



**CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE**

# **Trails Management Policy**

**Corangamite Shire**  
May 2019

# Council Policy



## Trails Management Policy

### Introduction

Recreation and open space facilities are recognised as important assets that contribute to providing a social focus and influencing peoples' perceptions of their community. Participation in sport and recreation is recognised as an important part of a well-balanced lifestyle with a broad range of physiological, mental, social and educational benefits. Council's vision for sport, recreation and open space is to provide opportunities which will be diverse and encourage residents of all ages to be active and healthy. Visitors will be attracted to the Shire to participate in these opportunities.' (Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2016-2026).

Trails are identified as providing an opportunity to improve the physical health of our community, by increasing levels of physical activity. The community highly values paths and trails for the opportunities they provide for walking, running and bike riding. Trails provide a path network within townships promoting active transport and recreation opportunities. Trails between towns and long distance trails linking key points of interest across the Shire encourage broad community use, events, tourism and contribute to the overall economic sustainability of the communities in which they exist.

Recognising the importance of trails to Victoria, State Government launched Victoria's Trails Strategy 2014 – 2024, the purpose of which is to provide a whole-of-government approach and clear vision regarding the planning, management and promotion of trails in Victoria. The Barwon South West Regional Trails Strategy and subsequent planning documents are intended to assist agencies, investors and groups to develop and maintain new and existing sustainable trail experiences that contribute to achieving the vision set out in the Victorian Trails Strategy.

### Purpose

Council's Trails Management Policy details Council's involvement in the funding and management arrangements for off-road trails located within Corangamite Shire.

### Scope

This policy applies to existing priority trails on Council or Crown Land as identified in the Corangamite Shire Trails Development Plan (2004) and Council's asset register, including:

- Ballarat to Skipton Rail trail (Corangamite section)
- Camperdown to Timboon Rail trail
- Mt Elephant Trail
- Lake Terang Circuit Trail
- Terang to Noorat Walking Track
- Power Creek Trail
- Mt Leura and Sugarloaf Trail Network
- Alan Marshall Trail, Mt Noorat

This policy does not include those trails or paths which have been or are constructed as a Community Planning project as these are considered for ongoing maintenance responsibility as

a part of Council’s asset register in accordance with Council’s Community Planning Infrastructure Projects policy:

- Cobden Lake Trail,
- Jubilee Park Trail – Skipton,
- Noorat Walking Path,
- Timboon Lions Park path
- Lismore Discovery Trail

**Definitions**

‘Committee’ – Committee of Management responsible for the day to day management and operation of the Reserve as delegated by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning or Trustees.

‘Trail’ – off road trail providing single or multi-use public access for recreational walking, cycling, running and horse riding.

**References**

- Corangamite Shire Trails Development Plan (2004)
- Corangamite Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2016-2026
- Victoria’s Trail Strategy (2014-2024)
- Barwon South West Regional Trails Strategy 2009
- Growing Adventure Tourism in Barwon South West Region 2014

**Policy Detail**

1. Council will allocate an amount based on a per kilometre rate as a part of its recurrent budget to assist trail Committees with maintenance expenses.
  - a. Funding will be allocated in accordance with the determined trail classification

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Defining Attributes</b>
State	Significant landscape or cultural trail experiences Supports a range of trail-based products A motivator for intra and interstate visitors May attract high level competitions and events
Regional	Representative of regions natural / cultural landscape May attract regional and intrastate visitors May attract regional events
Local	Located within close proximity to residential areas Recognised by locals as popular walking trail Provides primarily short walk components

**Table 1: Trail Classification Guide (refer Relevant References)**

- b. Funding levels will be allocated in accordance with the classification of the trail

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>New</b>
State	-	\$2,000
Regional	\$200	\$600
Local	\$200	\$300

**Table 2: Funding by Classification**

- c. Funding should be utilised by Committees to maintain the trail to meet relevant regional trail management infrastructure guidelines.
- d. The list of Trails subject to this policy is attached in Schedule 1. Schedule 1 will be reviewed as required by the Manager Facilities and Recreation i.e. when trails are constructed or retired, and any changes approved by the CEO.
- e. Council will provide funding allocations as part of its annual budget development process taking into account the following, but not limited to, considerations:
- Capacity of volunteers
  - Standards of trail maintenance
  - User expectations
  - Alternate funding sources
2. Committees will be responsible for all day to day operational and maintenance costs outside those costs to be met by Council as identified.
3. Committees will retain all income received through fundraising activities, leasing fees and product sales.
4. Committees will forward a report to Council at the end of each financial year which will include a financial statement and usage figures.
5. Committees will be responsible for sound asset planning and implementation of trail improvements.
6. Committees can seek funding for capital works in accordance with Council's Recreation Facilities Development Policy.
7. Committees are invited to apply to Council's Facility Grants Program each year for minor infrastructure works or related projects.

**Review Date**

June 2022

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)*.

**Schedule 1: List of Trails subject to this policy**

Classification	Trail	Length	Management Responsibility (including insurance)	Maintenance Responsibility	Councils role under this policy	
					Maintenance	Funding
Regional	Camperdown to Timboon Rail trail	34 km	DELWP Committee of Management	DELWP Committee		√
Local	Ballarat to Skipton Rail trail (Corangamite Section)	8 km	DELWP Committee (Ballarat City Council and Golden Plains Shire)	Council in partnership with local community	√	
Local	Power Creek Trail	2.5 km	DELWP Committee of Management	DELWP Committee		√
Local	Mt Elephant Trail	5 km	Trustees	Mt Elephant Management Committee		√
Local	Lake Terang Circuit Trail	4.5km	DELWP Committee of Management	Terang Lions Club		√
Local	Terang to Noorat Walking Track	6 km	Council	Council with assistance from Terang Rotary Club	√	
Local	Mt Leura and Sugarloaf Trail Network	6km	Council delegated Section 86 Committee	Section 86 Committee		
Local	Alan Marshall Trail, Mt Noorat	1km	Council delegated Section 86 Committee	Section 86 Committee		