



Western Australian Trails Strategy

2009–2015

Coordinated and developed by:
Department of Sport and Recreation

Supported by:
Department of Environment and Conservation

WA Planning Commission



Government of Western Australia
Department of Sport and Recreation





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From the Minister

I commend to you the Western Australian Trails Strategy 2009 – 2015. The strategy has been initiated by the Department of Sport and Recreation, supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Western Australian Planning Commission.

As a guideline for trails development, management, and programs the strategy recommendations will be critical to the ongoing enjoyment of trails in this state.

Activity on trails provides significant physical and mental health benefits by reducing chronic disease and reducing the epidemic of overweight and obesity. Social, economic, health and environmental benefits are also demonstrated.

The strategy builds on previous efforts and successes and reflects the current values, expectations, and aspirations of the many and diverse trails users. It outlines how different government sectors and agencies can work most effectively with more Western Australians to enjoy Recreational Trails.

Development of the strategy has identified and celebrated many areas of best practice and has been rigorous in its examination of current issues. Improvements will be developed into specific projects and completed as resources become available.

This strategy supports and complements the WA State Trail Bike Strategy, the introduction of Adventure Activity Standards and other related initiatives of government.

Tourism WA, the WA Local Government Association, Leave No Trace (Australia), the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs in WA, the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail Foundations, National Trust (WA) and many other groups and individuals have supported the extensive community consultative process to develop the strategy.

I urge all trail advocates to increase their engagement with the Department of Sport and Recreation and other stakeholders. A shared vision will provide recreational health and wellbeing experiences, and environmental and cultural enrichment for the Western Australian community.

Terry Waldron

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Introduction to the WA Trails Strategy

This document outlines the strategic direction for the Western Australian trails sector over the period 2009-2015. It is a framework for moving forward not an implementation plan. Detailed implementation plans will be developed to support the trails strategy. This strategy has been developed with extensive research, community consultation and guidance from a panel of experts.

The strategy embraces the various sector participants by articulating high-level principle, direction and outcomes rather than prescriptive action. In this context, the strategy is flexible and adaptive but requires interpretation by each potential contributor to enable achievement by the sector.

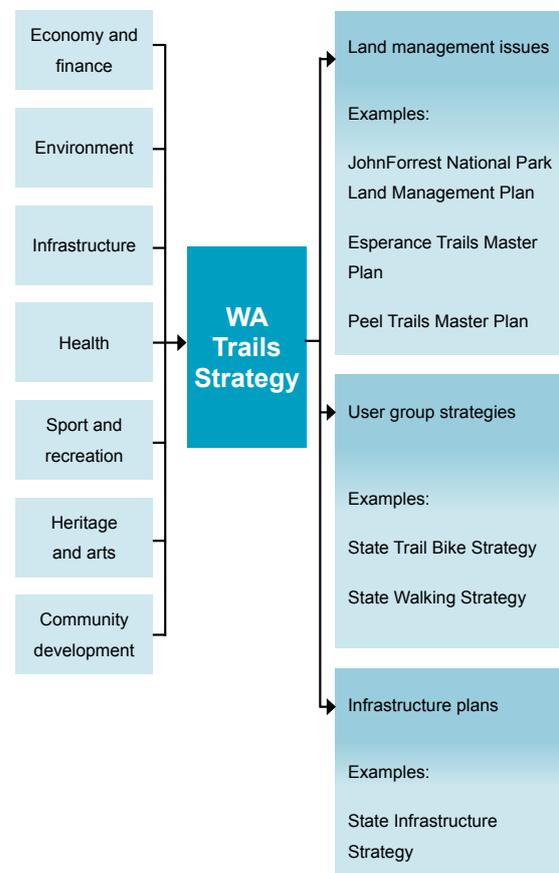
The strategy is outlined in several components:

1 Purpose	Why the sector exists
2 Guiding principles	The fundamental concepts that guide the development and operation of the sector
3 Vision	The desired end state for the sector over a five year period
4 Strategic issues	The key opportunities or issues that must be acted on to achieve the vision
5 Strategies	The major themes of activity required to address the strategic issues
6 Strategic initiatives	The specific projects or activities that will be completed as part of the strategies

The WA Trails Strategy sits within a broad policy/strategy context, as demonstrated in the figure below. This strategy considers the policies and priorities outlined by existing economic, environmental, health, recreation and community development documents relevant to Western Australian trails.

