

Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee

Meeting No	6
Meeting Name	Regional Mountain Bike Strategy Steering Committee (RMBSSC)
Date	26 June 2026
Time	12:30-2:30
Venue	MS Teams (Kingsford Room, Level 3, Cairns Regional Council, cnr. Spence and Draper St)
Meeting Contacts	Travis Sydes: 0448 852 732 t.sydes@fnqroc.qld.gov.au

Minutes

The purpose of this meeting is to guide the implementation of the [Tropical North Queensland Regional Mountain Bike Strategy 2024-2034](#).

1.	Acknowledgement of Country
2.	Attendance Darren Foo CMBC, Benita Bittner CRC, Cr Dave Bilney TRC, Miki Bradley QPWS, Jodie Cross QPWS, Scott Wall QPWS, Naomi Rooker DSROPG, Toby Porter QPWS, Richard Blanchette CCMC, Travis Sydes FNQROC
3.	Apologies Tim Wong WTMA, Rudi De Faveri MMG
4.	Guests
5.	Acceptance of previous minutes Moved: Richard Blanchette Seconded: Dave Bilney
6.	Actions from previous meeting

Discussion relating to business arising from meeting #5

8.0 – update from regional club's roundtable #2

The purpose of regional club's roundtable is to focus on Club specific business relevant to the implementation of the [Tropical North Queensland Regional Mountain Bike Strategy 2024-2034](#). The roundtable is an opportunity for Club representatives to meet at a time more suited to volunteer committee members and investigate club specific issues in more detail.

The regional club's roundtable was attended by Cairns Mountain Bike Club (Darren Foo) and Mareeba Mountain Goats (Gary Warner). Apologies David Prete (Tablelands Cycle Sports) Rudi De Faveri (Mareeba Mountain Goats).

Discussed items included:

Discussions with TTNQ re destination marketing

Cairns MBC participated in a panel session on Major Events at the annual TNQ Tourism Conference. The opportunities around the MTB industry were well received. Next years conference will provide an opportunity to do a deeper dive into the tourism industry opportunities and business partnerships via a trail pass/rider membership system.

Regional Trail Pass – key concepts and next steps

Travis provided an outline of the key concepts and points addressed in the regional trail pass discussion paper. Key points:

- Clubs will require to maintain AusCycling membership options for racing, events, insurance and indemnity.
- TidyHQ will be retired in July for JustGo (a similar but improved federation management platform)
- Hivepass is the most suitable or likely platform to support club/region needs. It has recently expanded to a range of regional models in USA in addition to the existing NZ models.
- The platform can accommodate a range of membership and club affiliation/regional models.
- The discussion paper recommends progressing conversations across clubs and Hivepass to navigate options.
- The paper has been tabled with TTNQ, DETSI (Ecotourism Team), and as an option for rider engagement

Action: 1. Initiate conversation with Hivepass to collate detail on the options available to the region/clubs.

Adventure trails project update

Travis provided an overview of the outcomes from workshop #1 of the Adventure Trails Working Group. The group has assisted to map out around 3,500kmn of primarily off-road adventure cycling routes. They're now going through a process of prioritising and refining a subsection for publishing towards the end of 2026.

DCCEEW – Game On – climate adaptation sporting grants

The Commonwealth have released a grant round focused on assisting sporting clubs to adapt, create resilience and build awareness to climate change. Travis outlined some potential project ideas which would be eligible under the scheme.

8 **8.1 Adventure Trails Working Group – update**

Travis provided an update on the adventure trails project. The working group has mapped out over 3,500km of off-road touring options and around 26 routes. Work is now focused on prioritising and fine-tuning routes for presentation and undertaking consultation with councils on local offerings. (see attached PDF)

8.2 Events and regional race calendar for 2026 (updates)

CMBC has an updated link on their webpage and FB feed with an active race calendar showing upcoming events.

8.3 Regional Trail Pass – discussion paper (draft)

Travis provided an overview of the discussion paper and gave a rundown on next steps. (as outlined in notes above from the Clubs Roundtable).

8.4 Regional MTB investment plan – update

FNQROC is currently working on an update of the regional investment plan which was initially developed to support regional advocacy in the FNQROC State Delegation by Mayors in 2024. The plan is being updated considering progress of targets and the push to secure due diligence, cultural and environmental approvals for Atherton Forest and Cardwell project so they are shovel ready.

