tracks and recreational facilities on existing disturbed areas.

What we are seeing

There is strong community demand and interest in mountain biking. Cyclists actively use the Crown land surrounding Anglesea and are often seeking out ways to cycle between areas set aside for mountain biking. In the Anglesea Heath mountain bikers are permitted to use the official road network. A lack of trails for mountain biking use in the park has led to unofficial tracks being made, generating environmental damage.

What is proposed and why

Parks Victoria proposes to modify public vehicle access to tracks in the 110ha of Crown land known as Area 9, consistent with the Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework. This is required to enable recreation, including mountain biking, to be safely accommodated.

Within the Anglesea Heath, Parks Victoria proposes to provide mountain bikers and bushwalkers with shared use of Haggarts Track, Harrison Track South and a section of Alcoa Boundary Track. These tracks can all be accessed by the existing road network. Please see the map attached for more detail.

How these changes may affect you

Proposed changes to the road and track network within both Area 9 and the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath) will limit the public's ability to drive on some tracks in order to provide a safe and appropriate area for mountain biking and walking.

What do you think?

- What aspects of Anglesea Heath are attractive to mountain bikers? Why?
- Do you feel that the additional mountain biking tracks and linkages identified between Eumeralla, Area 9 (110ha Crown land parcel) and the Anglesea Bike Park are satisfactory?
- Should the Anglesea Heath provide additional opportunities for mountain biking or are these better suited to areas of lower conservation value? If so where should these links for cyclists be located?

Have your say on the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath)

Parks Victoria is interested in your thoughts. You can contribute by:

- Visiting the Parks Victoria stand at Anglesea Riverbank Market on Saturday 12 January (5:30-8pm)
- Attending a drop-in session on Wednesday 16 January (5-7:30pm) or Saturday 2 February (11-1:30pm) at Anglesea Hall - 1A McMillan Street, Anglesea
- Completing a survey at engage.vic.gov.au or
- Emailing your comments to Angleseaheath@parks.vic.gov.au

For more information go to www.engage.vic.gov.au

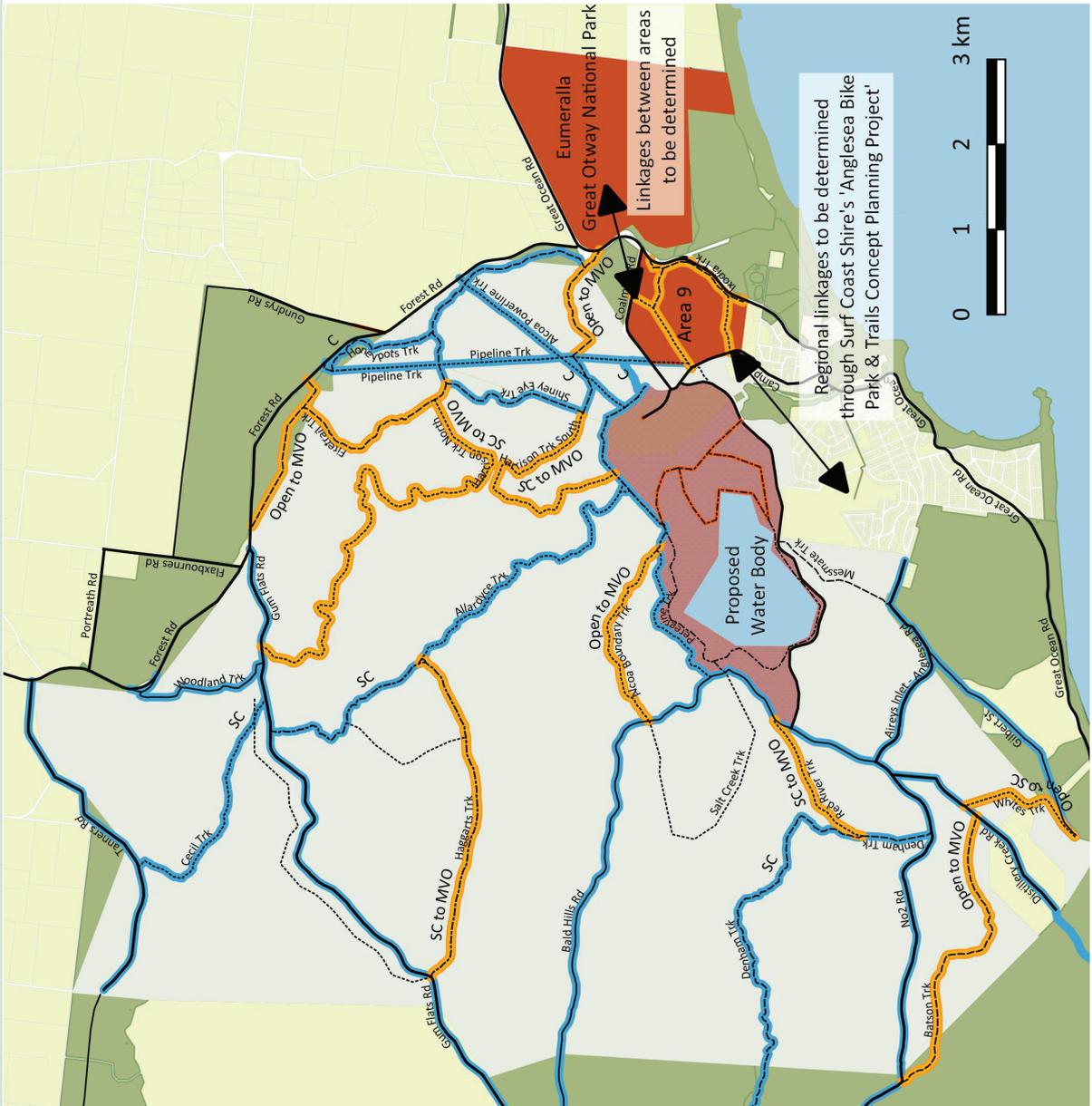
Anglesea Heath Proposed Mountain Biking

- Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath)
- National Parks, Reserves, & Forest Park
- Former Mining Area
- Private Property

Mountain Biking Opportunities

- Proposed Track for Mountain Bike Shared Use
- Eumeralla Great Otway National Park
- Existing Vehicle Access
- Area 9 Set aside for active recreation (mountain biking) in the Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework

- Proposed Access Status
- MVO - Management Vehicle Only
 - SC- Seasonal Closure
 - C - Closed



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