

Cycling (mountain bike riding) in QPWS managed areas

Operational Policy – Visitor management - July 2007

The following has been extracted from the full policy which can be read at:

www.epa.qld.gov.au/publications?id=2146

Background

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) management of cycling (mountain bike riding) includes providing public access to roads, multiple-use tracks and single-use tracks.

Policy Statement

Access

Mountain bike (MTB) riding is allowed:

- On all dedicated roads
- On QPWS managed roads (fire roads) where MTB riding has not been prohibited, and on single-use and multiple-use tracks where MTB riding has been allowed by an appropriate sign

Appropriateness

QPWS will assess appropriateness of MTB riding in QPWS managed areas using the following criteria:

- The tenure of the land
- Public safety (for both riders and other users)
- Ecological sustainability
- Whether the activity is nature-based
- The setting
- Other activities on the site
- Sustainable visitor capacity

Sustainable visitation capacity and environmental impact management

QPWS recognises that both the ecological and social impacts of MTB riding are affected by the track standard, climate, style of riding, size of group and the total number of bikes that use the area.

Track development, standards and maintenance

Single-use tracks may be developed where demand, safety concerns, lack of suitable alternatives, use patterns or other circumstances may require them.

In developing single-use tracks, QPWS will take into consideration the appropriateness criteria and:

- Demand (number and types of users)
- Number of unsanctioned tracks
- Suitability of existing tracks for realignment
- Protection of vegetation
- Soil type and gradient of land
- Diversity of other uses

Where QPWS allows the establishment of single-use tracks, they will be constructed and maintained in accordance with relevant standards, policies and guidelines. These standards may include guides produced by the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

Community engagement

QPWS may enter into arrangements with MTB groups to manage tracks through a 'trail care' or 'adopt a track' volunteer maintenance program.