

TASMANIA PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Recreation Management Plan



CENTRAL COAST
COUNCIL

Dial Range Reserves 2022



Contents

Acknowledgement: We acknowledge Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the custodians of this Land, and pay respects to Elders past and present for they hold the knowledge, memories and culture of First Nations people in Tasmania.

Central Coast Council, together with the PWS, co-funded the review and update of the Dial Range Recreation Management Plan.

Project reference group was established in 2019-2020 for stakeholder and community input into managing the reserved land; consisting of representatives from the PWS, STT, CCC and recreational clubs and regular users of the Dial Range reserves.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA

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COVER IMAGE: Dial Range walking track,
Photo: Joanne Cox



Introduction	1
Purpose and Scope of this Plan	2
Vision for the Dial Range	2
A brief history	2
Values	3
Reserve Management Framework	6
Land classification	6
Legislation and management objectives	8
PWS Policies	10
Development, planning and assessment	10
Recreation management	12
Recreation activities	12
Table of use	14
Visitor facilities	25
Natural and cultural values management	27
Management operations	27
Roads	28
Private property	30
Leases and licences	30
Compliance and illegal use	30
Information, interpretation and signage	31
Coordinated management and partnerships	32
Community participation	34
Appendices	36
Appendix 1: Table of Management Strategies	36
Appendix 2: Recreation Map	37
Appendix 3: Dial Range Signage Plan	38
Appendix 4: Code of Conduct:	
Recreational use	40
References	41

Introduction

This Dial Range Recreation Management Plan (the Plan) details the objectives for recreation in the Dial Range, and how management strategies will enable the objectives to be achieved.

The Plan applies to all land in the Dial Range, including:

- > Dial Range Nature Recreation Area;
- > Dial Range Regional Reserve;
- > Mount Montgomery State Reserve;
- > Mount Montgomery Nature Recreation Area,
- > Ferndene State Reserve;
- > Sith Carla Nature Reserve; and
- > Neighbouring Crown Land, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Central Coast Council land.

The Plan details the different recreation activities available in the Dial Range and includes strategies to protect the reserve's natural and cultural values, as well as to encourage and improve recreational facilities for visitors.

The Dial Range is located to the south of the Penguin township on the central north west coast of Tasmania. The Dial Range extends 14 km south to the Leven River at Gunns Plains and is approximately four to five kms wide between the hill faces of Pine Road on the west, through to the Leven River on the eastern boundary. In total, the Dial Range covers approximately 5,200 ha of land.

The Dial Range contains a variety of natural and cultural values. Its proximity to the major towns on the north west coast of Tasmania makes it attractive to visitors wishing to undertake recreation in a bush setting. Activities such as walking, kayaking, mountain biking and horse riding have long been permitted in the Dial Range.

MT DUNCAN WALKING TRACK
– Peter Stubbs



Purpose and Scope of this Plan

The aim of this Plan is to guide land managers to actively and sustainably manage the Dial Range, considering the natural, cultural and social values. This Plan will provide guidance to neighbouring landowners and authorities, local communities, and visitors about how these important reserves will be managed.

This Plan outlines:

- > what is important about the Dial Range, its values;
- > vision, desired outcomes, and framework for planning and managing recreation activities in a natural landscape; and
- > what actions are needed to achieve the vision and desired outcomes.

Vision for the Dial Range

- > **Recognised as an important reserve system.**
- > **Natural, cultural and social values sustainably managed, providing outstanding visitor and recreational experiences, commensurate with available resources.**

A brief history

The Dial Range was originally named Dial Mountain by the surveyor Joseph Fossey, and later renamed Dundas Range after a former director of the Van Diemen's Land Company. The name Dial Range was finally accepted as it applied directly to the shape of the most prominent peak, Mount Gnomon, which, in turn, is named for its resemblance to the index of a sundial.

Since the initial proclamation of the Myrtle Creek Scenery Reserve, six additional reserves were declared over approximately 80 years. The proclamation of these reserves originated from several review processes, each of which identified similar underlying values: protection of local scenery, promotion of recreation activities, protection of the ecology, and potential for mineral extraction.

The potential for mineral deposits in the Dial Range was first mentioned by Charles Gould in 1867. By 1881, several prospects had been developed, with three mines opened, although two of these mines had already flooded and were no longer in use.

Forestry operations in the Dial Range are believed to go back to the mid1800s, supplying construction timber to Melbourne and the Victorian gold fields. Tasma Hardwoods Co. established a sawmill in Ulverstone in the late 1800s, initially harvesting timber from the eastern slopes of the range. The Lobster Creek Tramway, running from Purtons Flats to Lobster Creek, was built by Tasma Hardwoods in 1903 to cart timber to their sawmill. From Lobster Creek, the timber was taken by punt on the Leven River to Ulverstone. While the tramway formation remains, there is little evidence of the early forestry operations today.

Recreational usage can be traced back to the early 1900s, with the declaration of the Myrtle Creek Scenery Reserve. Over time, the area of reservation has increased, as has the community involvement with its management.

The North West Walking Club has a long association with the Dial Range and has been involved in the maintenance of walking tracks since the 1970s, including establishment of the Penguin Cradle Trail.

In 2000, Inspiring Place was engaged by the Tasmanian Government to prepare the *Dial Range Recreation Management Plan 2000*, with the aim to achieve effective and appropriate recreation management and development within publicly managed Dial Range reserves.

Since the 2000 plan was developed, several changes have affected recreation management within the Dial Range, these include:

- > transfer of land from Forestry Tasmania to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) in 2013;
- > increased popularity in mountain biking in the area;
- > development of the Penguin Mountain Bike Park (off reserve);
- > development of mountain bike trails in the reserves by the Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club;
- > the decline of Ironcliffe Road (Hales Road) between the Mount Gnomon car park through to Riana; and
- > a significant upgrade of the road from Purtons Flat to Dial Road due to flood damage in 2016.

The Dial Range Recreation Management Plan review and update commenced in 2019, led by the PWS – North West Region, with the support and involvement of other land managers including the Central Coast Council (CCC), PWS - Property Services branch (formally known as Crown Land Services), and Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT).



Values

Natural

Geodiversity

Within the reserve boundaries lies the Dial Range Residual Ridges geo-conservation site. This is the northern most part of a very prominent, but discontinuous, residual landform on conglomerates correlated with the Owen Group. It includes Mount Gnomon, which is a prominent example of a cuesta.

Other geodiversity values within the reserves include:

- > rare Cambrian fossils critical to deciphering the complex stratigraphy of the volcano-sedimentary pile;
- > mineralisation associated with Cambrian rocks, and associated old prospects and small-scale workings in the area;
- > alluvial terraces adjacent to the Leven River in the reserve downstream of Foggs Flat; and
- > remnants of basalt derived soil supporting native vegetation.

Flora

Vegetation

The vegetation in the Dial Range is mainly comprised of wet eucalypt forest communities (~68% of the reserves). *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Stringybark) is the most dominant canopy, however the understorey has not yet been differentiated in the statewide vegetation map (TASVEG). Among the forest areas that have been differentiated, the majority are mapped as having a broad-leaf understorey.

Also occurring within the wet forest areas of the Dial Range is *Eucalyptus viminalis* wet forest (~102 ha), which is a listed threatened native vegetation community. This forest type is dominated by the White gum, which has been extensively cleared for agriculture throughout Tasmania, leaving mainly small, fragmented patches, with very little old growth forest left.

ECHIDNA SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE DIAL RANGE AREA

Eucalyptus regnans wet forest vegetation has been mapped (156 ha) in the range, which although not listed as threatened, is an important reserve value due to its relatively rare status in the Northwest of Tasmania. It has regional conservation significance, being the most north westerly extent of this vegetation community.

In the drier areas of the Dial Range, the vegetation is comprised of dry eucalypt forest communities, with *Eucalyptus amygdalina* (Black peppermint) and *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Stringy bark) the most common canopy dominants. About half of these dry forest and woodland areas are mapped as the threatened native vegetation community, *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and woodland on sandstone (~608 ha). This is dominated by Black peppermint, but often has Stringy bark, and/or White gums present. The understorey of this forest is variable depending on fire frequency and soil development in frequently burnt areas; sedges and bracken dominate on sandy soils, while podsols support a heathy understorey. In less frequently burnt areas, a tall shrub layer of Silver wattles, Silver banksia and Black sheoak usually develops. The Dial Range reserves are important for the secure reservation of this community, reserving not only a substantial part of the reserved area (over 5%), but reserving the most north westerly part of the geographic extent of this community.

Rainforest patches, *Nothofagus-Phyllocladus* short rainforest, occur in the fire protected niches such as along Hardstaff Creek (~96 ha).

Scrub and other non-eucalypt forests, together, make up only about 8% of the Dial Range and, among these communities, areas of *Acacia melanoxylon* forest on rises along the Leven River are perhaps the least well represented community, while *Leptospermum lanigerum* – *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest may be associated with soils of high organic content.

Threatened Flora

There are a number of threatened plant species recorded from within the reserve boundaries that are listed under the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA), and the Dial Range reserves are potential habitat for other threatened flora based on range boundaries and potential habitat suitability:

- > *Blechnum spinulosum* (small raspern, previously known as *Doodia caudata*);
- > *Persicaria decipiens* (slender waterpepper);
- > *Blechnum cartilagineum* (gristle fern);
- > *Pterostylis atriola* (snug greenhood); and
- > *Epilobium pallidiflorum* (showy willowherb).

Uncommon flora occurring in the reserves includes:

- > *Lastreopsis acuminata* (shiny shieldfern);
- > *Chiloglottis valida* (large bird-orchid);
- > *Cystopteris tasmanica* (brittle bladderfern); and
- > *Epacris paludosa* (flinders heath).

Previously listed flora no longer considered threatened includes:

- > *Acacia mucronata* subsp. *dependens* (blunt caterpillar wattle); and
- > *Gahnia sieberiana* (redfruit sawsedge).

