2017 VISION WORKSHOP FULL REPORT

Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Contents

Introduction

The Bibbulmun Track stretches 1000kms from Kalamunda to Albany through the heart of the scenic South West of Western Australia.

The Track offers an opportunity for people to immerse themselves in a long-distance journey of up to 10 weeks. However, it was also designed to be accessible by people with varying fitness levels and interests for day walks and overnight, or short camping adventures. The initial aim was to encourage people living in Perth to 'go bush' and immerse themselves in the natural environment.

The campsites provide basic amenities that not only reduce any negative environmental impacts from people camping freely along the Track, but also provide a certain level of comfort and a place to connect with other walkers.

Research shows that day walks on the Bibbulmun Track are the most popular use – followed by hikes of up to four days resulting in over 80,000 walks on the Track per annum. The number of people undertaking longer walks on the Track has gradually increased over the years. Of the 200 people per annum completing an end-to-end around one-third are through-hikes.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation (BTF) is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation established to provide support for the management, maintenance and marketing of the Bibbulmun Track.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction's Parks and Wildlife Service acts as Manager of the Track; however, the BTF is recognised as the primary focal point for community-based support and involvement, and has primary responsibility for promoting the Track to potential walkers and maintaining the Track through the Newmont Boddington Gold Eyes on the Ground volunteer maintenance program.

In February 2017 the Department asked the BTF Board to consider the Foundation's long-term outlook for the Track and the Foundation's capacity to support the ongoing development of this vision, particularly in terms of maintenance. The request arose following decisions made to extend the shelter roofline and increase the number of tent sites at high-use campsites to cater for an increase in users. The Department wished to capture the Foundation's views regarding any further development along the Track to inform the works program for the next 10 to 20 years.

As well as looking at the long-term vision for the Track, inclusive of how walkers wanted the Track to 'look' and 'feel', the Department was keen for the Foundation to consider how volunteers fit into future planning and what capacity they have to support the ongoing development of this vision, particularly in terms of the maintenance programs.

To ensure that Track users had input into this process a **Vision Survey** was developed with themes including walker expectations, resourcing and defining the Bibbulmun Track experience. Members and volunteers were invited to contribute to the discussion by completing the survey. The results inform this Workshop that was held in Kalamunda in November 2017.

The **Vision Survey** provided an extensive amount of data and covered a variety of aspects related to the Track. The Workshop was designed to clarify certain segments of the data and explore more fully some of the concepts that a collective wisdom could assist more fully with.

The Vision Workshop

The Vision Workshop was held on 19th November 2017 at the Kalamunda Agricultural Hall, Kalamunda; 65 members and volunteers attended. To encourage a mix of Track experience and facilitate informed discussion, attendees were allocated to tables based on their experience, and their role with the organisation. Following the Workshop many attendees acknowledged the sense in this strategy.

Workshop sessions were based on outcomes of the **Vision Survey** (14/10/17 to 30/10/17) where an opportunity to clarify, or further define aspects, could be utilised. In hindsight, a question not asked in the survey was the degree of experience members had of the Track, i.e., were they occasional, day walkers; or walkers who had a deal of experience walking a variety of sections of the Track. It is believed that respondents' level of experience may have significantly influenced their responses and, as such, a more informed analysis would have been generated if that breakdown was available.

Vision Survey respondents had been asked to nominate, from a list of 12, the five Bibbulmun Track attributes most important to them. The top five were:

- Natural wilderness experience (94%)
- Physical and mental challenge (75%)
- Solitude (65%)
- Simplicity (60%), and
- Facilities (48%).

These attributes were used to inform the discussions and to guide the development of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation (BTF) Vision.

Ground rules for the workshop were established prior to commencement of the sessions.

Workshop Sessions

Funding

As the Vision Survey questions relating to funding avenues generated considerable emotive responses both, from the survey comments, and through social media, this topic was addressed early in the workshop. In addition, it was believed that a greater understanding of the nature of BTF funding would help participants understand the nature and constraints of future decisions related to the Track.

BTF Executive Director, Linda Daniels provided an outline of the function, governance and funding relationships between the BTF and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction's (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Services. The two organisations have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that outlines the responsibility of both partners where:

The primary responsibilities of the Foundation include:

- Community engagement and ownership
- Funding opportunities
- Marketing
- Events and tourism development
- Merchandise (including guidebooks), and
- Advocacy

The primary responsibilities of the Department include:

- Land and trail managers
- Construction
- Risk management and public liability
- Specialised staff for architecture design, mapping etc.
- Funding
- Maps

The Department and Foundation both manage aspects of:

- Promotion
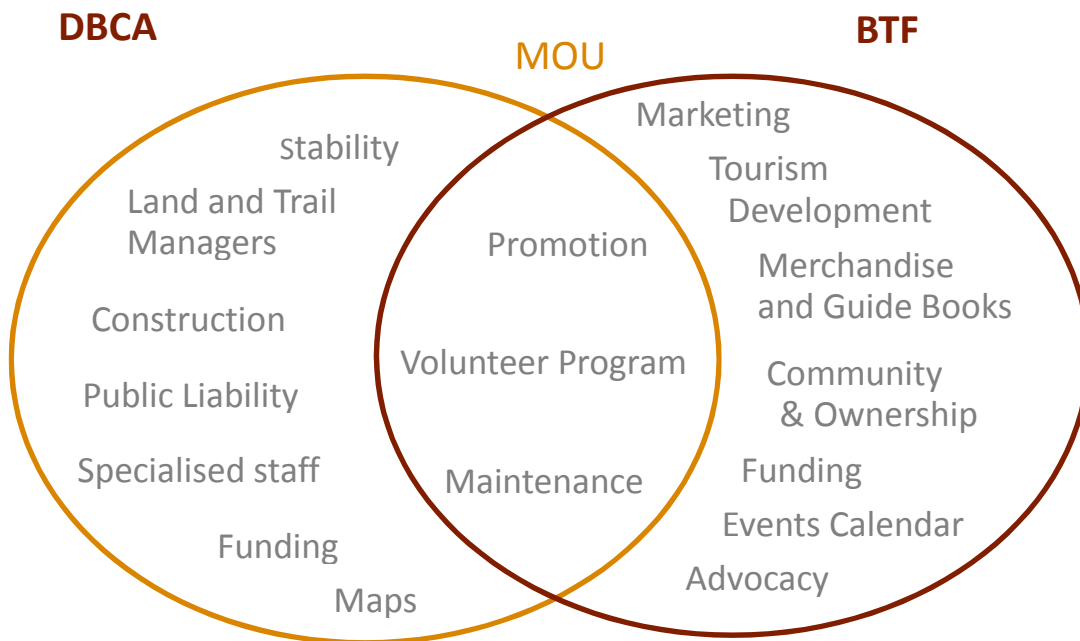- Volunteer program
- Maintenance

