

Council Policy

Trails and Cycling Routes Management



COUNCIL POLICY

 <p>Adelaide Hills COUNCIL</p>	<h2>TRAILS AND CYCLING ROUTES MANAGEMENT</h2>
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Policy Number:	INF-01
Responsible Department(s):	Infrastructure and Operations
Relevant Delegations:	As per the Delegations Register and as detailed in this Policy
Other Relevant Policies:	Asset Management Policy Procurement Policy Public Consultation Policy Risk Management Policy Sport and Recreation Policy Tree Management Policy Volunteers Engagement Policy
Relevant Procedure(s):	Trails and Cycling Routes Management Framework
Relevant Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1999 Volunteer Protection Act 2001 Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 Natural Resources Management Act 2004 Native Vegetation Act 1991 Disability Inclusion Act 2018 Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991 Road Traffic Act 1961 (and associated Regulations)</i>
Policies and Procedures Superseded by this policy on its Adoption:	Nil
Adoption Authority:	Council
Date of Adoption:	24 August 2021

Effective From:	07 Septmeber 2021
Minute Reference for Adoption:	Item 12.3, 172/21
Next Review:	No later than June 2024 or as required by legislation or changed circumstances

Version Control

Version No.	Date of Effect	Description of Change(s)	Approval
1.0	07 September 2021	New Policy	Council

TRAILS AND CYCLING ROUTES MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Council recognises the positive contribution that recreation trails and cycling routes provide to the local community and visitors alike. Council understands it plays a pivotal role in providing trail and cycle experiences within the Council area.

1.2 Council has a *Trails and Cycling Routes Management Policy* (the “Policy”)to:

- Demonstrate its commitment to environmental, financial and socially sustainable trail and cycle route development.
- Support Tourism and economic development within the Adelaide Hills Region.
- Engage trail and cycle route users through promotion and education.
- Protect and enhance the natural and built environments.
- Foster community involvement and stewardship of trails and cycle routes.

1.3 This Policy is actioned through the *Trails and Cycling Routes Management Framework* (the “Framework”). The Policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant Council policies and other Framework components, including but not limited to:

- *Trails and Cycling Routes Implementation/Management Plan*
- Service levels
- Trails and cycling routes assessment and inspection tools
- Risk assessment
- Works schedules and budgeting forecasts; and
- Other supporting documents and procedures.

1.4 This Policy acknowledges that not all trails and cycling routes within the Council boundary are Council owned and/or managed. Therefore it is important to acknowledge the relationships Council has with existing land and trail managers. All trails in which council has an ‘interest’ are captured within this Policy and associated Framework.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Ensure a considered selection process is used to determine suitable trails and cycling routes are developed.
- Provide a framework that enhances existing and considers new trails and cycle routes.
- Provide a framework that assists in managing community expectations for trails and cycling routes within the Adelaide Hills Council area.
- Provide adaptable methods to develop and promote sustainable trails and cycling routes.
- Encourage stakeholder and community involvement in the development of trails and cycling routes, where appropriate.

3. DEFINITIONS

“Commuter/Commuting” refers to a person or action of a person by walking, bike riding or horse riding whereby the person is using a trail/route to travel to and from a place of residence.

“Footpath” (identified as Township or Semi Urban, and captured in the *Asset Management Plan*) refers to purpose built road asset, not shared by motor vehicles, intended for use by pedestrians or cyclists, generally separate of the road.

“Interest” refers to Council’s relationship to a trail and may include a trail or cycling route which Council has planned, built or is managing, a trail/route that is on Council land but is managed by another entity or a trail/route on community/private land which Council has agreed to manage in some way by written agreement.

“Prescribed trail/cycling route” refers to a trail and/or cycling route that is identified in the *Adelaide Hills Council Trails and Cycling Routes Management Framework*. A prescribed trail is for use by walkers, bicycle riders and horse riders and does not permit the use by motor cycles or motor vehicles. Any trail not identified as part of the framework is consider not prescribed and therefore *may* not be managed and/or maintained in the same manner as Adelaide Hills Council prescribed trails/routes.

“Route” a way or course used to get from a starting point to a finishing point. A route uses existing infrastructure such as roads, verges, unmade roads, laneways, rail corridors, bridges, trails etc. to guide a user around a series of points of interest, for the purposes of formal or informal, leisure, recreation and/or commuting. A route is not a piece of infrastructure, rather it uses existing infrastructure that is managed by a land manager. A cycling route, is a route for use by a human powered bicycle.

“Sustainable” refers to the management of trails and cycling routes that they provide positive social, environmental and economic outcomes.

“Trail” refers to infrastructure that has been purposefully designed and constructed on land for the purposes of formal, informal, active and/or passive recreation or commuting by a walker, bike rider or horse rider. For the purposes of this Policy ‘trail’ does not refer to a sculpture trail, tourism trail, art trail, history trail or the like, whereby a user uses existing roads and a vehicle to participate.

“Trail Manager” a trail manager is a person or group of people (community group), agency or government that manages a route that is located within public or private land and may or may not be located on Council land for some or all of the trail/route. A trail manager may or may not own the land to which the trail they manage is located.

“Walker” refers to a person using a trail by foot or mobility device and can include motorised wheelchairs, walking frames, mobility scooters, pram walkers/runners, runners and bushwalkers.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1 Council strives to support mountain bike (off-road), road cycling, bushwalking and horse riding experiences throughout the Adelaide Hills region, and wishes to become a world leader in developing, promoting and supporting trail and cycling route assets within the region.
- 4.2 Council acknowledges the social, environmental and economic value that recreation trails and cycling routes provide to the local area and broader region and supports the provision of safe, sustainable and quality trails and cycling routes to ensure these values are achieved.