Fauna

The Dial Range supports several threatened and endemic fauna species, as well as non-threatened and introduced fauna. A search for fauna records on the Natural Values Atlas for the Dial Range revealed 62 observations of 24 species, reflecting limited dedicated survey effort, with most records opportunistically recorded.

Non-threatened wildlife, such as Platypus and Echidna, have also been recorded in the area. Two introduced mammal species are known from the area - the cat and the rabbit. McBrides Creek provides habitat for *Astacopsis tricornis*, and two small Burrowing crayfish species also occur in the reserves: *Engaeus fossor* and *Ombroastacoides leptomerus*. The north west Velvet worm has also been recorded, a species which has not changed much in over 500 million years and is considered a living fossil.

Based on Wedge-tailed eagle nesting habitat modelling, there is a medium to high likelihood that eagle nesting habitat is found within the area.

Threatened fauna

There are a number of threatened fauna species recorded within the Dial Range that are listed under the TSPA. The Dial Range reserves are potential habitat for other threatened fauna based on range boundaries and potential habitat suitability, including:

- > *Astacopsis gouldi* (giant freshwater crayfish);
- > *Beddomeia phasianella* (hydrobiid snail);
- > *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil); and
- > *Dasyurus maculatus* (spotted-tailed quoll).

Cultural

Limited research has been undertaken on the Aboriginal heritage values in the Dial Range, and future research is required to identify, document and assess the cultural heritage of the area.

There are no Aboriginal heritage sites recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Register. This may be because no Aboriginal Heritage Assessments have been undertaken within the Dial Range.

The Unanticipated Discovery Plan, produced by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, is a stepbystep guide that details the requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* (the Act) should anyone find Aboriginal heritage.

The European history of the Dial Range is linked principally to the early prospecting that occurred within the area, with much of the nomenclature of public names reflecting this history. Historical records suggest there were four unrelated sources of iron ore in the Penguin area, including the Iron Cliffs (Ferndene State Reserve), Penguin Creek, and the top of the Dial Range. Iron Cliffs mines, between 1891-1908, were worked by over 10 lessees, with other operators working sections until at least 1927. The small-scale operations produced limited quantities of iron, copper, silver and gold. The Iron Cliffs mines within the Ferndene State Reserve were listed by the Australian Heritage Commission for their mining heritage significance.

Early harvesting of saw logs started before the 1900s and led to the construction of a tramway along the western bank of the Leven River. Forestry operations within the Dial Range are currently limited to Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPF), with the majority of forestry land currently classified as Future Potential Production Forest (FPPF).

Social

The Dial Range, with spectacular views of the local countryside from the mountain peaks, offers a range of outdoor nature-based experiences, both active and passive. Due to its proximity to coastal population centres, the Dial Range is ideally located to cater for increased public usage.

Scenic

The Dial Range forms a scenic backdrop from areas between Devonport and Burnie, and from rural areas to the south. It includes several peaks, Mount Montgomery, Mount Dial, Mount Gnomon, Mount Lorymer, and the highest peak, Mount Duncan. The view of the surrounding countryside from these peaks is impressive. The aesthetic and scenic values were primary values that the original reservations were intended to preserve. The scenic and landscape values of the Dial Range were consistently identified as being very important to the community during the engagement phase of the Plan's review. Community members described the view of the Dial Range from afar as a scene that confirmed they were coming home, or as the homely backdrop to their town.

Recreation

A diverse range of recreational users enjoy the Dial Range. The main recreational activities include bushwalking, trail running, mountain bike riding, natural studies, horse-riding and recreational vehicle use (motorbikes, all-terrain vehicles, and 4WD). Fishing, canoeing and other water-based activities occur along the Leven River. Designated and leased areas have been set aside for clubs involved with motocross riding and clay target shooting. Sightseeing, picnicking and other recreational activities also occur within the Dial Range.

Limited visitor facilities are provided within the reserves, with most facilities located at Ferndene State Reserve car park.

Reserve Management Framework

Land classification

The Dial Range includes several reserve classifications gazetted under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (NCA), FPPF and Public Reserves gazetted under the *Crown Lands Act 1976* (CLA), and PTPFL gazetted under the *Forest Management Act 2013*. Table 1 details the land classifications, relevant gazettal Act, and Land Manager.

Under the NCA, reserve classification is based on values. State Reserve classifications have large or representative samples of natural landscape, natural features, or Aboriginal heritage values. The purpose of these classifications is the protection and maintenance of natural and cultural values of the land, whilst providing sustainable recreation consistent with the values. Classifications including

Regional Reserves', Conservation Areas and Nature Recreation Areas are in a predominantly natural state and reserved for the purpose of conserving, protecting and maintaining natural and cultural values, sustainable use of natural resources, and a higher level of public recreation and education is supported.

The Dial Range includes a range of reserve classifications and land tenures (detailed in Figure 1); therefore, the management of each classification, including what is permitted and prohibited, can differ. Land tenures, other than reserves, are Crown Land, Local Government land (private freehold) and Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPZ) land. Crown Land includes the Public Reserves and Future Potential Production Forest land that are also managed by PWS.

TABLE 1: LAND CLASSIFICATION

Name	Act	Land Manager
Mount Montgomery State Reserve	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	Parks and Wildlife Service
Ferndene State Reserve	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	Parks and Wildlife Service
Mount Montgomery Nature Recreation Area	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	Parks and Wildlife Service
Mount Dial Nature Recreation Area	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	Parks and Wildlife Service
Dial Range Regional Reserve	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	Parks and Wildlife Service
Sith Cala Nature Reserve	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	Parks and Wildlife Service
Permanent Timber Production Zone Land	<i>Forest Management Act 2013</i>	Sustainable Timber Tasmania
Future Potential Production Forest	<i>Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Act 2014</i>	Crown (Parks and Wildlife Service)
Public Reserve	<i>Crown Lands Act 1976</i>	Lessees to Crown (PWS)

Legislation and management objectives

The Dial Range Recreation Management Plan is a special purpose plan. It is non-statutory, meaning it is not required by, or prepared in accordance with, Sections 18–28 of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* (NPRM Act). Special purpose plans, like this Plan, are consistent with current statutory management prescriptions, as defined in legislation, and provide specific information about an area in order to achieve reserve management objectives.

Management objectives for reserves are prescribed in Schedule 1 of the NPRM Act, and Schedule 4 of the CLA. Management objectives provide the overarching context for the management of reserves. Table 2 details the management objectives for the reserve types and land tenures within the Dial Range.



Regulations

National Parks and Reserve Management Regulations 2019 (NPRM Regs) are supplementary to NPRM Act 2002 and provide more guidance on management functions and acceptable use listed in the Act. NPRM Regs allow for activities to be permitted and prohibited in different reserve types. Infringement penalties are allocated to prohibited activities to deter non-compliance.

Management plans

Mount Montgomery State Reserve has had a statutory Management Plan that's been in place since 1979. The Management Plan lists six management objectives that are similar to the statutory management objectives of a State Reserve in the NPRM Act. The Management Plan recognises statutory powers of authorities, with some conditions. The Management Plan will remain legal until it is replaced or rescinded. No other reserves in the Dial Range have a statutory management plan.

This Recreation Plan replaces the non-statutory *Dial Range Recreation Management Plan 2000* and will be the primary guiding plan for recreation management.

Section 30(1) of the NPRM Act requires the managing authority to manage reserved land to give effect to, and in accordance with, any management plan. Where there is no plan, the managing authority is to manage the land 'in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved' and 'having regard to the management objectives for the class of that reserved land'.

**TABLE 2:
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AS THEY RELATE TO RESERVE CLASSIFICATIONS AND LAND TENURE**

Management objective	Nature Reserve Sith Carla	State Reserve Mount Montgomery Ferndene	Nature Recreation Area Dial Range Mount Montgomery	Regional Reserve Dial Range	FPPFL
to conserve natural biological diversity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to conserve geological diversity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to preserve the quality of water and protect catchments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to conserve sites or areas of cultural significance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to encourage education based on the purpose of reservation and the natural or cultural values of the reserve, or both	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to encourage research, particularly that which furthers the purpose of reservation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to protect the reserve against, and rehabilitate the reserve following, adverse impacts such as those of fire, introduced species, diseases and soil erosion on the reserve's natural and cultural values and on assets within and adjacent to the reserve	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to encourage and provide for tourism, recreational use and enjoyment consistent with the conservation of the reserve's natural and cultural values		✓	✓	✓	✓
to encourage cooperative management programs with Aboriginal people in areas of significance to them, in a manner consistent with the purpose of reservation and the other management objectives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
to preserve the natural, primitive and remote character of wilderness areas		✓			
to provide for the taking, on an ecologically sustainable basis, of designated game species for commercial or private purposes, or both				✓	✓
to provide for the controlled use of other resources, including as an adjunct to utilisation of marine resources				✓	✓
to provide for exploration activities and utilisation of mineral resources			✓	✓	✓
allow for private, commercial or industrial uses					✓

PWS Policies

Tasmanian Reserve Management Code of Practice 2003

This code describes principles and specifies appropriate standards and practices for new activities in reserves, which have been approved through project planning and impact assessment processes. It also provides best practice operational standards.

Reserves Management Zoning Policy

This policy establishes five reserve management zones to define land management outcomes regarding natural and cultural values, presentation and use. The five zones are Wilderness, Natural, Recreation, Visitor Services and Utilities. The management zones are used by the PWS to achieve the reserve management objectives listed for each reserve type in the NPRM Act.

Reserves Standards Framework (RSF) Policy

The RSF is a recreational zoning scheme that describe different recreational options in reserve management zones. Visitor experience and safety is affected by the type, level, standard, function, maintenance and appearance of visitor facilities. The RSF is used by the PWS to describe a range of recreational facility types and standards, and to determine risk settings and the level of service for visitor infrastructure, so it matches the type of visitor and management zone.