DBCA   MOU   BTF

Stability
Land and Trail Managers
Construction
Public Liability
Specialised staff
Funding
Maps

Promotion
Volunteer Program
Maintenance

Marketing
Tourism Development
Merchandise and Guide Books
Community & Ownership
Funding
Events Calendar
Advocacy

Diagram depicting MoU between DBCA and the BTF

An outline of the contribution of volunteers and how they significantly value-add to the Track was also provided.

Membership Fees

With the exception of Affiliated Organisations and Walker Friendly Businesses, membership fees have been static since 2004. The 'Early Bird' discount was introduced at that time to ease the transition to increased fees. Due to this discount, the BTF has the potential to miss out on up to $10,000 per year in membership fees.

Workshop participants were asked to briefly discuss what they felt were reasonable prices to be charged for each of the 9 categories of annual membership (see Appendix I). Various ranges were nominated and scribed onto a wall chart. All indicated an increase in fees ranging from an additional $5 for some categories, up to an additional $40 for others.

Participants were then asked to rank each range by placing a number of stickers on their preferred options. Undoubtedly, the most preferred option was to increase all membership categories by the Consumer Price Index increase since 2004 (estimated to be 35% of the current fee).

On average, 35% of participants voted for the CPI increase to membership fees. The next highest-ranking preferences were, on average, preferred by only 16% of those votes.

See Appendix I for a summary of the suggestions put forward by the workshop groups and the outcomes of the voting. (Note: workshop participants were unaware that the AO and WFB memberships were revised in 2014 – this should be taken into account.)

Action from this outcome

- Following BTF Board approval, the BTF will consider an increase in membership fees to be introduced some time in 2018.

Encouraging BTF Membership

The next workshop asked participants to deliberate ways to encourage BTF membership. The BTF currently has approximately 2,500 members. In addition, our database has around 8,000 'Contacts'. A 'contact' is created when a non-member books into an event, requests subscription to the Calendar of Events, has been downgraded from membership if they have chosen not to or forgotten to renew (there are several reminders sent before this occurs) or they become a volunteer or register as an End-to-Ender without taking out membership.

Many of the incentives suggested by participants included systems already employed, such as discounted merchandise, business discounts and social media.

Given that 3 of the 10 tables suggested an increased presence on social media, a review of our current strategies may be warranted. More novel suggestions included:

- one-off discount for 'joining a friend'
- automatic membership renewals
- singular campaign to promote membership benefits to the 8,000 contacts
- include automatic membership in the cost of events.

See Appendix II for a summary of the suggestions put forward by the workshop groups.

Actions from this outcome

- It is believed that many 'Contacts' may believe they are an actual member, so a campaign to raise awareness of the benefits and importance of membership will be conducted in the first half of 2018.
- Options for reviewing marketing strategies will be assessed by BTF staff in May 2018.

Overnight Campsite Fees

Participants were asked to consider what alternatives might be put forward if DBCA were to propose the introduction of overnight camping fees.

Various systems of fee generation were outlined, including:

- Donations
- Tag systems, and
- Fees for commercial operators.

While the overall opinion was to 'keep it free' the concept of a membership tag that would generate peer pressure and discussion about membership was highly regarded. Systems of donations were also popular. Concerns raised were the difficulty of policing a fee system, and the taking away of the spontaneity and simplicity of walking the Track. Tongue-in-cheek ideas included a token system to enable the taps to be turned on or to access loo paper.

Overall, there was an obvious reluctance in all aspects from the workshop to introduce fees.

See Appendix III for a summary of the workshop statements in relation to camping fees.

Action from this outcome

- Overall sentiment of keeping the Track fee free encapsulated in the Vision Statement.

Realignments

The **Vision Survey** asked respondents if there were any sections of the Track that they felt should be realigned. While two-thirds responded 'No', the remaining third indicated there were sections that ought to be considered. (This is an example of the point raised on page 3 regarding the experience of the walker and how much of the Track they are familiar with. Those saying 'no' may not have walked the entire Track.)

The majority of the suggested realignments related to roads, including gravel, sand, 4-wheel drive, and long roads.

The most commonly *named* section was around Wilson Inlet to Nullaki campsite. A review of this alignment was conducted in 2010 by Transplan Pty Ltd and Kulbardi Hill Consulting. Key issues are the availability of a reliable boat service across the inlet at a price acceptable to walkers and the need for a longer jetty.

An explanation was provided regarding the differences in the roads / tracks and the circumstances where the use of them as part of the Track was unavoidable. Some of the constraints that impact decisions, such as, the local flora and fauna; private properties; dieback disease; and water catchment areas were also reiterated.

Each table was given a series of photos illustrating the different types of roads and tracks found along the Track (see Appendix IV). Participants were asked which type they felt were a priority to realign, given the previously described limited resources and constraints.

The types of road / track considered to require realignment, as a highest priority, were 4-wheel drive roads, followed by long roads (e.g. Marron road south of Dog Pool campsite), and gravel roads. One table of participants believed there was no need for any changes as they felt the Track had a good mix of roads and tracks.

Appendix IV shows the photo selection and a Table listing the priorities allocated by the groups.

Action from this outcome

- The sentiments from this session will be encapsulated in the Vision Statement.
- Collated data from the **Vision Survey,** including the lists and sections of the actual roads named, will be used to aid planning for future realignments.

Bridges

The **Vision Survey** requested feedback in relation to the newer style bridges that have replaced those burnt out in the past few years, or that have weathered beyond safe use.