This strategy can provide guidance to new land management plans, user-specific strategies, local infrastructure plans and future revisions of existing documents. These detailed plans and strategies should consider the principles, direction and suggested activity contained in the WA Trails Strategy.

The Department of Sport and Recreation has been an important player in the development of this strategy. It has been an important initiative equally supported by many stakeholders including the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the WA Planning Commission.



Executive summary

Purpose

Trails have been a valued part of the Western Australian community since human habitation. In the contemporary context, trails exist to enrich the community through the delivery of economic, social, health and environmental benefits to individuals, local communities, the state and nation.

Guiding Principles

The development of this strategy has provided a distinct set of principles which lie at the heart of those who are involved in trails. As time passes, society will shift, new participants will engage and new external pressures will emerge. These principles will continue to evolve and be tested within the prevailing environment. The development and operation of the Western Australian trails sector should be guided now and in the future by principles that:

1. Develop trails that are sustainable in their own right;
2. Balance economic, social, health, environmental and cultural considerations for the long-term sustainability of the community;
3. Maximise the benefit from the application of government resources;
4. Provide best value for money;
5. Protect the cultural and environmental identity of local areas;
6. Ensure long-term usage is possible, considering historical and future trail corridors;
7. Provide access for all ages and abilities;
8. Provide trails that match current demands and plan for the future;
9. Acknowledge some users seek challenge and adventure as a life experience; and,
10. Acknowledge indigenous people and historical settlers.

Vision

The trails network, and those involved with it, aspire to be increasingly relevant and valuable to the state, national and international community in the future. The trails community invites others to share in the experience and assist with the construction, maintenance and improvement of these exciting community resources. By 2015, the trails sector seeks to be acknowledged as providing the leading experience which creates recreational, health and wellbeing, environmental and cultural enrichment of the Western Australian community.

Opportunities and Strategies

Progress on six strategic opportunities will be critical to the achievement of the Vision. To capitalise on these strategic opportunities, the sector should pursue 11 strategies.

Strategic Opportunities	Strategies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Engagement 2. Access 3. Governance 4. Funding 5. Articulating the Benefits 6. Promotion and Education 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build community capacity to develop, construct, maintain and promote trails 2. Encourage better links with segments of the community 3. Develop supportive policies 4. Encourage appropriate user access 5. Improve the sector's governance model 6. Link Western Australia to other trails movements and trends 7. Explore different funding models for trails maintenance 8. Promote research on trails usage, benefits and demand 9. Encourage sharing of research and best practice 10. Promote the nature and value of Western Australian trails 11. Develop and implement educational programs

This strategy recognises that the initiatives within these strategies will be determined by the various stakeholders. Individuals, not-for-profit organisations, government agencies and the private sector can consider their role in the delivery of activities that advance these strategies.

The following pages elaborate on the above central elements of the WA Trails Strategy.

Background

A Definition

Trails are areas that provide an opportunity for the community to experience recreational, health & wellbeing, environmental, economic and/or cultural enrichment through interaction with the environment. This includes;

- Areas used for active and passive pursuits;
- Areas used for motorised and non-motorised activities;
- Defined (or formally recognised) and undefined trails;
- Land (eg. walking and cycling) and aquatic (eg. diving, snorkelling or canoeing) trails;
- Trails within metropolitan and regional areas; and,
- Areas administered on behalf of the community by local government and the DEC. In some situations, trails may also pass through areas of privately owned land.

The WA Trails Network

The Western Australian trails network is large and diverse. It includes almost 700 formally recognised trails, including the iconic Bibbulmun, Mundabiddi and Cape to Cape Trails, extensive urban dual-use paths and an unknown number of informal tracks. This network is a vital asset for the Western Australian community, providing a means for individuals and communities to access vast recreational, health, environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits.