Visitor Risk Management Policy

This policy provides for a systematic approach to visitor risk management by outlining the principles, aims and responsibilities concerning the management of risk to visitors on PWSmanaged land. It recognises the complexity in providing visitor experiences and safety, while protecting the natural and cultural values, and providing diversity of opportunities and challenge levels.

Other Relevant Policies

Other PWS policies are applied as appropriate to the management and use of reserves. Relevant PWS policies include the Environmental Risk Management Policy, Mountain Biking Policy and Procedures, Walking Track Classification System, Group Activities and Events Policy and Procedures, Planned Burning, and various other fire management policies including Neighbouring Developments and Fire Management Policy.

Development, planning and assessment

Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA)

The PWS RAA system is used to assess whether activities conducted on PWSmanaged land are environmentally, socially, and economically acceptable.

A key objective of this process is to confirm values are protected under the relevant legislation (i.e. the NPRM Act) and enable informed decisions about whether a proposal should proceed and, if so, under what conditions in order to avoid or mitigate potential impacts on reserve values.

Protected values include biological diversity, geological diversity, water quality, cultural significance, and areas of high wilderness quality. The PWS must also protect reserves from threats such as fire, introduced species, introduced diseases, and soil erosion.

The reserve management framework (described in section 4) is also reviewed and considered in the context of any development proposals within the impact assessment process.

Any development proposal or management activity will be assessed and determined using the system, and considered against the above guiding principles for the Dial Range.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles have been developed to synthesise and guide development, planning, and management of the Dial Range reserves:

1. Conservation of significant natural and cultural values has primacy over all other matters.
2. Visitors and users should enjoy reasonable and safe access for the approved range of recreational activities.
3. Quality of user experiences should be comparable with the expectations of visitors and recreational users within a multi-use recreation area with a range of different land tenures and classifications.
4. Visitor infrastructure development should not unreasonably impact the experiences of other users and must be consistent with achieving the vision and guiding principles of the recreation management plan and the statutory requirements that apply to the land tenure and classification.
5. Recommendations and management actions are made within the context of the capacity and resources of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies delivering them.

Tasmanian Planning Scheme

Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) - Central Coast came into effect in October 2021. Central Coast Council are the planning authority responsible for implementing the TPS. The TPS consists of State Planning Provisions (SPPs), and a Local Provisions Schedule (LPS). The TPS applies to use and development within the meaning of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA).

Any use and development in the Dial Range, regardless of land tenure, will need to comply with the prescriptions of the TPS. The Dial Range has been zoned either Environmental Management (Reserves) or Rural (PTPZ, FPPF). Code overlays may include landslip hazard, priority vegetation, waterways protection and bushfire prone.



MT DUNCAN WALKING TRACK
- Peter Stubbs

Recreation management

Desired outcomes - recreation

- > Visitors and users should enjoy reasonable and safe access for the approved range of recreational activities.
- > Quality of user experiences should be comparable with the expectations of visitors and recreational users within a multi-use recreation area with a range of different land tenures and classifications.
- > Visitor infrastructure development should not unreasonably impact the experiences of other users and must be consistent with achieving the vision and guiding principles of the recreation management plan and the statutory requirements that apply to the land tenure.

Recreation activities

The Dial Range is predominantly used by residents of the north west coast. It is valued for the recreational opportunities it offers, as an accessible area, in a natural setting, with an extensive track network.

The main recreation activities undertaken are walking, running, mountain bike riding, and recreational vehicle use. There is a dedicated shooting range and a motocross area, both managed through lease arrangements (see section 5.4) To a lesser extent, horse-riding and fishing, canoeing/kayaking, and other water-based activities occur along the Leven River.

Main issues

Conflicting uses

Given the multiple uses of the Dial Range for different recreational activities, conflict between uses is an issue. Consultation suggests that whilst there are some conflicts that need resolving, the Dial Range has the capacity to cater for a range of users without creating major problems. The main current user conflicts include:

- > conflict on shared tracks given the increased walker and mountain bike rider usage; and
- > trail bikes using and damaging walking and mountain bike tracks.

Visitor experience

The Dial Range has experienced significant shifts in recreational activities and popularity in the past, resulting in user conflicts and negative visitor experiences. Multiple users in one area, or using the same tracks, when not managed appropriately, can lead to a diminished visitor experience. Consideration needs to be given to existing users and permitted uses of tracks, particularly those with the potential to displace a user group, as new or increased use of another type of recreational user occurs.

Prohibited or inappropriate use of tracks can lead to degradation and maintenance issues, resulting in negative visitor experiences with increased risk of injury. A common example of this within the area is damage to purpose-built walking or mountain bike tracks from prohibited trail bike use.

Better information, interpretation, and way-finding signage would enhance the visitor experience. This is detailed further in section 5.6.

Excessive track networks

Whilst the development of new tracks will increase recreation opportunities and the visitor experience in the Dial Range, there is a risk of developing too much, resulting in significant and cumulative impacts on values, and a maintenance liability for land managers. Land managers have limited resources and little security of future funding to manage the growing kilometres of track assets. Consideration of a sustainable level of track development must be considered when assessing new track developments.

Visitor risk management

The primary mission of the PWS is to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the parks and reserves under its management, while also providing recreational opportunities for visitors. As land managers, the PWS owes a duty of care to visitors, including to take reasonable care to avoid foreseeable risks of injury to visitors. Multi-use areas carry with them additional visitor risks associated with having multiple users on the same tracks, sometimes travelling in different directions. These risks require consideration, assessment, and management as per the PWS Visitor Risk Management Policy.

Code of Conduct

Appendix 4 details a recreation Code of Conduct for the Dial Range. The Code has been developed to establish and communicate the norms, rules, and responsibilities of everyone engaging in recreation in the Dial Range.

Camping

There are no designated camping areas within the Dial Range reserves.

Camping is permitted on reserved land under the *National Park and Reserves Management Regulations 2019* (NPRM Regs), so long as you are more than 500m from a road; there is no sign prohibiting camping; and it is not a 'designated camping-prohibited area'.

Canoeing / kayaking

The Leven River is popular among white water kayakers and canoe enthusiasts. It is used for club and recreational events. The stretch of the Leven River adjoining the Dial Range is a relatively easy grade. Access points for canoeing and kayaking include Bannons Bridge, Purtons Flat (private property), and access from within the reserve at the end of 'Dial Creek Road' (4WD access on this road), and the start of the Purtons Flat track.

Dog walking

Dogs are prohibited on all reserved land (reserved under the NCA) unless a dog exercise area has been designated. There are no designated dog exercise areas within the Dial Range.

The distinction between reserve classifications is not apparent on the ground in the Dial Range. Designating a dog exercise area within the northern end of the Dial Range reserves (Mount Montgomery to Mount Gnomon) could result in dogs in the State Reserves, which is prohibited under the NPRM Regs. There is also concern that introducing dogs into the reserves may have the potential to contribute to conflict between users and have adverse effects on wildlife.

A dog exercise area exists off reserved land, on Ironcliffe Road, within 1km of the Mount Montgomery car park.

Horse riding

Horse riding is permitted on open roads (Dial Road, Ironcliffe Road) and designated vehicle tracks as per Figure 2. Suitable parking for a few cars and horse floats is available on Dial Road, opposite the motocross track, as well as locations outside the reserve boundaries. Use of the vehicle tracks south of Mount Lorymer is permitted; however, horse riders must obtain permission from private property owners to traverse their property.

Horse riding is prohibited under the NPRM Regs in State Reserves, including Ferndene and Mount Montgomery.

