

# Regional Adventure Trails Working Group

## Tropical North Queensland Regional Mountain Bike Strategy 2024-2034

### Terms of reference

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#### Background

The [Tropical North Queensland Regional Mountain Bike Strategy 2024-2034](#) prioritises the activation of a Regional Adventure Trail Working Group.

#### Purpose

To collaboratively plan, develop, and promote a regional network of adventure trails and bikepacking routes which:

- Connect key trail hubs, regional towns and attractions with offroad cycling routes.
- Showcase the natural, cultural, and historical assets of Tropical North Queensland.
- Support the growth of bike-friendly businesses, sustainable tourism, local economies, and community wellbeing.
- Align the region with global best practice in route design, promotion, and storytelling.
- Deploy a regional hub and spoke model which utilises Cairns's airport as a domestic and international point of entry for destination focused adventure cycling.

#### Scope

The working group will focus on:

- Adventure cycling and bikepacking routes linking across FNQROC member council regions.
- Integration with existing routes, mountain biking hubs, rail trails, regional towns and wilderness tracks.
- Routes suitable for off-road disciplines including mountain, adaptive, and gravel bikes.
- Scaled single day and multi-day experiences ranging from beginner-friendly to remote expedition-style.

The geographic scope of the Strategy includes the local government areas of Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Cook, Croydon, Douglas, Etheridge, Hinchinbrook, Hopevale, Mareeba, Tablelands, Wujal Wujal, and Yarrabah. Adjoining local government areas of the Cape York and North Queensland regions will be given consideration when required.

#### Primary objectives and key tasks

The key objectives and tasks of the working group will be to:

- Audit and map existing and potential adventure trail corridors and routes.
- Develop route concepts for single and multi-day bikepacking experiences.
- Make recommendations on suitable standards for wayfinding, safety, and environmental sustainability.
- Identify resource gaps and investment opportunities.
- Make recommendations on best approaches to promote adventure cycling routes and experiences through online platforms and regional tourism channels.
- Make recommendations on approaches to monitor and evaluate trail usage, visitor feedback and future development.

## **First Nations considerations and engagement**

The geographic scope of the Strategy includes over 30 language, social or nations groups which contain many more clans, dialects and individual languages. The Strategy recommends local engagement of Traditional Owners in preference to seeking regional representation on working groups and committees which is often incompatible with the operations and resources of Native Title Bodies and representative groups. The working group will identify appropriate engagement processes and opportunities with Traditional Owners and First Nations people. Wherever possible, existing forums and engagement arrangements and networks will be utilised to reduce duplication.

## **Membership**

The Regional Adventure Trail Working Group will be skills based and established via EOI open to representatives from these sectors with a membership of twelve:

- Local Governments (FNQROC member councils).
- Traditional Owner groups and Indigenous organisations.
- Tourism groups and bodies.
- Cycling clubs and advocacy groups.
- Landholders and individuals.
- Industry experts, private enterprise, and consultants.
- Environmental and land management agencies.
- Local businesses (e.g. accommodation, food, service providers, tour operators).

Invited guests and technical experts may be engaged by Working Group in an advisory capacity.

## **Responsibilities of members**

Working group members will be an appropriately authorised representative and be able to:

- Participate in meetings either face to face, via phone or video conferencing.
- Complete tasks and actions identified within any minutes.
- If representing a group or organisation then be the point of contact for that group.
- Disseminate and communicate information within their networks as required.

## **Role of FNQROC**

FNQROC will:

- Coordinate an agenda and invite relevant presenters and external contributions.
- Document recommendations and actions of the Working Group.
- Report on the Working Group actions to the Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee, and as required, to the FNQROC Board.
- Collate, generate and share GIS data and information developed by the Working Group.
- Minute the proceedings of the Working Group and disseminate relevant communications as required.

## **Term**

The Regional Adventure Trail Working Group will convene for a period of 12 months. It is expected this will include 2 workshops and 6 meetings (online and in person). Any additional engagement will be as recommended by the working group.

## **Attendance**

Where attendance in person is not possible, representatives are encouraged to attend meetings remotely if facilities are available.

- Participation is voluntary, no sitting fees are provided.
- An appropriately authorised delegate should represent Working Group members. A proxy may be nominated.

## **Quorum and abstention**

A quorum is not required except when responding to a Board direction; or endorsing recommendations of the Working Group.

A quorum consists of majority support.

- Where a quorum is not available; or required outside of a sitting date the endorsement for a motion will be sought via a flying minute.
- Government authorities and agencies may require abstaining from voting on a matter due to potential policy conflicts and regulatory requirements. An abstained vote is not counted; however, the recommendations and directions of all stakeholders will be sought as a matter of principle.
- Abstention, withholding a vote; and objections to motions otherwise endorsed will each be recorded or otherwise noted.

## **Facilitation and procedure of meetings**

Meetings will be facilitated by FNQROC.

- The working group will be facilitated by FNQROC for an initial period of 12 months. FNQROC will provide secretariat and coordination of the group.
- Planned 2 workshops and 6 meetings
- The working group is a subcommittee of the Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee and will report to the Steering Committee and FNQROC Board.

## **Reporting**

An annual summary from the Working Group will be provided for inclusion within the FNQROC Annual Report.

## **Dispute resolution**

Where a dispute cannot be resolved by the committee, it is to be escalated to the FNQROC Chief Executive Officer. If it cannot be resolved by the FNQROC Chief Executive Officer, it will be escalated to the FNQROC Board.

Version	Prepared by	Date	Key changes made
1.0	Travis Sydes, FNQROC	03/11/2025	First draft