The majority of responses were in relation to the new Bilya Djena Bidi bridge across the Murray River and were overwhelmingly positive. Feedback to some of the smaller water crossing bridges was not so positive, suggesting some were "out of character", "not as nice", or that "some seemed unnecessary".

Each table was given a series of photos illustrating a variety of bridges and crossings with an explanation as to the description allocated to the bridge structures and each crossing type (see Appendix V). Participants were asked which of the seven bridges would best suit which type of crossing.

Bridges such as those across the Murray River and at One Tree Bridge were considered most appropriate for the river crossings. Preferences for tributary crossings were less clear, with equal numbers preferring a more robust construction or, the simpler, natural design. For creeks and small water courses the overwhelming preference was for the simple, plain foot bridge without rails (steel base with wooden tread), as it was believed these were far more in keeping with the natural wilderness experience and physical and mental challenge of the Track. Additionally, minimal impact, nothing over-engineered, as basic as possible, wooden or no rails, and, aesthetically attuned as possible were also sentiments that were clearly expressed.

Appendix V shows the photo selection of bridges and crossing types, and a Table listing the preferences selected by the groups.

Action from this outcome

- The sentiments from this session will be encapsulated in the Vision Statement.
- Collated data from the **Vision Survey** will be used to aid planning for future replacements.

Campsites and Shelter Improvements

Outcomes from the Vision Survey

The **Vision Survey** asked several questions related to campsites, shelters and structural aspects.

Rammed Earth Shelters

While most who had seen the rammed earth shelters liked them, common complaints were that they were too open to wind and rain, and there were no hooks to hang packs, clothes or food from. The rammed earth toilets were considered by many as 'over the top', 'overkill' and 'overdesigned'.

Shelter Improvements

The key shelter improvements suggested in the survey were roof-line extensions on the smaller shelters to provide better weather protection; better flooring; and again, hooks to hang gear from.

Campsite Improvements

Suggested campsite improvements included additional tent sites at busy campsites; permanent seating around the fire; additional tables; in particular, at tents sites; separate undercover tables for use by 'tenters'; and two tanks at all campsites.

Campsite and Shelter Design

The workshop questions focused on the key points, taken from the **Vison Survey** data, to clarify issues and further define walker preferences for future campsite and shelter designs.

A list of the key improvements identified from the survey data that respondents stated they would like to see at a campsite / shelter was presented. The top 3 selected by workshop participants were:

- extending the roofline to provide weather protection at the tables
- better flooring, e.g. woodchips, or similar, and
- hooks for hanging gear from.

Other aspects, such as two tanks at all campsites and more tent sites, were half as popular.

Appendix VI lists the improvements presented to the participants and the preferences allocated by them.

Action from this outcome

- The sentiments from this session will be encapsulated in the Vision Statement.
- Collated data from the **Vision Survey** will be used to aid planning for future replacements.

Ideal Campsite

The above preferred improvements were re-iterated in the following question where participants were asked to indicate their preference of two shelter designs – the Deep South (that has bunks either side) or the Nornalup (with bench sleeping platform), as well as what their ideal campsite / shelter design elements would be. While slightly more Workshop participants preferred the Nornalup design shelter over the Deep South, the consensus amongst the groups was that a mix of styles adds variety to the walker's experience (See Appendix VII for photos and the preference matrix).

In addition to the shelter design elements already discussed above, highly regarded inclusion elements were:

- the addition of clear Perspex to the sides of those shelters that are overly exposed to the elements, and
- having a bush view.

Appendix VII demonstrates the voting related to the two campsite designs (plus photos) and the elements they would like to see in an ideal campsite.

Action from this outcome

- The sentiments from this session will be encapsulated in the Vision Statement.
- Collated data from the **Vision Survey** will be used to aid planning for future improvements.

Campsite Upgrades

Plans of three campsite upgrade designs were provided to the participants. These designs have already been used to improve some of the campsites, and indicate placement of additional tent sites, as well as group tables and/or fire rings.

Participants were asked to discuss what their preferences were from the three plans, and what elements influenced their choice. Popular choices included:

- a mix of cluster and individual tent sites, particularly if separated to provide some privacy for single campers;
- locked gates at the entrance / exit for (management) vehicle access to campsites;
- fire rings and tables at the cluster tent sites;
- reflectors between the toilet and shelter;
- if a second toilet were to be installed, the preference was to have it near the cluster tent site.

Additional suggestions were to:

- mark exits with North / South signage;
- combine elements of the group and standard campsites (i.e. add basic shelter to provide table cover for campers) and
- signage to indicate cluster and single tent sites.

Appendix VIII shows the campsite upgrade designs.

Action from this outcome

- The sentiments from this session will be encapsulated in the Vision Statement.
- Collated data will be used to aid planning for future upgrades.

Bibbulmun Track Character

The final question of the workshop asked participants to sum up what they felt were the unique character and traits of the Bibbulmun Track that they believed needed to be retained to ensure the look, the feel, and the character remained authentic, and to be encapsulated in our Vision Statement.

Each table was given sheets of paper on which to write their individual response. These were collected, documented and themed. More than half indicated the 'wilderness experience' was a key characteristic of the Track, just under half felt the 'challenge' and the 'simplicity' needed to be retained, and similar numbers felt that 'solitude', and a 'Track free from charge' were important aspects to retain. 'Peace and quiet', and 'sanity' (restoration / retention of) were also deemed valuable.

Appendix IX contains these sentiments, the themes allocated to them and the ranking of these themes.

Burning Issues

At the commencement of the Workshop a 'Burning Issues' box was pointed out to participants with the explanation that this was for them to write down any matters that they were keen for the Foundation to be aware of, but that were unable to be addressed at the Workshop. These were recorded verbatim, and circulated to the Foundation staff for their information and comment as to how they might be addressed. While over half of these were related to the Vision Survey and/or Workshop, others have, or will be followed up individually.

Appendix X shows the Issues submitted and the proposed/actioned BTF response.

Conclusion

The Workshop was concluded by thanking everyone for their attendance, and ongoing support of the BTF.

A huge thank you is extended to the incredible 'clean up' team who restored all the tables and chairs to their rightful place in record time. It was very much appreciated by a tired Workshop team.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation Vision Statement 2018

Data from the Vision Workshop was collated and a Vision Workshop Report Summary was tabled at the December 2017 BTF Board Meeting.