Table of use

TABLE 3: TABLE OF USE

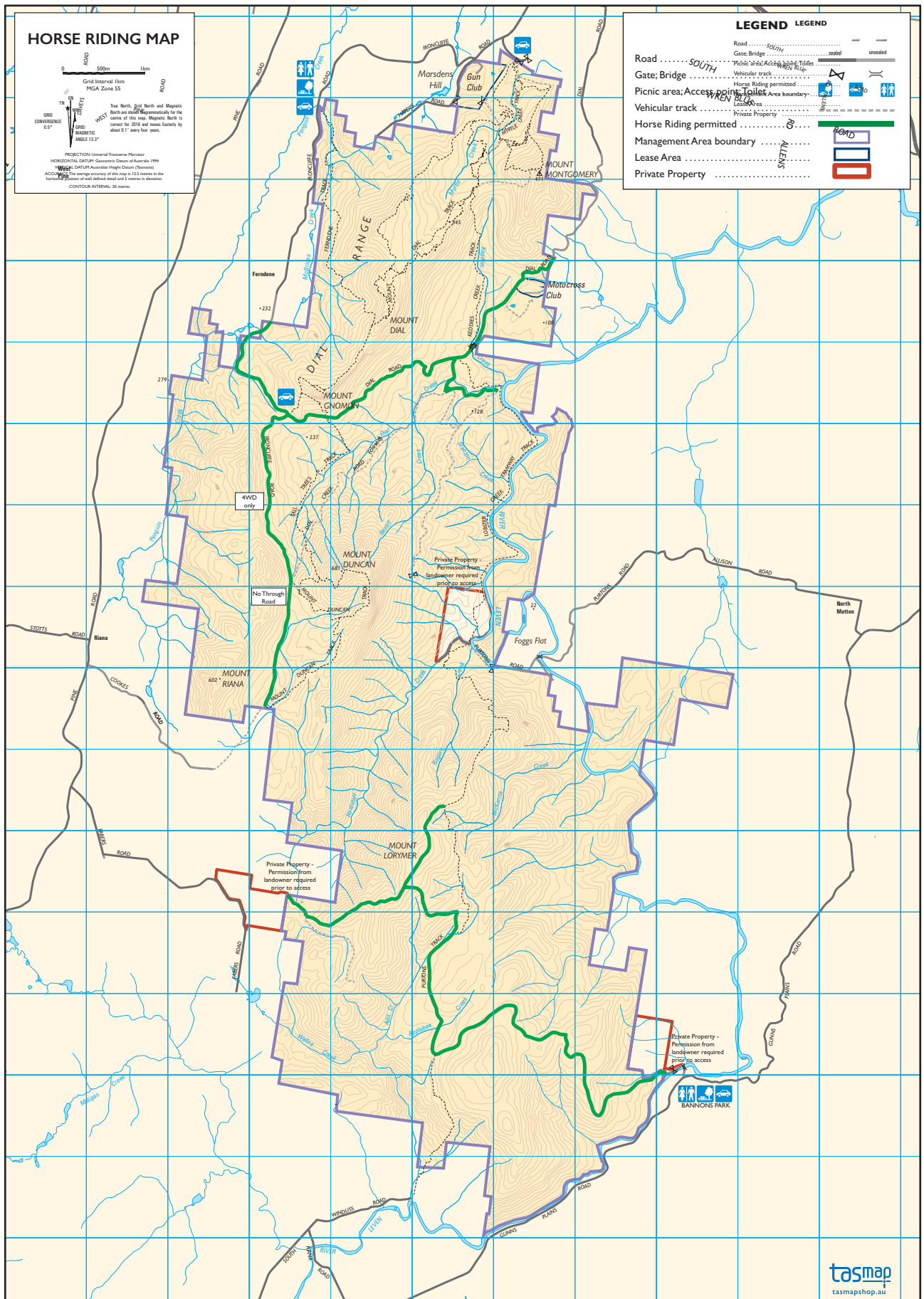
Activity	Permitted	Conditions / Restrictions
Canoeing / kayaking	Yes	Leven River
Camping	No - car based camping	No designated camping areas within the reserves As per regulations
Commercial activities	Yes - via licence	As per CVS licence conditions
Dog walking	No	
Drones	Yes - via authority	As per authority conditions
Firearms and other weapons for recreational use	No	
Fires	No	
Firewood collection	No	
Fishing	Yes	
Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD)	Yes - via Private Property permission	Permitted on roads and vehicle tracks (open) Private Property permission is required before accessing some tracks.
Group activities Includes regular activities by a volunteers or community groups.in the Dial Range Reserves (also see Special Events below)	Yes - via agreement	'On-going Activity Agreement' developed in partnership with PWS.
Horse riding	Yes - restricted	Permitted on roads and vehicle tracks (open) in the Regional Reserves and Nature Recreation Area Permitted on vehicle track south of Mount Lorymer if private property access granted Prohibited in State Reserves
Mountain biking (cycling)	Yes	Permitted on roads and vehicle tracks (open) Not permitted on walking tracks unless designated and/or signposted shared use (sections of the Mount Montgomery Track)
Motorbikes	Yes - restricted	Only registered motorbikes Permitted on roads and vehicle tracks (open) Not permitted on any other tracks

Activity	Permitted	Conditions / Restrictions
Orienteering / rogaining	Yes	As per authority conditions No permanent infrastructure installed
Picnicking	Yes	
Recreational Vehicles (Quad bikes, ATVs, Side-by-Side)	Yes - restricted	Only registered vehicles Permitted on roads and vehicle tracks (open) Not permitted on any other tracks
Rock climbing	Yes	Bolting requires Authority from the PWS
Special events (includes citizen science, sporting, weddings, ceremonies, concerts, cultural events and other gatherings)	Yes - via authority	As per authority conditions PWS Group Activities and Events Policy and Procedures (PWS P-062)
Study and appreciation of nature (See Group activities or Special events)	Yes	Leave No Trace principles apply Permits required for collecting species
Trail running	Yes	Not permitted on descending MTB trails (for example Iron Tor MTB trail)
Walking	Yes	Not permitted on descending mountain bike tracks (for example Iron Tor MTB track)

THE DIAL RANGES - Joanne Cox



FIGURE 2: PERMITTED HORSE-RIDING LOCATIONS



Mountain bike riding (cycling)

A designated bicycle-riding area is defined in the NPRM Regs as an area of reserved land designated where the riding of bicycles is permitted. Without the designation, bicycle riding is not a permitted activity on reserved land. Within the Dial Range, mountain bike riding is only permitted on open roads, vehicle tracks, and designated tracks as per Figure 3. Riding bikes on the vehicle track south of Mount Lorymer is permitted, but riders must obtain permission from private property owners to access their property.

The reserves have been used for mountain biking since the early 1980s. Mountain bike riding has increased dramatically over the past 15-20 years, and it continues to grow in popularity. The Dial Range is highly valued and very well used for mountain bike riding. The significance of mountain bike tracks to the local riding community is evident, with high attendance all year round, in good weather and particularly on weekends.

An extensive network of mountain bike tracks has been constructed through the reserve, offering a range of riding opportunities. The mountain bike tracks are mainly developed for gravity style riding. There are various loops and difficulties to provide for different skill levels. The tracks are directionally signposted.

Shared use tracks

The *PWS Mountain Bike Policy and Procedures 2016* notes shared use tracks opportunities will be considered as a priority, and single tracks will be considered where demand, environmental and/or risk and safety issues are better managed.

Opportunities for shared use tracks in the Dial Range context are relatively limited because:

- > geography/topography: required sightlines are difficult to achieve, particularly on ridgelines and hillsides – where the majority of future development opportunities are desired;
- > existing use: introducing shared use to existing walking tracks can displace existing users and negatively impact on existing visitor experiences; and
- > visitor risk: the required acceptable visitor risk tolerance cannot be achieved.

Opportunities for future shared use track developments should be considered against the PWS policy, as well as considering local constraints as detailed above.

The current shared use tracks within the Dial Range (not including roads) are limited to small sections of the fire trail at Mount Montgomery, providing for walkers and mountain bike riders.

Future development

The local mountain bike club, Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club (CCMBC) has developed a Strategic Mountain Bike Plan (version 4 at the time of this Plan's publication) outlining their trail network aspirations for the Dial Range.

The development of new mountain bike tracks will be considered and assessed in accordance with PWS RAA policies and frameworks, and within the context of the Dial Range, being a multi-use recreational area. When considering track development proposals, the PWS will review the maintenance and utilisation of existing tracks and consider the sustainability of the whole track network.

A formalised agreement has been reached with the CCMBC for the ongoing management and maintenance of the existing mountain bike tracks in the Dial Range. This agreement is a key management tool for the sustainable management of mountain bike tracks in the Dial Range.

FIGURE 3: PERMITTED MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDING MAP