The WA Trails Sector

The Western Australian trails sector is equally large and multi-faceted, comprising many individual participants, interest groups, community associations, commercial operators, researchers, advocates and local, state and federal government authorities. The sector is supported through considerable volunteer efforts, recognised funding bodies (including Lotterywest), tourism, partnerships with the private sector and resources from federal, state and local government.





Trails Usage

Western Australian trails are used by a diverse range of tourists, photographers, walkers, cyclists, mountain-bikers, canoeists, kayakers, horse riders, off-road drivers and motorcyclists, snorkellers, divers and environmental enthusiasts.

The majority of Western Australians have used trails, as part of their schooling, a holiday or more routinely within their local area.

At present, over 60 per cent of the Western Australian population walk and nine per cent cycle for recreation.¹ Designated cycle and walk paths are used by over one in five Western Australians, as are public parks and beaches.² Trails fulfil a vital role in providing access to and linking these locations.³

Trails enable community recreation and social cohesion to occur by providing a resource for community use and opportunity for interaction. These opportunities would be improved by more appropriate trail design and increased community access, particularly for the elderly, disabled and those short on recreation and leisure time.

References:

1. Milligan, R., McCormack, G.R., & Rosenberg, M (2007). Physical Activity Levels of Western Australian Adults 2006: results from the Adult Physical Activity Survey. Perth, Western Australia: Western Australian Government.
2. *ibid.*
3. *ibid.*

Participation in popular active recreation activities. 18 yrs and over, 2006¹

Activity	Proportion (%)
Walking for recreation	62.8
Swimming/surfing	14.1
Aerobics	12.7
Jogging/running	11.0
Cycling for recreation	9.3
Golf	6.0
Weights	8.4
Tennis	3.5

The Benefits of Trails

Trail users identify numerous benefits from the use of trails, including the sense of well being, unwinding and relaxing, closeness to nature and ability to both spend time with family and friends and time on their own. (Market Equity Trails Research, 2004)

- Trails are a key enabler of community access to sport, recreation, adventure and challenge. Physical activity has been associated with many benefits.
- 63 per cent of Western Australians walk for recreation, nine per cent cycle for recreation.⁴
- Regular physical activity is widely recognised as protective against the overall burden of disease.⁵
- There is clear evidence of the benefits of physical activity in preventing and treating obesity and depression.^{6,7}
- Research confirms the mental health benefits of physical activity in a “natural” environment.⁸

Trails provide economic benefits through trail construction and user spending. These benefits are often enjoyed by regional areas.

- Trail construction invested \$9 million into the community between 1988-2007.
- Individual users on major trails spend an average of \$72 (1 day) to \$737 (4 days).⁹
- Total revenue generated by the Bibbulmun Track (an example of a major WA trail) exceeded \$21 million per annum.⁹

Trails also provide an avenue for community development and an opportunity to leverage the enthusiasm of volunteers. Volunteerism is a significant input into the Australian economy.

References:

4. *ibid.*
5. Mathers C., Vos T., & Stevenson C. (1999). The burden of disease and injury in Australia. Canberra: Canberra Institute of Health and Welfare.
6. Roberts C.K. & Barnard R.J. (2005, January). Effects of exercise and diet on chronic disease. *Journal of Applied Physiology*. 98(1), 3-30..
7. Warburton Darren. E. ,Nicol, Crystal Whitney, & Bredin, Shannon. D..(2006, March) Prescribing exercise as preventative therapy. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 174(6), 801 – 809.
8. Pretty, J., Peacock, J., Sellens, M., & Griffin, M. (2005, October). The mental and physical health outcomes of green exercise. *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*, 15(5), 319-337.
9. Bibbulmun Track Foundation; Colmar Brunton. (2003). *Bibbulmun Track User Research Report*. Perth, Western Australia.

1. Purpose

Trails exist to enrich the community

Trails are a unique community asset, creating economic, social and environmental value for individuals, local communities, Western Australia and Australia.