BTF Office staff met following the Board Meeting and developed an Action Plan based on the Workshop outcomes.

Board members and BTF Office staff met January 2018 to develop a draft Vision Statement. This was tabled at the February 2018 BTF Board Meeting and is presented at the end of this Report following the Appendices.

Actions from the Workshop

Action	By When
A report summary was provided to Board members prior to the December 2017 Board meeting	12 December 2017
BTF Office staff met to work through the Workshop data and develop an Action Plan	19 December 2017
The draft report and Action Plan will be circulated to the Board for comment.	March 2018
The full report will be made available for BTF members	March 2018
The Vision Survey analysis and report will be completed	June 2018

Appendices

App I - Membership Fees

Current Fees 2004 - 2018 (Annual):

- $35   Early bird
- $40   Individual
- $30   Student or Concession
- $30   Senior
- $125 Affiliated Organisation
- $150 Walker Friendly Business
- $65   Family (includes parents and children still at school)
- $60   Senior Plus (couples)
- $600 Life

From Workshop

Membership Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	% Vote
Early Bird	$35	$45	43%
Individual	$40	$55	37%
Student/Concession	$30	$40	35%
Senior	$30	$40	32%
Affiliated Organisation*	$125	$170	35%
Walker Friendly Business[+]	$150	$200	33%
Family (parent/s & children still at school)	$65	$90	38%
Senior Plus (couples)	$60	$80	32%
Life	$600	$810	32%

[+] **Walker Friendly Business** membership was introduced on January 1st 2014. All businesses had previously been Affiliated Organisations. WFB membership was introduced at $150 p/a. This was the first increase in membership for tourism related businesses since the Foundation was established in 1997.

*Affiliated Organisation** membership (for non-tourism organisations, e.g. Scouts) was increased from $100 to $125 in 2014.

App II - Encourage BTF Membership

Table #	Comment	Additional potential action
1	- Explore why people don't renew and look at ways to retain membership - Explore ways to motivate users to pay membership, e.g. - Volunteers talk to people / visitors - Symbolise membership with tag to show - Promote knowledge / awareness of the Track – and membership will follow - Encourage membership as 'gift'	f/u non-renewals motivate users to join
2	- Encourage friends to join – discount on membership (once only) if you join up other walkers - Overseas marketing aimed at potential walkers – recognition for sections completed - Encourage more businesses to give discount (25%) - Peak periods (e.g. Easter) have vollies out on Track joining up walkers - Raise awareness of campsite fee likelihood if no increase in membership - Discounts at organisations other than hiking related - Social media marketing campaign - At campsites - Have forms available 'how to' online	Discount for encouraging others to join Raise awareness Social media
3	- Incentives - Discounted merchandise - Discounted track fees - Promotion through volunteers – card handout on track / job - Word-of-mouth - Comparing BTF membership benefits with other tracks - Link to outdoor education - Encouraging visitors to 'give back' to the Track through membership - Retain members through automatic renewal with advanced notice of renewal	Promote with handout on Track / job Automatic renewals
4	- No benefit – need a reason to be a member - Promotion of the members	
5	- Use each shelter to advertise for membership – have a box to put in 'interest to become a member' - Use magazine in shelter to encourage people to become a member and so continue to receive the magazine – a box / panel which appears in each magazine which encourages hikers who are reading the magazine in the shelter to become a member once they finish their walk	Box at shelter to submit interest in being member
6	- Membership benefits – discounts on merchandise, etc; E-news; Physical posted newsletter; Free classified on the website including businesses; Free trip planning advice sessions; Free/discounted guided walks - Crowd funding - Requests on the back of the dunny door - Affiliate memberships – schools - Project funding rather than a global amount	

7	- Membership adverts inside shelters – write about rewards - Free workshops on trails with a 'sales pitch' at the end about memberships and benefits / how it helps the future - Casual / visitors pass, e.g. 3-months - Members 'bring a friend day' – introduce them to what they love - Not for everyone; but for people on social media encourage to share and promote	Members - 'Bring a friend day' Social media
8	- Membership benefits and incentives - Marketing drive - Accommodation discount – meals discount, vouchers - Stronger social media	Social media
9	- Affiliation with other great walks – discount percentage on fees for other great walks in Australia - Promote information in bullet points to existing members so that they can spread word of mouth to other walkers on the benefits of membership	Affiliate and discount with other 'great walks'
10	- Member stories – "I'm a member because……" - Explain to 8000 the benefit of membership - Upon enquiry (phone, etc), people get told of membership benefits - Becoming a member helps the actual Track and surrounds - $s go to care - Events can include discounted cost of a membership. The likelihood of renewal in a year.	Member stories Explain benefits of membership to 8K contacts Include cost of membership in events

App III - Alternates to Campsite Fees

Table #	Suggestion
1	- Visible symbol of paid fees - Make it voluntary opportunity to pay – like a smart rider card at Visitor Information Centres - Shared memberships/fee system with Parks & Wildlife Services - Park entry - Camping - Track use/camping
2	- We like the "I'm a member, why aren't you?" tag that can swing off backpacks - Work on increasing membership of those walkers who are not members - Feel strongly that there is no workable system - Long distance walking permits at some overseas track - Impossibility of policing – No workable fee system that would be more cost-effective than policing it - Fees / booking takes away simplicity and spontaneity of walking the Track
3	- A system that shows who has paid to everyone (Parks & Wildlife Services and other walkers) – Peer pressure - Look at other long-distance trails and what they have done - Tokens to turn on taps to get water - Tokens to get toilet paper
4	- Honour-based system - Fees – if any – while people are on the Track
5	- Bib Track's greatest asset to date is that it is free - People donate or join because their walking experience carried no fee
6	- Fee at the time of online registration or the commencement of the Bib Track - Pay an online fee and to receive a special tag to be displayed by the walker - Fee for end-to-enders plus an additional fee for End-to-End certificate - Targeted marketing to overseas and interstate walkers who walk on the Bib Track via Facebook, social media
7	- Being free is one of the Tracks greatest asset - How can you police a fee? - Donation button on social media
8	Advertise as free and use this to encourage people to donate – reverse psychology
9	- New Zealand hut pass – drop into honour box at each hut – hiker ethic – downside: need to empty the box - Have on-line payment system plus signs at shelters, thus reminding hikers to pay when they finish
10	- Sponsorship - Donation to complete End-to-End - Donation box in visitor centres - Electronic fee box like Parks & Wildlife Services have used (donations, fees, sign-up membership) - Foundation to collect fee, rather than Parks & Wildlife Services