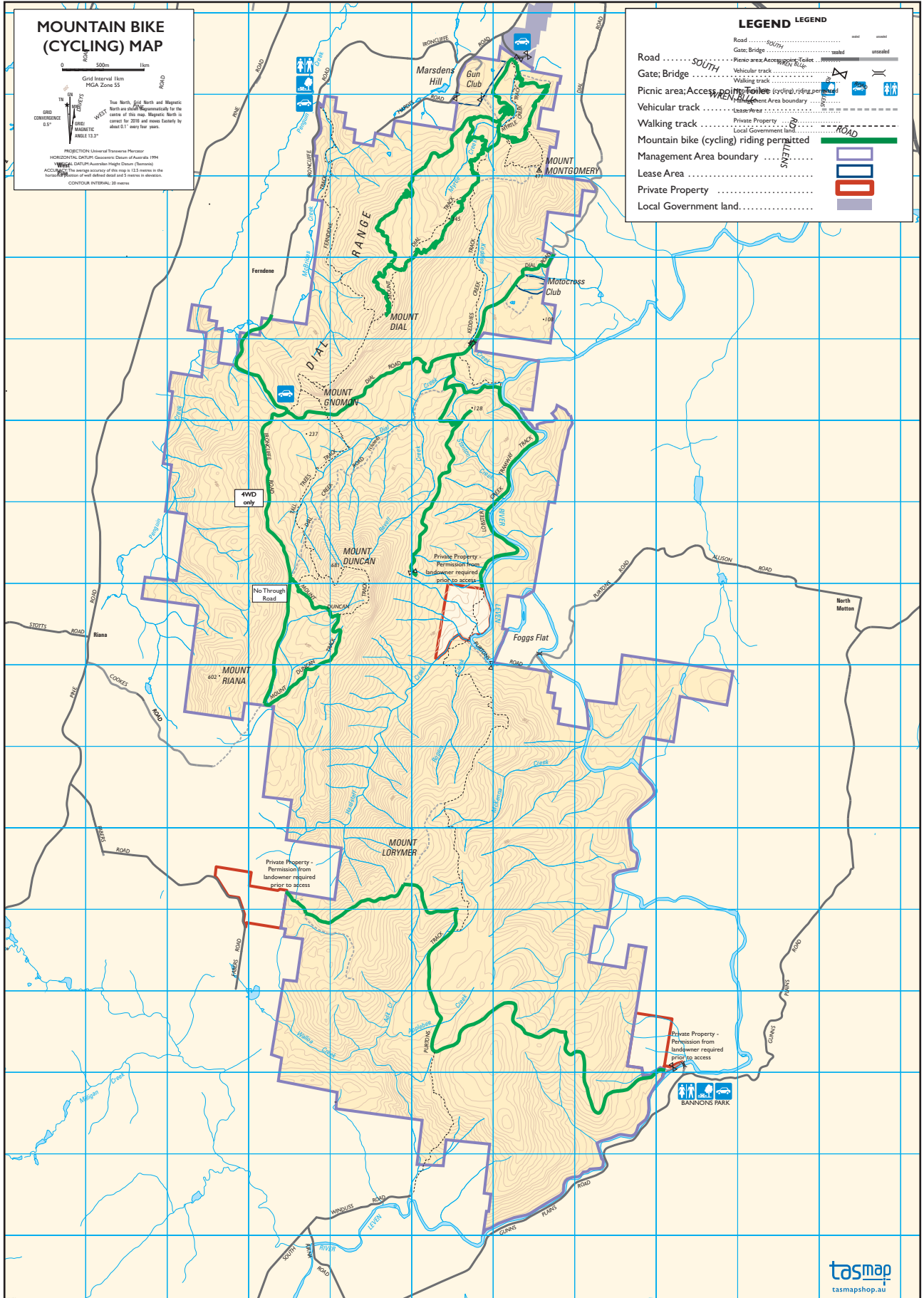
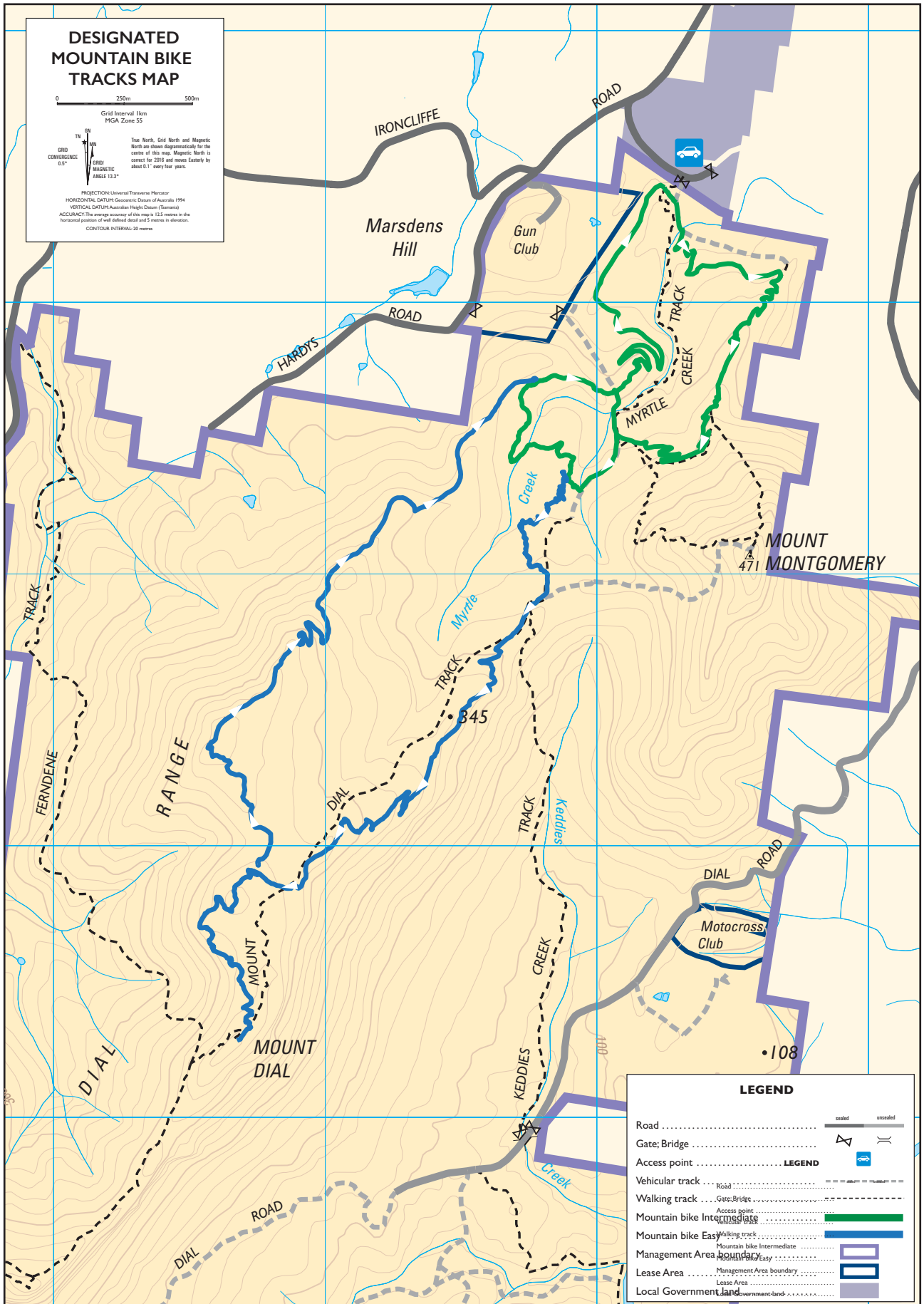


FIGURE 4: DESIGNATED MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACKS MAP



Orienteering and Rogaining

Both orienteering and rogaining are competitive recreational sports where participants navigate their way across rough, unfamiliar terrain, using a map and compass to find control markers before returning to the finish line.

Large markers secured to trees within the Dial Range are evidence of previous orienteering or rogaining events, although the frequency of these events is unknown.

Orienteering Tasmania, the State orienteering body, has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the PWS which provides authority to undertake orienteering events in particular reserves. At this stage the Dial Range is not included in the MOU. There are conditions for events, such as the provision of toilets. Rogaining Tasmania obtains authorities for individual events as required, at least two months before the event. Where supported, authorities are issued in accordance with the NPRM Regs and the PWS Group Activities and Events Policy and Procedures (PWS P-062).

Rock climbing

Rock climbing is popular in Tasmania, with sites spanning the State. While there are no recorded rock climbs in the Dial Range area, there are several rock faces that may be suitable for this activity.

Rock climbing in the Dial Range is compatible with the area's natural values when climbers minimise the use of bolts and practice minimal impact climbing techniques, as detailed in the Climbers Club of Tasmania Code of Conduct.

Study and appreciation of nature.

The study and appreciation of nature is a recreation activity undertaken by amateurs and experts, as individuals or as part of groups including Field Naturalists, Friends of groups and citizen science initiatives. The activity requires participants to leave established walking tracks and roam across rough unfamiliar terrain. The information gathered about native species maybe shared with the group and/or recorded in public online data sets such as Natural Values Atlas and iNaturalist. The information gathered and shared increases the knowledge base to inform and improve conservation management.

Regular group activities in the Dial Range can be authorised through an 'On-going Activity Agreement' with PWS. Irregular or 'once off' group activities would need an authority for individual events. Where supported, authorities are issued in accordance with the NPRM Regs and the PWS Group Activities and Events Policy.

Trail running

Trail running is becoming increasingly popular in Tasmania. Runners use available track networks to create a running route to their desired length and difficulty. Within the Dial Range, runners are known to use walking and mountain bike tracks, roads and vehicle tracks. Trail running is permitted in all locations where walking is permitted; however, it is prohibited on descending mountain bike trails.

Walking

Walking is permitted on all roads, vehicle tracks and tracks, except descending mountain bike tracks (for example Iron Tor) or mountain bike only trails.

Walking is one of the main recreational activities undertaken within the Dial Range. Walks currently available vary from a short walk up the scenic Myrtle Creek Track, to day walks through the reserves. Tracks up Mount Montgomery, Mount Duncan, and the ridge top walk along the escarpment from Mount Gnomon past Mount Dial offer extensive views. The short walk from the Ferndene Picnic area to the Thorsby Tunnel provides an insight into the mining history in the Dial Range.

The management intent for walking tracks in the Dial Range is to offer a range of walking experiences, with Myrtle Creek and Ferndene being the most 'improved', and the Penguin Cradle Trail (PCT) being mostly unimproved.

The North West Walking Club has a long association with the Dial Range and has been involved in maintenance of walking tracks since the 1970s, including the establishment of the PCT in the 1970s. This trail starts at the Mount Montgomery car park and extends to the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park. The North West Walking Club has dedicated an enormous amount of time and energy over the years to maintaining walking access throughout the reserves.

In 2016, a Wildcare group called the “Friends of the Penguin Cradle Trail” (FPCT) was formed to concentrate efforts on the ongoing maintenance of the PCT and improve management of the bushwalking experience.

PADEMELONS ARE A COMMON
SIGHT IN THE DIAL RANGE AREA

Future development

Existing walking tracks provide several out and back routes. Developing a range of loop walks that offer a variety of features, difficulties, and distance from key trailheads is supported in principle. New developments are dependent on available funding and RAA. The development of loop walking opportunities commencing from Mount Montgomery and Ferndene trailheads, where there are higher visitor levels, will be a priority.

Priorities for loop walking track opportunities are:

