

## **Bushwalking Victoria Position on Mountain Bike Trails**

### **Introduction**

Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) represents the common interests of its affiliated bushwalking clubs for the purpose of safeguarding and advancing the interests of all bushwalkers. Two of the primary interests of BWV's clubs and their members is foremost the safety of walkers in the bush and the conservation of the ecosystems and natural landscapes through which they walk.

Bushwalking Victoria's positions on mountain biking in the bush are as follows.

### **Trail development**

1. Mountain bike tracks should only be developed on lands assessed to be suitable for this land use
2. The following factors must be considered during trail planning and development:
  - Land capability
  - Protection of the environment, including geography, flora and fauna
  - Compliance with relevant Public Land reserve status
  - Completing of formal approved land use determinations;
  - Full and adequate community and public consultations are undertaken
  - The completion of appropriate assessments
  - Compliance with planning, design, governance, and legal requirements.
3. Bushwalking Victoria does not support development of mountain bike trails on Public Land where significant public land values will be compromised.
4. Bushwalking Victoria does not support informal and/or illegal mountain bike track development on Public Land where there will be adverse environmental, heritage impacts. Bushwalking Victoria also opposes retrospective formalization or legalization of such mountain bike tracks.

### **Environmental and heritage protection**

When planning new or modifying existing mountain bike trails, priority consideration for:

1. The protection of native flora and fauna species and habitat, including consideration of and compliance with relevant statutes (e.g., Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, EPBC Act, Planning and Environment Acts, local municipal Planning Schemes)

2. Adequate protection of significant historic and heritage sites, including in full consideration of and compliance with relevant statutes etc. (e.g., Heritage Act, Planning and Environment Act, local municipal Planning Schemes, etc.)
3. Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including in full consideration of and compliance with relevant statutes etc. (e.g., Aboriginal Heritage Act, EPBC Act, Planning and Environment Act)

### **Trail usage**

1. Bushwalking Victoria opposes conversion of existing walking and general use tracks on Public Land to preferential use by specific user groups.
2. BWV does not support use of walking tracks (single-track) by mountain bikes due to the danger presented to walkers.
3. Public safety protocols and processes must apply to all trails jointly used by walkers and mountain bikers, including Common Signage and a Code of Conduct for joint use trails.

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