App IV - REALIGNMENTS

Road / Track Type	Level of priority (5=highest) – group consensus									Total
4-wheel drive roads	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	**43**
Long roads (e.g. btwn Dog Pool & Mt Chance)	4	3	4	1	4	3	4	2	2	**27**
Gravel roads	1	3	4	2	4	2	4	4		**24**
Powerline roads	2	3	3	2	3	3	3			**19**
Sandy tracks	5	2	1	1	1	1	1			**12**
Other - Severely eroded sections										
Other - Sections near encroaching civilisation										

Road gazetted 1 – open for public use

Road gazetted 2 – management vehicle only

Fawcett 4-wheel drive track
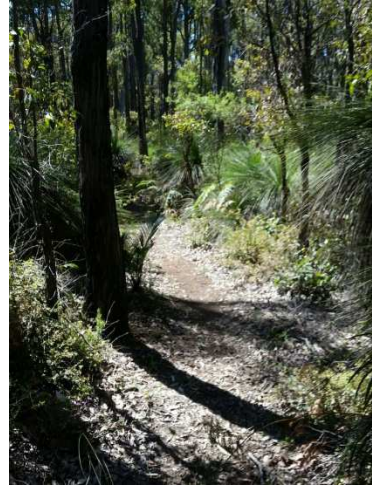

Eroded – management vehicle only

Old road

Trail

Trail

Trail

App V - Bridges & Crossings

Bridge Type >	A Bilya Djena Bidi Bridge										B New One Tree Bridge										C Gardner River Bridge (near N'cliffe)										D New Dog Pool Bridge									
Table # >	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Small water course																																								
Creek																											Y													
Tributary											Y			Y		Y				Y	Y	Y	Y			Y										Y	Y			Y
River	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		Y			Y			Y									Y	Y	Y			
Other: logs																																								
Other: tunnel																																								

Bridge Type >	E Mt Cooke 'Harbour Bridge'										F Wood footbridge, simple metal rails										G Wood footbridge, no rails									
Table # >	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Small water course												Y	Y		Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y
Creek										Y		Y	Y		Y				Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Tributary										Y		Y	Y					Y	Y				Y	Y						
River																														
Other – logs							Y												Y											
Other - tunnel																														

A: Bilya Djena Bidi Bridge (Murray River)

B: One Tree Bridge (Donnelly River)

C: Log bridge (Gardner River)

D: Dog Pool Bridge

E: Mt Cooke Harbour Bridge

F: Kit bridge between Campsite/Mt Cooke

G: Wooden foot bridge

App VI - Shelter & Campsite Improvements

Improvement Table # >	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Extending the roof line – provide weather protection at the tables	8	2	1	2	6	2	3	6	5	3	**38**
Better flooring, e.g. woodchips or similar	7	3	6	3	7	6			3		**35**
Hooks	6	2	4	3	3	3	2	5	2	5	**34**
2 tanks at all campsites		6		1					8	2	17
More tent sites at busy campsites; and all levelled		3	2		3		4			2	14
Second toilet at busy campsites				2				9			11
Additional tables, in particular, at tent sites		1		5			1		1	1	9
Separate under cover table/s for use by 'tenters'				2			1			3	6
Permanent seating around the fire		1		3			1				5
More room in the shelters for gear and around tables							3	1			4
Separate area of the shelter to hang backpacks and/or dry clothes							1				1
Firewood supplied (and under cover)											

Trial of hooks at rammed earth shelter using recycled materials

App VII - Ideal Campsite

Preferred Shelter Design

Design Table # >	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Nornalup		5		3	3	3	3	6	6	y	**30**
Deep South	y	2	7	2	2	4	3	1	1		**23**

Deep South shelter design
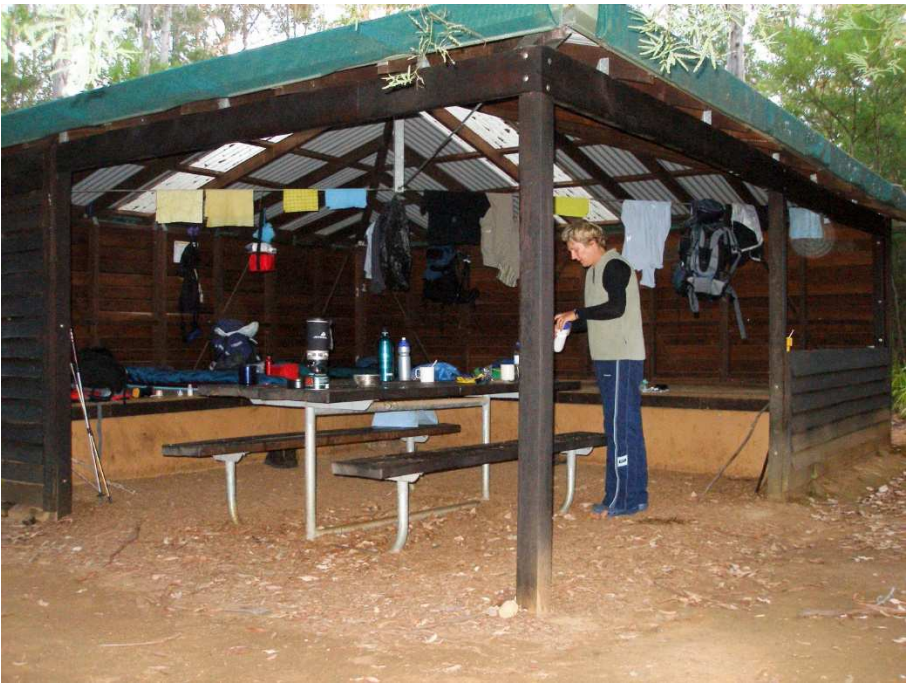
Nornalup shelter design