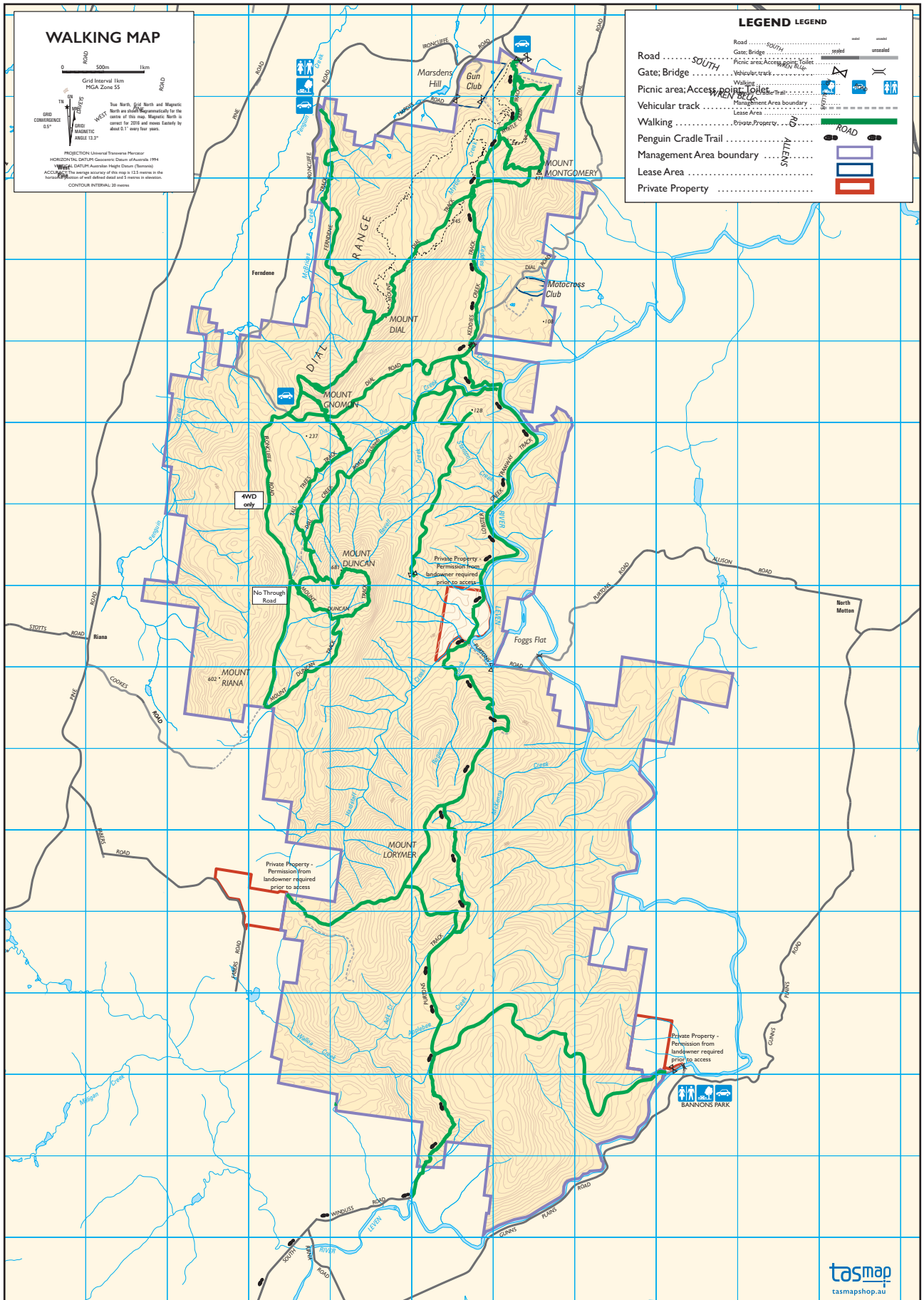
1. Mount Montgomery to Keddies Creek;
2. Ferndene; and
3. Keddies to Mount Gnomon car park.

Re-routing sections of the Mount Dial summit track (from the Mount Montgomery side) is identified as a priority, to capitalise on better view fields, scenic highlights, and appropriate gradients (avoiding walking tracks going straight up hills).

The development of new walking tracks will be considered and assessed in accordance with PWS RAA policies and frameworks. When considering track development proposals, the PWS will review the maintenance and utilisation of existing tracks, and consider the sustainability of the whole track network.



FIGURE 5: PERMITTED WALKING TRACKS MAP



Vehicles (4WD, off-road vehicles and motorbikes)

4WDs and off-road vehicles

The Braddon 4WD Club identified several vehicle tracks as being popular with the club and other 4WD groups. These include: Dial Road; Ironcliffe Road; vehicle tracks from Dial Road leading toward Leven River; and vehicle track south of Mount Lorymer. Whilst 4WD and off-road vehicles are permitted in the Dial Range, environmental impacts and track damage are an ongoing problem. These impacts generally arise from inappropriate behaviour such as creating new tracks when the main track is damaged to a point it is impassable (track braiding); using tracks after heavy rain, causing significant track erosion and sedimentation of watercourses; and using off-road vehicles on walking tracks (prohibited use). The impacts of these activities will be monitored, and management strategies implemented when necessary.

Some roads and vehicle tracks within the Dial Range are only appropriate for 4WD vehicles. This is indicated on the Vehicle Permitted Map at Figure 6, which details the locations where vehicles are permitted.

All vehicles (including, but not limited to, cars, motorbikes, quadbikes, side-by-sides) must be registered, and all drivers must be licenced when driving in reserves.

Access to some vehicle tracks within the Dial Range require access over private property. It is the responsibility of the 4WD club or individuals to prearrange permission to access private property before travel.

Off-road vehicles and 4WDs are permitted on open roads as well as open vehicle tracks.

It is important to check the most up-to-date information regarding which roads and tracks are open or closed before travelling; and complying with on-site signs. The classification of roads and tracks is subject to change at short notice. This can include the opening or closing of roads and tracks.

Motorbikes

All vehicles (including motorbikes) must be registered, and all drivers must be licenced, when driving in reserves.

Motorbikes are permitted on roads and designated vehicle tracks within the Dial Range. Figure 4 (Permitted vehicle map) outlines tracks where motorbikes are permitted.

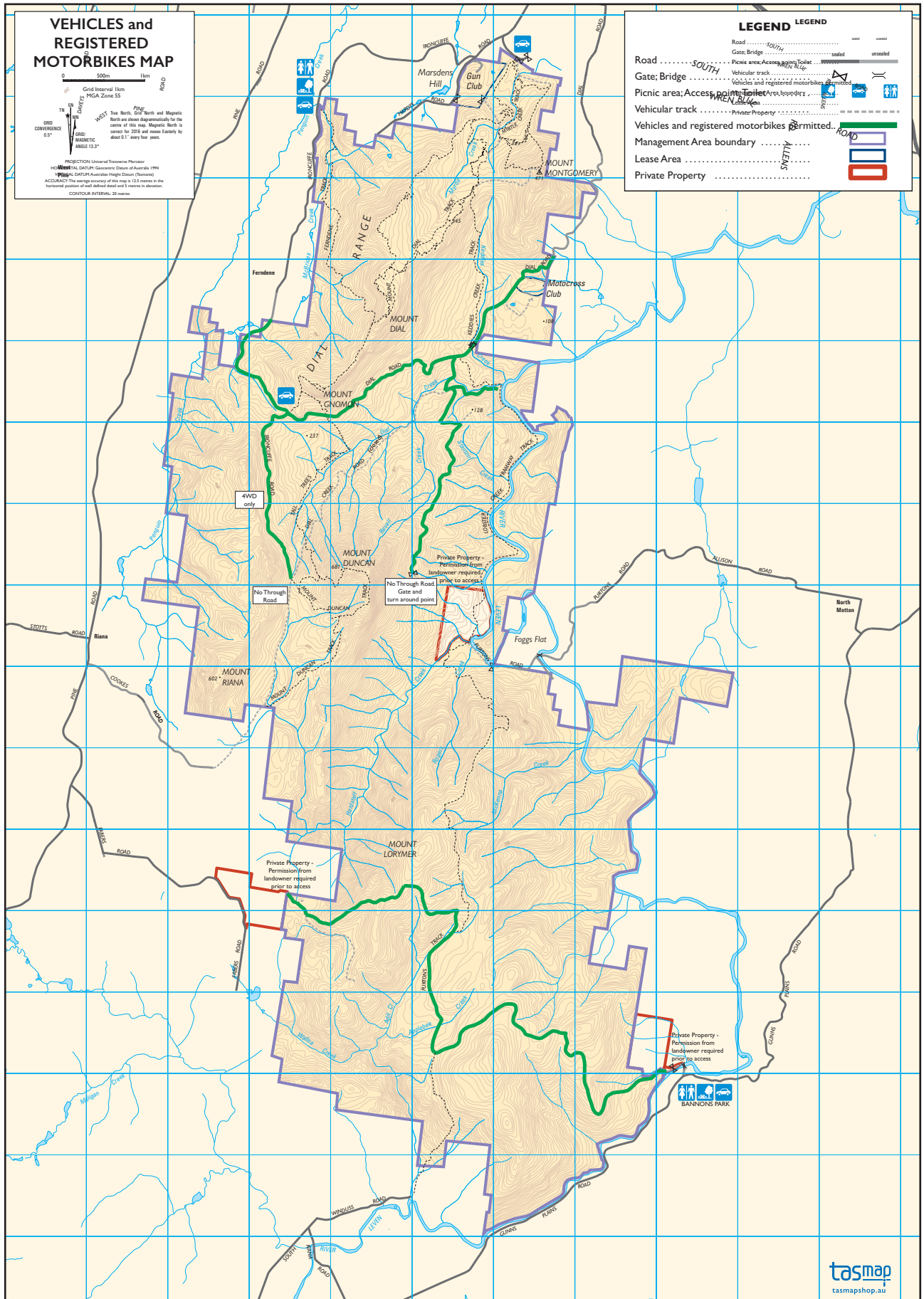
In the former 2000 Recreation Management Plan, a designated trail bike area was available for motorbike use; however, the use and sustainable management of this area has degraded over the past 20 years, therefore this area is no longer designated a trail bike area or managed for motorbike use.

The Coastal Motocross Club leases an area of land within the Dial Range for a motocross track and associated facilities. This area, adjoining Dial Road, is used regularly for races and occasionally runs longer events on adjoining trails and private property.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
1	Manage additional risks associated with multiple use of tracks, applying the PWS Visitor Risk Management Policy framework.	Ongoing
2	Monitor vehicle tracks. If tracks are significantly damaged, implement track closures and rehabilitation works.	High
3	Consider and assess new track development in accordance with PWS RAA policies and frameworks. When considering track development proposals, the PWS will review the maintenance and utilisation of existing tracks and consider the sustainability of the whole track network.	Ongoing

FIGURE 6: PERMITTED VEHICLES MAP



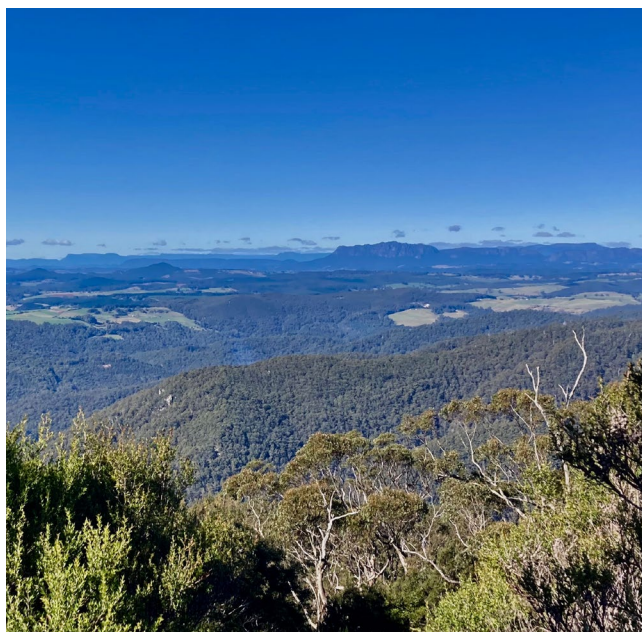
Visitor facilities

There are three main locations where limited visitor facilities are provided:

- > Mount Montgomery car park (off reserve on CCC managed land);
- > Ferndene car park and BBQ shelter; and
- > Mount Gnomon car park.

