

## **Summary of References to Mountain Biking in the Mt Coot-tha Management Plan Oct 04**

3.2.1 Visitor Profile (p13)

3.2.3 Access (p14)

### **4.1 BCC Vision for Mt Coot-tha (p15)**

*Mt Coot-tha Forest will continue to be recognised and appreciated as an important community asset for its scenic, natural, cultural and heritage values and its value as a place for recreation, nature appreciation and research.*

### **4.2 Management Strategy (p15)**

- provide a range and diversity of recreational opportunities for residents of Brisbane and their visitors. (given the finite nature of the Forest it is noted that the Forest does not have the capacity to sustain all recreational demand)

### **5.1.2 Threat 2 – exposure of soil to erosion (p17)**

...inappropriate and illegal uses in the Forest often undermine (efforts to minimize erosion) and create new erosion sites. These uses include –

- short cutting leading to the development of unformed tracks
- development of new tracks by select groups (eg mountain bikers)
- disturbance of existing walking tracks by mountain bikes

### **5.2.3 Visitor Experiences (p20)**

Mountain bike riding has the potential to impact on the Forest's natural values through track damage and soil erosion. Therefore, there is a need to exclude riders from certain areas of the Forest to ensure these values are protected. Bicycle riding is only permitted on designated tracks (BCC's Local Law) therefore a specific track network has been established. This track network also includes a series of multiuse tracks which are wider and can be shared with horse riders, pedestrians and maintenance and emergency vehicles. Pedestrians and mountain bike riders cannot share narrow tracks due to the potential safety hazard caused from high speed riding.

Signage relating to this track network will be incorporated into the management and works programs for the Forest.

Council and the mountain bike community have begun the process of partnering on issues relating to maintenance, codes of conduct and the promotion of appropriate and legal track use.

### **Management Solutions – Mountain Bikes (pp24-25)**

Objective – Identify opportunities for mountain bike riders to pursue this activity without compromising the Forest's natural, cultural and social values or safety of Forest visitors.

#### **Actions**

1. Develop partnerships and programs with relevant clubs and groups to promote their sport in a way that will lessen the impact on ecologically sensitive areas and ensure appropriate and legal use of the track network.
2. Minimise mountain bike riding in areas containing significant vegetation communities and/or habitat and other environmentally sensitive areas (ie steep/erodible slopes, wet areas, etc)
3. Through consultation with user groups, develop, promote and seek commitment to agreed 'yield to' trail rules.
4. Develop a Code of Practice with key user groups for the development and maintenance of tracks for mountain bike riding in the Forest and the use of these facilities by users.
5. Continue to develop signage to outline appropriate (tracks) for mountain bikes.

**Mt Coot-tha Forest Track Map is available free from the BCC Call Centre 3403 8888.**