Value creation opportunities/avenues			
Individual	Local communities	State	Australia
Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for:	Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for:	Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for:	Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for:
Active recreation.	Community health and vibrancy.	Attractiveness and vibrancy of the state.	National identity.
Physical and mental health benefits (inc. prevention).	Community infrastructure and assets.	Economic growth (particularly in regional areas).	Thought-leadership.
Social interaction.	Employment and revenue (particularly for small business).	Active recreation and lifestyles.	Tourism appeal.
Environmental interaction.	Alternative community resources for active recreation and passive environmental interaction (e.g. photography).	Community safety and crime reduction.	
'Escapism' and isolation.	Encouraging low-water recreation uses.	Community use and ownership of the environment.	
Opportunity for generational experiences.	Community safety and crime reduction.	Acknowledgment and appreciation of indigenous culture and heritage.	
Biodiversity and wilderness appreciation and conservation.	Environmental ownership by the local community.		
Heritage and indigenous cultural preservation and appreciation.	Community development.		
Adventure and challenge.	Physical connection between communities.		
Transport.	Offsetting climate change impacts.		
Excitement from planning for trails use.			
A sense of achievement or fulfilment when remembering the whole experience.			

2. Guiding principles

Guiding Principles	i.e. The development and operation of the sector will strive to:
Sustainability	Develop trails that are sustainable in their own right. Balance economic, social, health, environmental and cultural considerations for the long-term sustainability of the community.
Efficiency	Maximise the benefit from the application of government resources. Create and maintain trails with minimal human intervention. Provide best value for money.
Preservation	Protect the cultural and environmental identity of local areas. Ensure long-term usage is possible, considering historical and future trail corridors.
Access	Provide access for all ages and abilities.
Flexibility and Adaptability	Provide trails that match current demands and plan for the future.
Adventure and Challenge	Acknowledge some users seek challenge and adventure as a life experience.
Acknowledgement	Acknowledge indigenous people and historical settlers.

3. Vision

By 2015, the use of trails will be acknowledged as providing the leading experience which creates recreational, health and wellbeing, environmental and cultural enrichment of the Western Australian community.

The vision is supported by a range of desired outcomes:

1. Increased trail quality.
2. Increased usage of trails.
3. Increased profile of WA trails.
4. Increased recognition of the contribution made by trails to individuals and communities.
5. Enhanced sector governance.
6. More supportive legislation and aligned policies.
7. Continued proactive agency support.
8. A transition to a more sustainable funding model.
9. Linkage with a range of other community initiatives.

4. Opportunities and Strategies

Community engagement

There is significant community support for trails through a range of formal groups/associations and considerable volunteering. Community support is vital for the ongoing viability of trails.

However, community engagement with trails is presented with several inherent barriers. Trail users do not always have a conventional club structure and typically involve a high proportion of “casual” users. Significant support is often limited to trails construction. Volunteer turnover can be an issue in trails organisations, like any community group. Community groups may be discouraged by the level of bureaucracy involved in trail development and maintenance.

In addition, there is often no single voice for trails, even within a local area. Leadership for trails tends to stem from committed individuals, who may be transient. Harnessing community input can be difficult due to these factors.

Community engagement is closely related to the broad level of support for trails and the creation of value. The level of community engagement can be significantly enhanced by harnessing community interest and assisting the wider community to become involved in trails. Community engagement would be enhanced by the accessibility of an evidence base to demonstrate the value of trails and further linkages to international organisations providing leadership and best practice in their respective areas.

Desired improvements:

1. Enhance community support.
2. Enhance capacity of local communities to engage with trails.
3. Enhance community self-governance capability.
4. Identify local leaders for trails.
5. Encourage greater community ownership for trails maintenance.
6. Enhance knowledge-sharing between community groups.

Access

Western Australia provides a rich natural resource that is highly amenable to community use and trail development. However, access to natural areas for trails is declining due to urban encroachment and competing land uses. Urban design and planning could improve the consideration of community access to trails, while water catchment issues have been a major limitation to community access in particular areas. Access to private land has also diminished.