Inclusion Elements for Ideal Campsite

| Element Table # >	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
Extended roofline	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9
Weather protection	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	9
Flooring	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	8
Bush aspect / view	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	7
Clear Perspex on sides for weather protection and light	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y			7
Food storage box			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			6
Tables at tent sites		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					5
Rammed earth		Y	Y					Y		Y	4
Tank access under cover		y		Y						Y	3
Bench seats if a view			Y			Y					2
A separate open shelter for large groups						Y	Y				2
Softer sleeping surface						Y					1
U-shaped sleeping areas						Y					1
Tents further away						Y					1
Tent sites closer to the shelter											
'Huts' with beds, cooking facilities and a bathroom											
Bunks in the middle of the shelter											
Private shelter for 2 people											
Single level platform for tents in shelters											
Non-flammable seating around the fire pit											
4 walls											
No walls at all											
Private change areas											
The fire under the shelter with a flued vent											
Hexagonal shelters											
Other suggestions made at workshop											
Mark lines for spaces	y										1
Toilets closer to shelters											
Mix of shelters		y				Y					2

App VIII – Campsite Designs
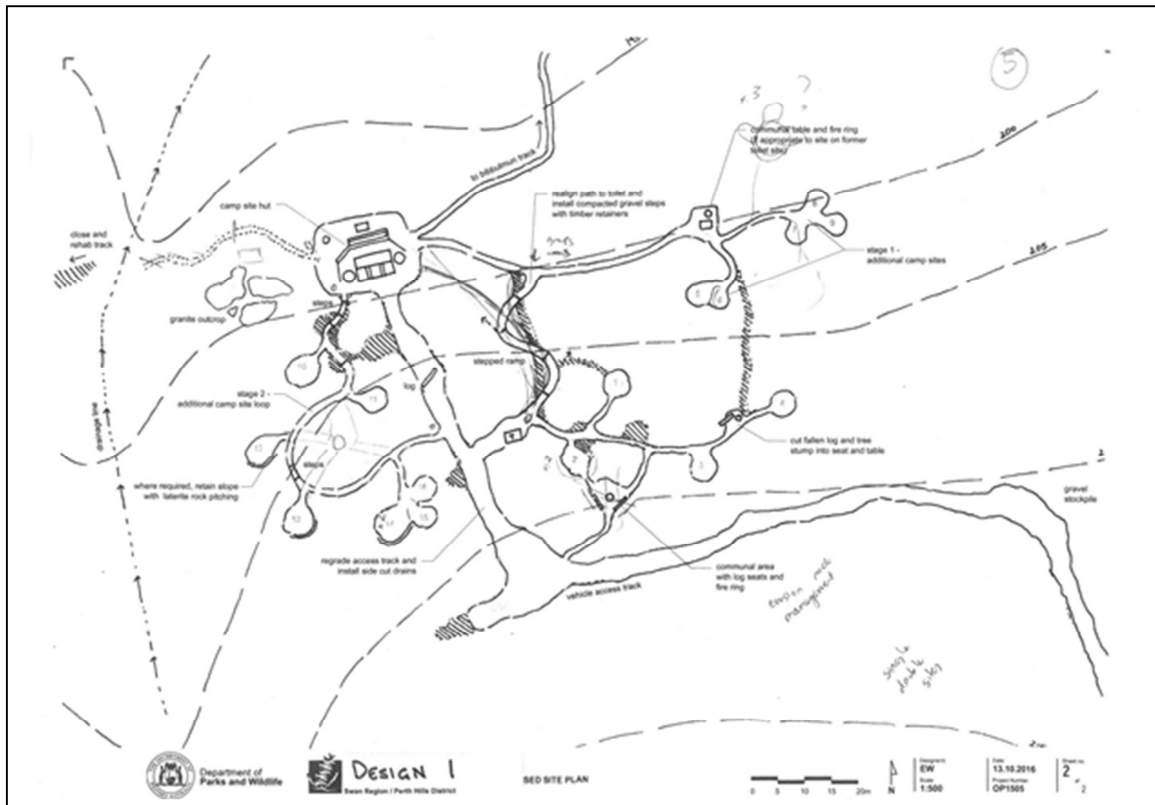
Campsite Upgrade – Design 1
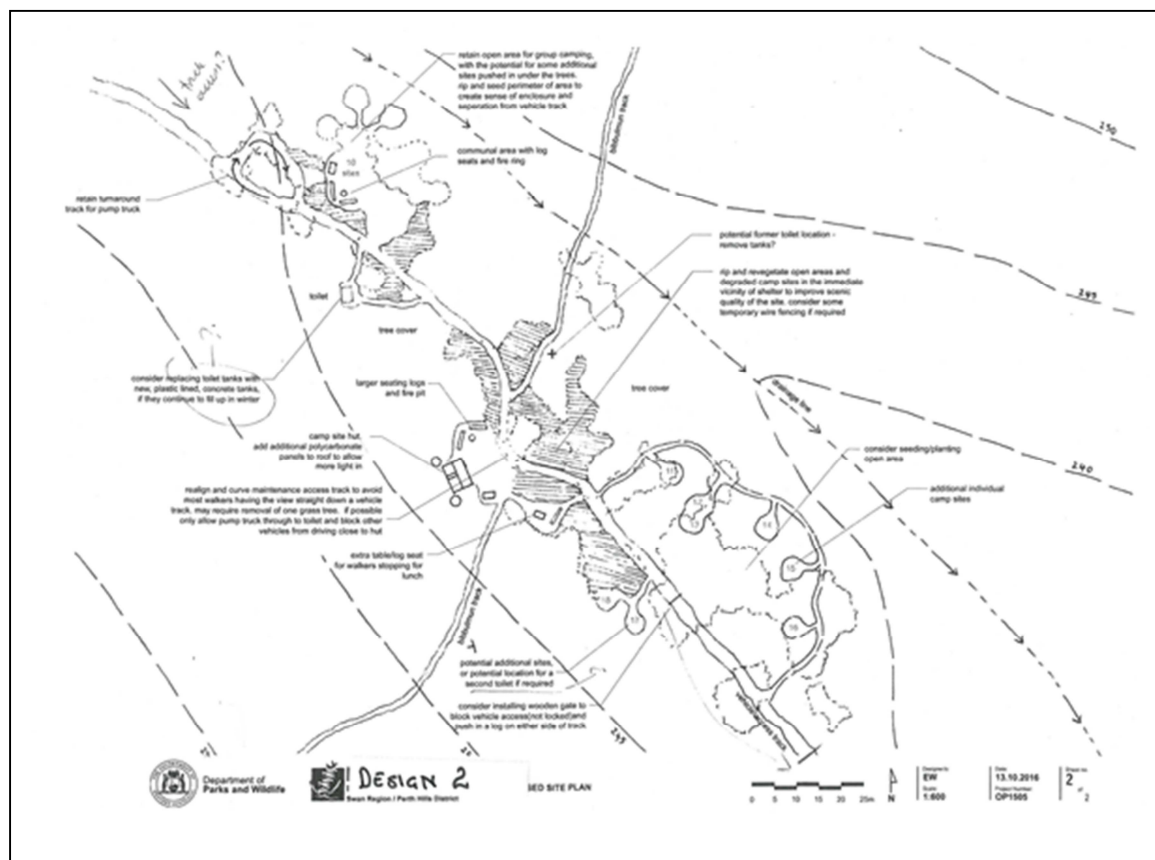
Campsite Upgrade – Design 2
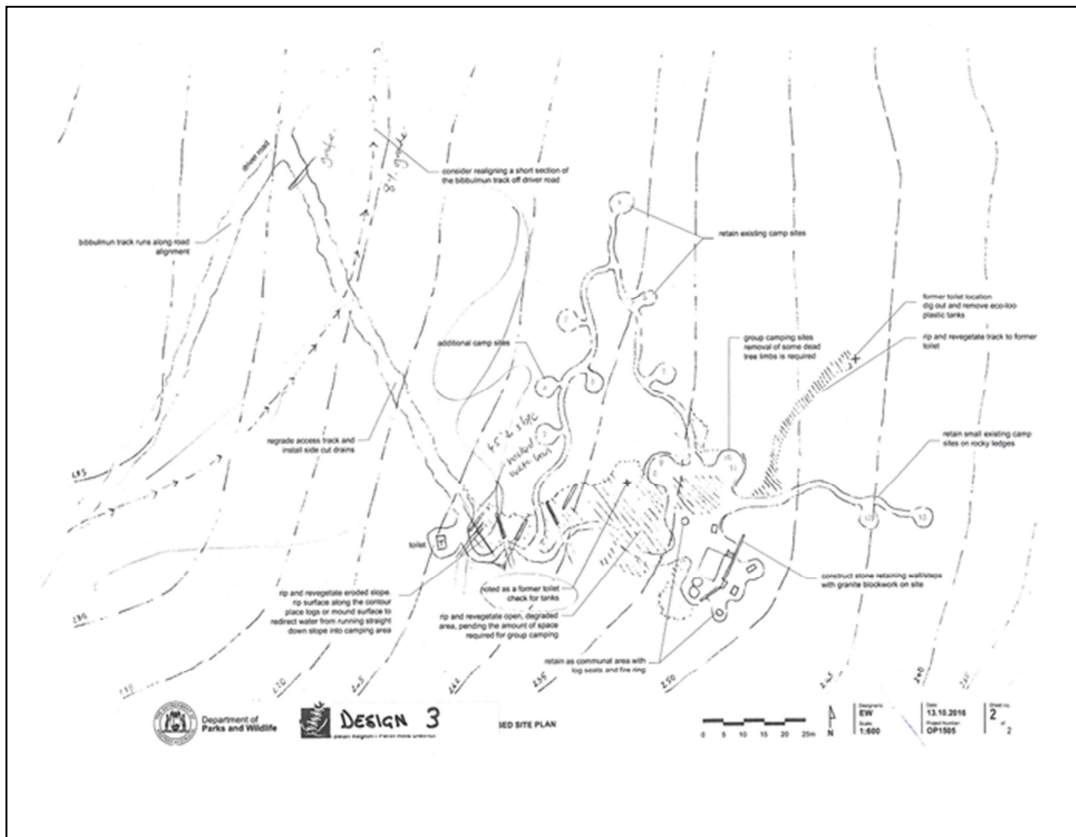
Campsite Upgrade – Design 3