Table 4 details the facilities provided at the main public access points, and locations within the Dial Range that include visitor facilities.

Future development plans and opportunities are described below for each site.



MT DUNCAN SUMMIT VIEW – Peter Stubbs

TABLE 4: VISITOR FACILITIES

Location	Management agency	Facilities		
Mount Montgomery car park and trailhead	CCC	Informal car park Visitor information sign Trailhead – MTB trail links between Dial Range and Penguin Mountain Bike Park.		
	PWS	Entry and wayfinding signs Trailhead – walking, MTB		
Mount Montgomery summit	PWS	Timber seat at the summit		
Ferndene car park	PWS	Car park Toilet (flushing) BBQ facilities / shelter Trailhead - walking		
		Mount Gnomon car park	PWS	Informal car park Trailhead sign Trailhead – walking, MTB, horse riding
		Dial Road / Keddies Creek	PWS	Limited informal car parking
Bannons Park	CCC	Informal car park Information sign Toilet (flushing) Fishing, camping		

Mount Montgomery car park and trailhead

An informal car park and trailhead exists along Montgomery Road, Penguin, on CCC managed land. This site experiences the most use, with both popular walking and mountain bike tracks commencing here. Mountain bike tracks from the Penguin Mountain Bike Park also emerge here, and riders often continue their journey through to the mountain bike tracks within the Dial Range.

This site has the highest potential and need for future development. The car park is often over capacity as a trailhead location for both walkers and mountain bikes. The area would benefit from a site plan to identify visitor facilities required at the trailhead and how best to locate these on the site. A site plan could include bike washdown or cleaning facilities, toilets, shelters or bbqs, extended carparking, and visitor information and wayfinding signs for the Dial Range and Penguin Mountain Bike Park.

The installation of a visitor information sign with a map and general information about the Dial Range is proposed for the trailhead in the Signage Plan.

Ferndene facilities

Facilities at Ferndene State Reserve were installed in the ~1990s. The site currently experiences low visitation; therefore, the facilities are considered adequate.

Toilet facilities located here are the closest for visitors accessing the Dial Range from Ironcliffe Road (heading to Mount Gnomon car park or Mount Duncan). Better promotion of these toilets and visitor facilities are included on the Recreation Map.

Improvements to information and interpretation are desired, including more information about the Dial Range mining history, specifically Thorsby's Tunnel (accessed via a walking track commencing at Ferndene car park).

There is limited capacity to expand the facilities at this site given the geographical constraints of private property, McBrides Creek and Ironcliffe Road.

Mount Gnomon car park and trailhead

There is an informal car park at the start of the Mount Gnomon walking track at the intersection of Dial and Ironcliffe Roads that can cater for up to approximately 20 cars.

This site will benefit from a visitor information sign with map and information about the recreational opportunities available from this location. Additional road signage is required here detailing the condition of Ironcliffe Road and Dial Road for vehicles and note the 'no through road' if continuing south along Ironcliffe Road.

Future opportunities for this site including being developed as a trailhead for walking, mountain bikes and horse riding. The use of the site is likely to increase if Iron Cliffe Road access is improved, and if the CCMBC strategic mountain bike trails are completed through to this site. The development would require a site plan to identify the visitor facilities needed and how best to locate these. The recreation maps can be updated by Tasmapp to include new developments.

Mount Duncan

A 4WD vehicle is required from Mount Gnomon car park to Mount Duncan. Ironcliffe Road essentially ends here due to the degraded condition of the road south of Mount Duncan.

A 'No though road' sign is required at the end of the 4WD access, plus improved wayfinding signage and information regarding walks and trails commencing from this location.

Lookout infrastructure

A seat is provided at Mount Montgomery summit and informal natural rock seating at Mount Dial and Mount Gnomon lookouts.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
4	Develop Site Plan for Mount Gnomon car park	High
5	Develop Site Plan for Mount Montgomery car park (CCC)	High

Management operations

Desired outcomes - values

- > Conservation of significant natural and cultural values has primacy over all other matters.
- > Recommendations and management actions are made within the context of capacity and resources of the PWS and other agencies delivering them.

Natural and cultural values management

Main issues

Weeds and pathogens

A significant threat to biodiversity values comes from weed invasion. Several weed species have the potential to invade dry forests on the northern slopes of the Dial Range, changing the ecology. Spanish heath, Gorse, Fox glove, and Broom are found locally and can invade forested areas as well as disturbed ground such as roadsides and tracks.

Currently there are low numbers of weeds present in the Dial Range. It is essential that an effective management strategy is put in place to both monitor and control potential and existing infestations. Follow up with appropriately timed monitoring to ensure there is no deterioration in weed status.

Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*) is a concern as it is a prolific producer of fine seed, and has the ability to rapidly colonise dry forests. The threatened plants and vegetation communities on the northern and western slopes of Mount Montgomery and Mount Dial are at risk should Spanish heath establish in these areas. These areas will need to be closely monitored for any outbreaks of Spanish heath.

Gorse is present on the old CCC tip site, old quarry, and private property adjoining the northern perimeter of the Dial Range. A program of working with property owners to control the Gorse on their properties would be encouraged if necessary.

Occasional Pampas plants have been found in the Dial Range, including Sullocks Hill. The transmission line along the northern edge of the Dial Range is a known site for Pampas. Due to its invasive nature, Pampas is a high priority for control if found in or near the reserves. Ongoing monitoring is required.

Localised infestation of Foxglove, St Johns Wort and Sycamore are located adjacent to the Leven River. Foxglove and St Johns populations have recently exploded along the Leven River following the 2011 and 2016 flood events. Sycamore is established along the lower Leven River and in several adjoining tributaries near Paton Park and Lobster Creek.

Thistles (Scotch, Slender and Californian) are present in surrounding areas of the Dial Range. These should be monitored in the reserves and appropriate control measures taken if outbreaks occur.

Crack willow has the potential to colonise the Leven River along the edge of the reserves. Willows have a major impact on native waterways if they become established. Numbers of willows along the Dial Range edge are relatively low and should be monitored and controlled to prevent establishment.

Scattered Blackberry plants can be found within the wetter parts of the Dial Range. Considering the species has been in the area for some 150 years, it can be surmised that it is unlikely to represent a serious threat.

Root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) has not previously been recorded within the Dial Range reserves. Vegetation communities with flora that would be most vulnerable to the pathogen include *Leptospermum scoparium* scrub. It is likely that some of the flora occurring in the dry woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus amygdalina* on sandstone (a threatened forest community) would also be vulnerable to this pathogen if it were introduced to these communities. This is a high risk for the Dial Range, with increased recreational use from other areas with known pathogen outbreaks.

Recreational activities including walking/running, mountain bike riding, horse-riding, 4WD and motorbike riding have the potential to spread weeds and disease. Facilities for cleaning shoes and bikes are an important control and need to be included in site planning for the main entry points for these forms of recreation. These facilities, if installed, will need to be properly maintained.

Horses also spread weeds, and a strategy will need to be put in place for the control of weeds germinating and spreading from their droppings.

Sleeper weeds (weeds that increase in threat through changing environmental or climate change factors), or weeds that have remained naturally contained, should be monitored, particularly if changing management of any area in the reserve occurs.

The powerline easement running through the northern section of the reserves should be monitored for potential weed incursions.

Erosion and sediment management

Erosion is a natural process in undisturbed areas, and minimal management is required. Erosion becomes an issue when inappropriate recreational or management activities cause areas to become eroded.

Unauthorised access on trails or tracks by 4WDs, motorbikes, or mountain bikes can precipitate or exacerbate erosion and lead to degraded areas. Similarly, activities occurring on tracks during wet weather events can increase erosion hazards.

The variety of soils in the Dial Range also differ in their erodibility. The lower slopes of the Dial Range, near the Leven River, are largely red to brown clay loam that is rated as low erodibility.

The key to managing erosion in the Dial Range is to monitor trails and tracks regularly to identify drainage/erosion issues early. Track counter data is collated each month on popular tracks, thereby enabling the PWS to identify rises in visitation that might increase the risk of erosion.

The likelihood of any development proposal for the Dial Range resulting in erosion will be assessed through the RAA process.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
6	Develop a Weed Management Plan for the Dial Range, in collaboration with land managers and community groups	High
7	Consider weed management stations for track users, and washdown for bikes, in site planning at Mount Montgomery and other main entry points	High
8	Monitor tracks and trails for erosion, and implement mitigation action	Medium

Roads

The internal roads within the Dial Range were transferred to the PWS in 2013 when management of FPPF land parcels were transferred to the Crown. These roads were constructed for the purpose of forestry operations. The roads were not critical assets, and therefore not well maintained. Since then, the condition of internal roads has continued to slowly deteriorate.

The PWS reviews roads on a periodic basis as part of asset assessment and reclassification processes. Classification is based on current use, purpose, and function, and directly determines the level of funding available for road maintenance. Road management and maintenance priorities are: Ironcliffe Road to Mount Gnomon car park; Dial Road to Keddies Creek; and Dial Creek Road from Dial Road.

Significant drainage and surfacing works are required to prevent erosion of gravel road surfaces and funding is limited. The condition of all the roads in Dial Range would benefit from maintenance works and access for visitors could be improved with road upgrades.