4.3 Principles

- 4.3.1 Prescribed trails and cycle route assets must be managed appropriately by Council.
- 4.3.2 All relevant legislative requirements together with political, social, economic and natural environments are taken into account in the development and implementation of prescribed trails and cycle routes.
- 4.3.3 Council acknowledges the types of users (walk, bike, horse), user cohorts (individuals, groups, organised groups, families, educational institutes, athletes, amateurs, and more) and abilities of users on prescribed trails and cycle routes.
- 4.3.4 All Council prescribed trails and cycle routes are managed through Council's *Trails and Cycling Route Framework*.
- 4.3.5 Council uses various media and tools to promote prescribed trails and cycling routes.
- 4.3.6 Council acknowledges its responsibility to support other land and trail managers, and will continue to support and promote non-Council managed trails and cycling routes within the Adelaide Hills region and its nearby neighbours.

4.4 Policy Position

- 4.4.1 Council supports the use of prescribed trails and cycling routes by walkers, bike riders and horse riders of all abilities, to which the asset has been designed for.
- 4.4.2 Council plans, develops and manages prescribed trails and cycle routes that are:
- Sustainable - by contributing to positive social, environmental and economic outcomes, whilst reducing negative impacts.
 - Safe and desirable – by ensuring they meet a minimum standard allowing for accessibility, and meeting the needs of the users.
- 4.4.3 Prescribed trails will be planned, designed and managed to promote safe and enjoyable trail experiences that focus on providing family friendly routes to, from and through places of interest ensuring high experience value for the user. A classification level, which ensures adherence to design standards, determines the types of users permitted on Council trails.
- 4.4.4 Prescribed cycle routes will be planned, designed and managed to promote safe and enjoyable cycling experiences that focus on providing both family friendly and commuter

routes to, from and through places of interest ensuring high experience value for the users.

- 4.4.5 The overarching *Trails and Cycle Routes Management Framework* approach ensures that planning, budgeting, design, procurement and maintenance processes are aligned with Council's Strategic Objectives and that the community and relevant stakeholders are engaged in the process along the way.

4.5 Trail and Cycle Routes Classification & Grading

- 4.5.1 A trail and cycle classification and grading system, modified to suit the Adelaide Hills Council nuances and attributes, is used to assist in the planning and management of trail and cycle route assets. The classification and grading system has been informed by national and international standards and guidelines from all user disciplines (mountain biking, walking tracks, horse trails and others) and is a dynamic model which will be adjusted if and when required.

- 4.5.2 This approach ensures diversity of trail experiences throughout the Council area, assists with allocation of resources and assists users in understanding the conditions that may be experienced on any given prescribed trail.

- 4.5.3 Further detail regarding attributes and service levels for each classification can be found in the *Trails and Cycling Management Framework* documents.

4.6 Trails and Cycle Route Management and Responsibilities

- 4.6.1 Council has responsibility for the maintenance and management of all prescribed trails and cycling routes and associated infrastructure within the Council region, on land or assets which are under the care and control of Council.

- 4.6.2 Requests for new trails or cycle routes (or alterations) are to be assessed against the assessment tool, developed within the *Trails and Cycle Routes Management Framework*.

- 4.6.3 Only Council employees, Council volunteers and consultants are permitted to upgrade and build prescribed trails and cycle routes, unless authorised in writing.

- 4.6.4 Prescribed cycle routes are located on existing Local Government or State Government roads, with Local and State Government partnerships supported to ensure continuity and connectivity of networks, routes and the like.

4.7 Trails and Cycle Route Management and Responsibilities – Non-Council Managed Trails and Routes

- 4.7.1 When support of non-Council managed trails or routes is requested by another body, person, group or government, Council will refer to the Policy and procedures outlined in the *Trails and Cycling Management Framework* to inform the response, for those portion(s) of land which are under the care and control of Council.

- 4.7.2 Any non-Council managed trails which cross the same alignment/corridor of a Council prescribed trail, shall be subject to the policies and procedures outlined in the Trails and Cycling Framework, for the portion of the prescribed trail only.

4.8 Trail Maintenance, Upgrades and Management

- 4.8.1 Trails and Cycle Routes are designed, developed, maintained, upgraded and promoted in accordance with the *Trails and Cycling Routes Framework* methodology that considers community needs and wants, environmental impacts and risks, broader social benefits and economic factors. A works program (working document) supports this policy and identifies priorities
- 4.8.2 Council does not permit the use of unauthorised vehicles on prescribed trails including motor bikes and others as prescribed in the *Road Traffic Act 1991* (on road prescribed cycle routes are exempt from this clause). Appropriate signage and communications occur to inform the community of this position.

4.9 Trail and Cycling Route User Responsibilities

- 4.9.1 All users of prescribed trails and cycling routes shall be bound by a trails and cycling code of practice, terms and conditions of use and/or similar, to ensure expectations of use are understood and trail/route stewardship is fostered. (Available on Council's website and promoted through signage). See *Trails and Cycling Management Framework* for more details.

5. DELEGATION

- 5.1 The Chief Executive Officer has the delegation to:
- Approve, amend and review any procedures that shall be consistent with this Policy; and
 - Make any formatting, nomenclature or other minor changes to the Policy during the period of its currency.

6. AVAILABILITY OF THE POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at the Council's Offices during ordinary business hours and via the Council's website www.ahc.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to the public upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with the Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.