App IX - Bibbulmun Track Character

Theme	Times indicated	Theme	Times indicated	Theme	Times indicated
Wilderness	36	Challenge	28	Simplicity	27
Solitude	17	Free	17	Facilities	15

WILDERNESS

Diversity of natural environments

Undeveloped – basic facilities

Natural wilderness /wild flowers

Variety of bushland

Range of environments and ecologies

Natural aspect

Varied and interesting

Not over developed

Track through bush

A path through the bush

Minimal clearing, but enough for ease of pathfinding

Minimum intrusion of built forms at campsites and with enough space to minimise noise and visual intrusion

Rustic shelters (not unlike Australia's original bush dwellings)

Rustic feel that blends into environment

Primitive and simple

Unspoiled

Not sanitised

Beautiful unique West Australian landscape

An Australian experience

CHALLENGE

A total adventure which becomes a real achievement, that tests your stamina, your endurance and self-reliance

Experience for the whole spectrum of ability

Difficult sections lead to a feeling of achievement

Feeling of accomplishment

Challenging adventure

The unexpected

Undeveloped – basic facilities

Connects you with something greater than you

Opportunities for personal growth

SIMPLICITY

Simplicity. No fees. No red tape. No policing. Minimal clearing, but enough for ease of pathfinding.

Simplicity of organisation

Simplicity of facilities and regulations

Primitive and simple

Undeveloped – basic facilities

Not over developed

Allows for spontaneity – short walks with minimum planning

Ability to walk freely and simply

Not controlled in a time frame

Freedom to walk point to point without deadlines

Informality

Minimum intrusion of built forms at campsites

Simple and rustic

SOLITUDE

Secluded

Solitude, peace and quiet

Peace

Connects you with something greater than you

Peace, tranquillity with minimum intrusion (of built forms at campsites and with enough space to minimise noise and visual intrusion)

Opportunities for solitude and personal growth

FACILITIES

Shelters with water and toilet, that can be relied on for overnight camping without booking and with minimal environmental impact.

