

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 5th November

Cradle Coast Tracks Strategy Released for Public Comment

The “Draft” final report for the Cradle Coast Recreational Tracks Strategy, commissioned by the Cradle Coast Authority and Sport and Recreation Tasmania has now been completed by Maher Brampton Associates. Public comment is now being sought on the contents of this strategy. This report represents a comprehensive regional strategy for the development of a variety of tracks and trails throughout the Cradle Coast region. The report identifies a number of priorities that need to be considered by all levels of Government, interested community groups and users of these tracks and trails.

The report identifies a number of opportunities for track development and expansion within the Cradle Coast Region, and recommends seven specific projects to be given priority consideration. These priority projects include:

1. Waterfalls, Wildlife and Wilderness: 20 Great Short Walks of the Cradle Coast Region.
This project involves the identification and development of a series of short walks focussing on ‘waterfalls, wildlife and wilderness’.
2. Local Tracks Enhancement Program:
To facilitate the preparation of local Track Master Plans and other programs designed to prioritise and stimulate local track development
3. Mountain Bike Mecca.
Assessment, selection and development of 10 great short mountain bike rides,
4. Coastal Pathway Planning Study.
A planning and route alignment study for the development of priority sections of a coastal path linking the key towns of the north west coast.
5. King Island Tracks Program:
Detailed assessment and selection of a suite of tracks on King Island.
6. Information Collation and Dissemination Program:
Tracks are currently available for all three user groups and many more will be developed or upgraded through the programs set out above – they just need to be better promoted.
7. Tasmanian Trail: Review of Alignment, Focus and Functionality.
A State-level project designed to enhance the appeal of the Tasmanian Trail, a prospective icon that currently does not live up to its potential.

The Cradle Coast Authority and Sport and Recreation Tasmania are now seeking comments on this strategy from all sectors of the Cradle Coast community including Local Government, special interest community groups, track users and other interested parties.

People wishing to view this strategy are encouraged to view initial components of the report on the Cradle Coast Authority website www.cradlecoast.com or at State libraries throughout the region. A hard copy or electronic version on CD can be obtained via the Cradle Coast Authority by phoning Jasmine on 6431 6285.

Any comments with regard to this strategy are to be forwarded to Greg Irwin at Sport and Recreation Tasmania by **Friday 5th December 2003**.

Media contacts:

Greg Irwin	Office of Sport & Recreation	6434 6243
Ian Waller	Cradle Coast Authority	6431 6285