Competition for the limited available land is increasing within the trails community and there is a need to recognise the common interests in these areas. Multi-use trails are generally inadequate to satisfy community needs.

Trail use by local communities could be significantly increased. The development of short or looped walks increases community access. Extension of existing trails by addition of loops would make them more attractive to a wider range of participants. In addition, significant and sacred indigenous sites require additional considerations for access and use.

Desired improvements:

1. Secure supportive policy and rules for the appropriate access and use of trails, particularly in areas such as urban planning, land development and water catchments.
2. Reduce overly risk averse positions from key government agencies and private land owners.
3. Enhance the sector’s capacity to respond to climate change and biodiversity pressures.
4. Enhance the recognition of sacred and significant sites of indigenous communities.

Governance

The successful planning, design, construction, maintenance and coordination of trails use is dependent on the coordination of multiple agencies within government, as well as private enterprise, the not-for-profit sector, and club and community volunteers. The current governance structure has been relatively effective in overseeing trails in Western Australia in the recent past by drawing input from disparate sources. This governance structure includes key government agencies and community user-groups and associations. However, the current governance structure and its ability to coordinate and facilitate sector activity can continue to be improved.

Trails are currently represented by a multitude of small advocacy groups with little coordination between them. Representation by a prominent and active community-based body would provide a focal point for the sector. Presentation of credible and authoritative messages on behalf of the trails sector would assist to establish a higher profile for trails.

Desired improvements:

1. Enhance coordination of government activity in relation to trails.
2. Increase input from peak associations to the governance of the sector.
3. Secure tangible support from key government agencies.
4. Establish a national representative body for trails.

Funding

Funding for trails planning, development and maintenance is provided through local councils, Lotterywest, community organisations, government departments (particularly DEC) and partnerships with the private sector.

While significant funding is available for trail construction, the majority of trails survive on goodwill and voluntary support from the community. Key government agencies may not maintain the current level of expenditure as scope and focus shift, placing existing services and infrastructure at risk.

Trails funding is not adequate for capital, maintenance and marketing expenses. Funding is not supportive of all usage types and is particularly limited for trails maintenance that does not constitute a major upgrade. Significant alternative opportunities for funding may be available during the current economic cycle.

Desired improvements:

1. Increase availability of funding for trails maintenance.
2. Increase availability of funding for trails use where demonstrated demand exists.
3. Establish funding opportunities to build community capacity.
4. Establish funding opportunities for trails sustainability programs.
5. Increase government commitment to funding.





Articulating the benefits

Trails create significant value for individuals, local communities, the state and nation. While significant, the value created by trails use, planning, construction and maintenance is relatively ambiguous and inherently qualitative in nature. It is consequently difficult for the community to convey the value of trails to funders and decision-makers.

The development of an evidence base for the value of and best practice relevant to trails would enhance the sector significantly. Case studies provide some indication of this value, particularly for community development purposes. A clear and empirically-supported picture of value created by trails will increase priority amongst decision-makers and assist to convey the relevance of trails to the community.

Desired improvements:

1. Identify economic, social, environmental and health benefits created by trails in Western Australia.
2. Convey the benefits of trails to community, local business and government decision-makers.
3. Enhance community capacity to convey value of trails to potential funders.
4. Develop linkages with research institutions.

Promotion and education

Promotion of trails is generally poor. Information on trail conditions is not sufficiently available and potential users can be discouraged by the lack of this information (particularly users with a disability). The interpretative signage on most trails could be significantly improved. Promotion is limited by the lack of available standards to grade trails and the constant degradation of trails subsequent to rating. It would assist to have a common catalogue of trails and trail conditions that are accessible by the wider community.

Increased participation in trails-based activities will require enhanced awareness of trails opportunities and skills to use trails, particularly amongst school-aged children and novice participants. In addition, the development of more moderately challenging trails would enable more gradual progression into challenging trails use by the wider community.

Desired improvements:

1. Enhance the awareness and understanding of potential trails users.
2. Re-establish a trails inventory.
3. Develop further recognised priority trails.
4. Promote priority trails.