Minimum intrusion of built forms at campsites and with enough space to minimise noise and visual intrusion

Rustic shelters (not unlike Australia's original bush dwellings)

Mix it up – A varied experience in shelter design, track type and bridges

Undeveloped – basic facilities

Keep it simple

Not over developed

Simple and rustic

Primitive and simple

Rustic feel that blends into environment

Simplicity of facilities and regulations

OTHER

Sense of community

Share camaraderie between hikers

Like-minded hikers from different backgrounds and cultures

Sharing the experience

Sense of communal "ownership"

Camaraderie of the track people

Bibbulmun Therapy

Renews your inner self

Sanity restoration

Tranquillity

Track's unique characters

Authentic

Unique

Diversity

Uniqueness

Free or low cost – accessible to all

Freedom of choice (to walk long or short distances)

Really nice to read about other walkers' experiences (*in campsite registers*)

Interaction of Government agencies/township folk/staff structure of the Foundation

App X – Burning Issues submitted at the Vision Workshop

Issue	Response
Don't change the general picture as for me I love the peace, quiet, solitude that welcomes me every time I go on the Track	Agreed by majority at Workshop.
Consider a combination of a 'package' for membership - small amount for membership - balance is a 'compulsory' donation which would be tax deductible	Worth considering if it's possible to incorporate into our system as long as it didn't create onerous adjustments/management.
We need more loop trails that could double as diversions, etc.	Board is open to more loops being added to the Track to provide more 2/3 day options - if these can be used as diversions then great - however, there's no guarantee that fires will cooperate and leave the alternative route unburnt!
Bunks in all shelters - saves a lot of space for more occupants - offers a bit more privacy for hikers, e.g. families or couples	Dealt with at Workshop and through Survey.
Phase out bunks (or provide bump caps!) because: - sleep fewer people - difficulty in descending top bunks at night (safety issue) - increased spider activity especially on top bunk - top bunks difficult to clean	Dealt with at Workshop and through Survey.
Memberships fees - I would like to see forward estimates as a basis for assessing whether fees need increasing and if so, by how much. I don't think a sensible argument can be made without that.	The results of the data from that question will determine the outcome of fee increases.
Fire risk reduction - reposition gutters so that the gutter is below the roof sheet where a hole has been punched through to allow water to run through and leaf litter to fall to ground from the end of the sheet (diagram provided)	Diagram to be passed to the Maintenance Coordinator for consideration.
Rubbish at Monadnocks campsite - it's not obvious but if you have a walk around there is rubbish everywhere. Education about removal, burial of used toilet paper! It's not a good look!	Campers driving into this campsite and leaving rubbish. This campsite is hammered by groups - need another group shelter nearby and better follow-up of unauthorised use.
I have very sore shoulders and neck and need to organise / find help with carrying my gear. Like to meet member who may help.	Offer to come in for a pack fitting. Not really part of BTF remit – maybe refer to Bibb Track Facebook page to ask for assistance from there.

Boot cleaning stations????? Maintenance location 013 - 2 in bad repair	Short-term we should put in new brushes. No major upgrade will occur until a dieback survey has been done to check if the stations are still correctly placed (i.e. the boundaries haven't moved)
BTF needs to embrace the effective use of social media, participate in the Facebook Bibb Track group page and not distance itself. The BTF Facebook page is fine but is not an interactive forum like the group page is	BTF has since become an administrator on the BT Facebook page.
Intermediate tent sites where it is a long distance to double hut. Often 20km is too short but 40+ km is too long. A tent site with toilet and water tank like Cape 2 Cape Track tent sites would fill this need and reduce informal camping away from huts	Issues with water catchment - this is effectively an extra campsite - more to maintain and costly to replace.
Wilson Inlet is the major track alignment issue. The 2010 study is not current as the ferry service does not operate - no one uses it as too expensive. This issue needs current re-assessment and a solution re a ferry service or a new alignment.	Regulations to meet now to provide a boat transfer service are the issue. The section from the river-mouth to Eden Rd boat ramp could be remarked but it is very hard, if not impossible, to maintain. It is always underwater when the bar is closed, which is most of the time. The full 2010 report is being reviewed.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation Vision Statement 2018

The Foundation's object (from the Bibbulmun Track Foundation Rules 2009)

The Foundation's object is to support the Track by doing the following—

a) working with and helping the Department to improve, maintain and manage the Track;

b) encouraging people to volunteer to help the Foundation;

c) co-ordinating and helping those volunteers;

d) promoting and encouraging people to use the Track;

e) providing, and helping people who provide, services and facilities for people who want to use and who use the Track.

The Foundation's vision for the Track for 2018-2028 is this—

These qualities of the Track should be retained:

- A simple wilderness path through the bush.

- A track that gives people mental and physical, yet accessible, challenges.

- A track that fosters a sense of community and camaraderie among its users.

- A track that provides opportunities for solitude and personal growth.

- A track that provides a peaceful and tranquil experience.

These principles should govern the Track:

- The natural wilderness of the Australian bush should be retained as much as is possible.

- Facilities, structures and regulations should be simple and pragmatic.

- Materials and design features should be rustic, minimalist and practical and not detract from the predominant sense of a natural, primitive environment.

- Trail markings should retain the original intention and characteristics of being functional, unobtrusive and sympathetic to the surroundings and be placed with appropriate regularity.

- Track improvements, including shelters, bridges, toilets and other facilities should be constructed to provide a minimum level of public safety.

- The Track should endeavour to inform and educate users into the Aboriginal and recent history of the land through which the Track passes.

- The Track should remain free from user fees.

These questions should be asked before anything is done that would affect the Track:

The following questions should be asked when evaluating the likely effect of a policy, program or project on the qualities of the Track.

1. Will this action or program protect the Track?

2. Can this be done in a less obtrusive manner?

3. Does this action unnecessarily sacrifice aspects of the Track that provide solitude, or that challenge walkers' skill or stamina?

4. Could this action, either by itself or in concert with other actions, result in an inappropriate erosion of the wilderness quality of the Track?

5. Will this action help to ensure that future generations of walkers will be able to enjoy a wilderness recreational experience on the Track?

Comments from members on their vision for the Track should be sought every 5-10 years.