8.5 Destination marketing – next steps

The conversation for destination marketing will be carried forward to next year's TNQ Tourism Conference and will be guided by the management model and regional engagement arising from the Smithfield Expansion Project.

8.6 Regional Strategy – implementation and scoping review

Travis provided an outline of a proposal to undertake a strategy health check and implementation review. FNQROC's preference is for this to be undertaken by an independent third party. The review process would require participation from the steering committee in the process for it to maximise value.

Discussion:

- Until the management/operational model for Smithfield is determined CMBC will be unsure of immediate directions and needs of the Club and the park.
- State Departments are happy to contribute to a review process, but as per the committee's Terms of Reference this is in the form of technical and operational advice and restricted to matters of strategy business relating to their jurisdiction.

Action: 1. proceed with RFQ for third party to undertake a workshop to review the implementation of the Strategy. 2. Steering committee stakeholders contribute to the review process as required.

8.7 Funding Opportunity – Game On: Teaming Up for Action on Climate Change, sports club grants [Sports clubs energy and climate upgrades - DCCCEW](#)

Travis provided an outline of a project concept which aligns to the grant objectives. The grant could be used to deploy IOT weather stations and sensors at each of the MTB parks to provide real time weather and riding conditions alerts to inform trail management and assist keep riders safer from extremes of weather. The project would require the placement of a base station and sensors within or in close proximity to MTB parks and an ongoing subscription to provide the service. A customised public-facing platform would provide access to riding condition reports and warnings.

Discussion: general support in principle but the project would need to address required permissions for sites/locations and clarity around the any ongoing costs in maintaining

the service. Travis flagged the timeframe for submission will make round 1 unrealistic, however there will be a second round of the funding program which we will target.

Action: 1. Circulate draft proposal for further discussion. 2. Consider development of full project proposal (if approved by committee in time for the second funding round).

8.8 Updates from around the room (points for noting)

- Games On Funding infrastructure round ROI now closed.
- Partnership Program and Field of Play open until August 5.
- The Queensland Sports Strategy is due for release soon.
- Cassowary Coast adopted the Cardwell Gateway Precinct Report including concepts for the Cardwell Trail head and the Cardwell Trails Preliminary Business Plan.
- Smithfield expansion project, final designs and ground truthing. Community consultation resulted in small increase in green trails. The masterplan is now in draft and environment and cultural surveys planned for proposed alignments.
- ROI process for Smithfield, submissions received now being assessed.
- TCS Disaster Recovery Funded works underway for Atherton Forest. Considering several trail reconfigurations in scope of works.
- Next group of VPG Trail Trainees have completed program and currently recruiting for supervisor role.
- TRC are about to cut the ribbon on the Priors Creek Parklands Project (10th July). Revisiting highway crossing for the Tablelands Rail Trail with DTMR. Advocating for Atherton Forest expansion.
- The Northern Beaches Leisure Trail will connect Palm Cove to Trinity Beach with the long-term plan to connect all the way to the CBD. Walking Network Plan for Whitfield/Edgehill is out for public consultation.

9 Trail audit training opportunity

10	2026 workplan Focus on trail pass, adventure trails and advocacy
11	Advocacy
12	Next meeting Friday 4 th September
13	Meeting close

Actions arising from meeting

Actions arising from meeting #5		By who
3.1	Trail Vision audit system training (updated from action 2.2) Action: 1. Arrange a suitable date for Trail Vision auditing system training. 2. Support AFMBP in extending the involvement to other interested clubs, councils and agencies.	1. TCS, (FNQROC) 2. FNQROC
3.3	Trail signage and branding Action: Explore options for regionally consistent but locally distinct trail branding, signage and marketing. (Strategy actions: 1.4, 3.4, 3.8)	1. MTBSC
6.1	Regional Trail Pass – key concepts and next steps Action: 1. Initiate conversation with Hivepass to collate detail on the options available to the region/clubs.	1. FNQROC, Clubs
6.2	Game On: Teaming Up for Action on Climate Change, sports club grants Action: 1. Circulate draft proposal for further discussion. 2. Consider development of full project proposal (if approved by committee in time for the second funding round).	1. FNQROC 2. Committee
6.3	Regional Strategy – implementation and scoping review Action: 1. proceed with RFQ for third party to undertake a workshop to review the implementation of the Strategy. 2. Steering committee stakeholders contribute to the review process as required.	1. FNQROC 2. Committee