5. Strategies

Strategies	Relevance to strategic opportunities	Suggested strategic initiatives
1. Build community capacity to develop, construct, maintain and promote trails	Community engagement	<p>Develop regional support for trail development and maintenance through small grants.</p> <p>Promote the benefits of trails construction and ownership to community.</p>
2. Encourage better links between the trails sector and segments of the community	Community engagement	<p>Encourage indigenous involvement in trails.</p> <p>Increase private sector involvement in trails.</p> <p>Enable local tourism (commercial tour operators and accommodation providers) to link with trails.</p> <p>Support trail construction volunteers.</p>
3. Develop supportive policies and mindsets	Access	<p>Ensure land and urban planners consider the requirements of trails users.</p> <p>Encourage the application of water catchment policy to consider the requirements of trails users.</p> <p>Consider the adoption of “Right to Roam” legislation.</p> <p>Celebrate the use of trails for competitive events and address risk-averse attitudes.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with insurers and brokers to generate risk management frameworks and minimise excessive premiums.</p>
4. Encourage appropriate user access and use	Access	<p>Improve local community access to trails.</p> <p>Promote access to local trails for recreation and physical activity.</p> <p>Enhance the ability of users to appreciate environmental, indigenous and heritage significance of trails.</p> <p>Assist users to use trails consistent with research and best practice.</p> <p>Provide education to encourage best practice.</p>
5. Improve the sector’s governance model	Governance	<p>Enable creation of formal trails organisations in regional areas.</p> <p>Strengthen links between regional and state trail groups.</p> <p>Ensure greater linkages between the WA Trails Sector strategy, land management and user-specific strategies.</p> <p>Implement and monitor trails strategy initiatives.</p> <p>Formalise links with other policies and legislation.</p> <p>Incorporate a lead community entity for TrailsWA*.</p> <p>Increase number of organisations with input to TrailsWA*.</p>

*TrailsWA is a representative body convened by the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) to oversee and guide the ongoing planning of projects associated with trail development in WA.

Strategies	Relevance to strategic opportunities	Suggested strategic initiatives
6. Link Western Australia to other trails movements and trends	Governance	<p>Link to national events.</p> <p>Support representation on national bodies and participation at major trails conferences.</p> <p>Share best practice and build partnerships amongst other state, national and international-leadership bodies.</p>
7. Explore different funding and resourcing models for trails	Funding	<p>Where necessary, implement a facilities contribution.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to enhance the direct application of developer contributions for trail construction, maintenance, and promotion.</p> <p>Explore options for enhancing DEC budget for maintenance.</p> <p>Develop supportive trail options with Corrective Services (mobile work camps).</p>
8. Promote research on trails usage, benefits and demand	Communicate the benefits	<p>Identify the economic, environmental, health, social and cultural benefits of trails.</p> <p>Expand the understanding of community demand for trails.</p> <p>Identify the relationship between perceived and actual risks.</p> <p>Identify the benefits of trail maintenance and construction for prison labourers.</p>
9. Encourage sharing of research and best practice	Communicate the benefits	<p>Communicate the benefits of trails to decision-makers.</p> <p>Hold forums for the sharing of trails knowledge and best practice.</p> <p>Package research and best practice into accessible kits.</p> <p>Link Western Australia to research and the development of best practices in other states.</p>
10. Promote the nature and value of Western Australian trails	Access, education and promotion, articulating the benefits	<p>Clarify the nature of trails in Western Australia and encourage alignment of marketing practice.</p> <p>Promote priority Western Australian trails.</p> <p>Develop a central point for trails information.</p> <p>Enhance the availability of information on trail conditions and options.</p> <p>Promote economic development opportunities available to communities through trails.</p> <p>Re-establish the WA Trails Inventory database.</p>
11. Develop and implement educational programs	Access, education and promotion, community engagement	<p>Develop educational programs to link with school curriculum (especially outdoor and physical education).</p> <p>Develop programs that link trails to student obligations for community service.</p> <p>Enhance community understanding of environmental issues associated with trails.</p> <p>Improve trails signage to encourage appropriate use.</p> <p>Improve heritage appreciation through trails activity programs.</p>

6. Suggested Implementation Roles

The successful planning, development, maintenance and promotion of trails in Western Australia is dependent on significant contributions from multiple organisations and individuals. Trails represent an inter-agency issue for government, requiring input and alignment from multiple departments to create and maintain an exceptional resource for the Western Australian and visiting community.

This strategy recommends a direction for the sector based on the best intentions and input available. In pursuing this direction, the various organisations and individuals will fulfil different implementation roles. This section recommends the roles that may be adopted by key stakeholders. This list is not intended to be comprehensive nor prescriptive: each stakeholder is encouraged to reflect on the role they may play in achieving the Vision for Western Australian trails.

Specific implementation plans need to be developed by respective stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Suggested role in implementing this strategy
The Western Australian community, volunteers and tourists	Be active and enjoy a trails experience by using trails in a sustainable and respectful way. Contribute to the planning, development, maintenance and promotion of trails as an individual or through a formal organisation. Provide feedback on how trails could better meet your needs and input to policy debates that impact on community access to trails.
User groups and associations	Become part of the wider network of state, national and international trails organisations. Share learnings with other activities and contribute to the wider community of those who use Western Australian trails. Consider the direction provided through this strategy in the plans for your organisation and the direction of the activity as a whole. Provide feedback on strategic progress and also your requirements for the future. Provide input to policy debates that impact on community access to trails.
Local government	Continue to oversee trails on land administered by Local Government. Engage with the local community to determine the requirements for local trails and provide assistance to meet these requirements where possible. Encourage local stewardship of trails.
Department of Environment and Conservation	Continue to oversee trails located on land administered by the Department. Encourage sustainable and respectful land use practices. Consider the implementation of a facilities charge and partnerships with labour providers.
Department of Sport and Recreation	Continue facilitating inter-agency partnerships in relation to trails. Encourage recreational participation by the community. Take leadership for relevant initiatives that will enhance the trails sector (particularly standards and codes).
Department for Planning and Infrastructure	Encourage supportive land planning policy to preserve natural areas and enhance community access to trails. Continue to enhance the urban cycle and walking network. Encourage land developers to consider trails in urban design to a far greater extent.
Department of Education and Training	Explore opportunities to integrate trails education within the school-based curriculum. Consider formal participation in the sector governance body.

Stakeholder	Suggested role in implementing this strategy
Department of Health	Support the linkage between the Physical Activity Taskforce strategy and the opportunities provided by trails. Consider formal participation in the sector governance body.
TourismWA	Contribute to marketing initiatives on behalf of the sector. Enhance the sector's capacity to market trails locally, domestically and internationally.
Department of Corrective Services	Investigate the formalisation of links between community trail proponents, prison work teams and Repay WA project staff
Department for Water	Liaise with local communities, DEC staff, and other recreation stakeholders whilst drafting water catchment management plans. Consider appropriate recreation activity in water catchment areas.
State/regional Indigenous stakeholder groups	Facilitate discussion and support from government and community stakeholders for development of indigenous trails and associated tourism product. Provide advice and guidance for trail proponents and those responsible for developing guided experiences.
Commercial tourism operators	Use trails respectfully and sustainably. Promote trails experiences to local communities and visitors. Encourage partnerships with local voluntary organisations.
Land and property developers	Engage with communities and local governments to establish recreational trail requirements and preferences. Incorporate appropriate community access to trails within development and redevelopments.
Lotterywest	Continue the strong support for trail development. Consider expanding the availability of funding to a wider range of activity groups that use trails and to the maintenance of trails.
Minister and State Cabinet	Provide support for trails and encourage inter-agency policy that maximises benefit to the community.
Private enterprise	Continue to partner with non-profit organisations and voluntary groups to construct, maintain and promote trails. Encourage corporate volunteering. Recognise the value created by trails and the role trails play in developing local communities.
Researchers	Investigate the benefits of trails on the community and recommend future directions and best practice for the sector.