Ironcliffe Road

Ironcliffe Road provides the main access to the western side of the Dial Range, including the three main trailheads: Mount Montgomery, Ferndene, and Mount Gnomon. Ironcliffe Road is maintained by CCC to a consistent standard, except for the last section providing access to Mount Gnomon car park that is responsibility of PWS to maintain. This section is a former forestry road that was not constructed to civil engineering standards.

Many in the local community would like Ironcliffe Road to be reinstated through to Cookes Road near Riana as it was during former forestry operations. At present a 4WD is required to access Mt Duncan from Mount Gnomon and beyond there the road becomes impassable due to major erosion and rutting. The former road also traversed PTPZ land and private property before connecting with Cookes Road. This corridor would need to be acquired before a public road could be constructed.

The priority for PWS and CCC is to improve the standard Ironcliffe Road and visitor access to Mount Gnomon car park. There is also potential for PWS to hand over the gravel portion of Iron Cliff Road to CCC.

Dial Road

Dial Road provides access to the eastern side of the Range, including the motocross track. Dial Road links up with Ironcliffe Road; however, the section between Keddies Creek and Mount Gnomon car park is unsuitable for 2WD vehicles due to rutting and slippery surface.

Vehicle tracks

There is a network of vehicle tracks south of Dial Road, in varying conditions. None of these tracks are maintained, and are not required for management purposes. Whilst these tracks are accessible, they are not suitable for all types of vehicles. As resources permit, these tracks will be closed and rehabilitated.

The vehicle track south of Mount Lorymer passes through the southern part of the Range, connecting Bannons Bridge through to Fabers Road. The gates on both ends of this road are locked, and access is restricted to walkers, horse riders, and mountain bike riders. Note, access to this vehicle track is over private property and gaining permission from the landowner is the users' responsibility.

Purtons Road accesses the eastern side of the Reserve from the North Motton area. Once across Purtons Bridge, this road is on private property, and the access gate is locked. This road is only available for management activities by agreement with the landowners.

Roads for fire management

Roads identified as critical for fire management include: Purtons Road, Ironcliffe Road to Mount Duncan, Dial Road, the vehicle track to Mount Montgomery, and the vehicle track south of Mount Lorymer.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
9	Assess road classifications and conditions, and update AMS where required	Medium

Private property

Private properties are located at three points where vehicle or walking tracks intersect with the reserve boundaries and main access points or roads.

Landowners experience issues with access over their private property from users either wanting access into the reserves, or coming out of the reserves and connecting back onto main roads.

The main problems with users traversing over private property are: trespass; vandalism of property, including shacks, gates and fences; theft; vehicles (mostly trail bikes) destroying walking tracks; and litter and rubbish dumping.

Providing accurate communication and education about the presence of private property at these access points is a key solution to managing some of these problems. The recreation maps clearly identify the location of these private properties and detail the need for users to obtain permission before accessing or exiting the private property. The Signage Plan identifies the intent to update signage inside the Dial Range, noting 'no through' roads.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
10	The PWS continues to liaise with private property owners regarding access	Ongoing

Leases and licences

The Coastal Motocross Club leases an area of land within the Dial Range for a motocross track and associated facilities. This area, adjoining Dial Road, is used regularly for races and occasional longer events on adjoining trails and private property.

The Penguin Clay Target Club has a licence on an area of Crown land on the north western corner of the Range. The club conducts regular meetings and events onsite. Access is provided off the main road directly into the lease area, and generally the club does not use reserved land.

Local amateur radio clubs (S.K.Fuller) have a licence for a transmitter on Mount Montgomery, and a lease for a transmitter on Mount Duncan (Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club).

The Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club leases part of the FPPFL and the Dial Range Regional Reserve near Mount Duncan.

Events

Where supported, authorities for events are issued in accordance with the NPRM Regs and the PWS Group Activities and Events Policy and Procedures (PWS P-062). Contact Property Services or refer to the PWS website for further information about events.

Tasmania Gravity Enduro Series

This is a two-day downhill mountain bike event conducted on the Mount Montgomery and Mount Dial mountain bike tracks.

Management Strategies

The PWS assesses lease/licence applications over the Dial Range using the Dial Range Recreation Management Plan as a guiding document	Ongoing
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Compliance and illegal use

Like most reserves located in a peri-urban setting, the Dial Range experiences some anti-social behaviour. While most visitors are respectful, the PWS manages issues including vehicles (mostly trail bikes) on walking tracks, vehicle track damage, illegal wood collection, unauthorised construction of tracks (including track braiding), and rubbish dumping, as circumstances demand.

Anti-social behaviour

Inappropriate use of roads, tracks, and trails by vehicles is damaging to assets and vegetation and can cause erosion and significant rutting, resulting in their closure.

The noise and speed of motorbikes also adversely impacts the experience of other reserve users, and unauthorised vehicle use conflicts with legitimate recreational activities and poses an increased safety risk, particularly when vehicles use walking tracks.

Trail bikes

There has been some growth of unauthorised trail bike tracks between Dial Road and the Leven River, and trail bikes using the PCT in this area. Inappropriate usage undermines track maintenance work undertaken by community groups, and creates a risk to other users. Signage, barriers, and ongoing enforcement of trail bike usage is required to manage the issue.

Unauthorised construction of tracks

Poorly constructed tracks can erode, reduce environmental quality, or become dangerous. Unauthorised tracks are generally not built to an adequate standard and do not take into consideration the requirements of other recreational activities. Unauthorised tracks can fragment forest patches; damage natural values, particularly threatened vegetation, threatened species or their habitat; cause soil erosion; or become a pathway for new weed incursions. Any track that is constructed without prior environmental assessment and written authority from the land manager is deemed illegal.

Illegal wood collection

As in other reserves in Tasmania, firewood theft is an increasing activity that has social and environmental issues. The Dial Range, like other reserve areas close to population centres, is vulnerable to such activity.

It is an offence to remove wood from public land without an authority from the land manager. The PWS does not issue authorities for wood collection from reserved land in the Dial Range.

Illegal rubbish dumping

Reserves close to urban centres are particularly vulnerable to illegal rubbish dumping, with most rubbish dumped along the road network. Surveillance cameras, along with the local community, are a useful tool for monitoring known dumping sites or areas.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
12	Reinstate barriers on tramway track to prevent vehicle access	High
13	Monitor illegal and unauthorised activities, and undertake compliance where required	Medium

Information, interpretation and signage

The Dial Range provides an excellent opportunity for visitors to appreciate the natural and cultural values it presents. Through the variety of recreation activities available in the reserve, visitors gain an understanding and appreciation of the values of the Dial Range.

There is a need to provide clear information via signage and web pages on the recreational opportunities available in the Dial Range to enable visitors to enjoy their experiences in a safe manner. Interpretive signage is to be strategically located at key entry points and core visitor areas in the reserves. Information provided at any given point will depend on the type of recreation experience at that location (see Signage Plan).

Vandalism of signs in the Range has been a problem. Regular inspection of signage will be part of the ongoing management.

Signage Plan

Clear and consistent signage is vital for public safety and identifying permitted uses within the Dial Range. The Dial Range Sign Plan shows the location of specific signage throughout the Range. The Signage Plan covers interpretive, regulatory, directional, and safety aspects.

Interpretative signs will be located close to the reserve boundary, informing the visitor of what the Dial Range has to offer. Directional signage along tracks will be unobtrusive and kept to the minimum required for public safety.

Other signage will advise visitors of the permitted uses in the reserves, and warn of any hazards that exist.

Maps

An updated Recreation Map is provided in Appendix 2. This map is available for download from the PWS website. The map is georeferenced and will be available for purchase through TasMaps.

Track alignments are available as GPS files from various apps and internet platforms, for example 'Trailforks' and 'Strava'.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
14	The PWS, in consultation with the CCC and CCMBC, to develop signage plan for the Dial Range	High
15	Implement signage plan	Medium
16	PWS website information promotes the recreational opportunities available in the Dial Range	Medium
17	The CCC to move 'no through road' sign on Ironcliffe Road up to gravel section	Medium



Coordinated management and partnerships

Establishing strong partnerships between land managers, the community, and recreational users is a strategic vision of the recreation plan. This will enable effective management practices to be instigated and maintained - supported by sufficient resources.

Central Coast Council

The CCC owns land adjoining the Dial Range which includes the Mount Montgomery car park and the Mountain Bike Park. While no formal agreements exist between the CCC and the PWS, a solid working relationship exists and will be maintained. The CCC, together with the PWS, co-funded the review and update of the Dial Range Recreation Management Plan. MOUs, or Partnership Agreements, will be considered where there is mutual agreement there is a benefit in their development.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania

SST is responsible for PTPZ land at Lobster Creek and Mt Duncan areas in the Dial Range. FPPF land could be converted back to PTPZ land. PTPZ land is managed for the purpose of production forestry. Current access arrangements may change with future forestry operations. PWS and STT currently share management of Mt Duncan walking track, Iron Cliff Road and the motor cross lease boundary. MOUs, or partnership agreements, will be considered where there is mutual agreement there is a benefit in their development.

Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club

The PWS has a partnership agreement with the CCMBC over the maintenance of mountain bike trails in the Dial Range. The CCMBC has established a network of mountain bike tracks in the Dial Range ranging from beginner to intermediate tracks.

In addition, the CCMBC leases the Mountain Bike Park land from the CCC, adjacent to the Mount Montgomery State Reserve.

Friends of Penguin Cradle Trail

A memorandum of understanding exists between the PWS and the FPCT which formalises the arrangement for the FPCT to maintain sections of the PCT on PWSmanaged reserves. In the Dial Range this includes the Mount Montgomery State Reserve, the Mount Dial Nature Recreation Area, and the Dial Range Regional Reserve.

Volunteers

The project reference group expressed a desire for greater volunteering opportunities, such as minor track work and vegetation management along tracks in the Dial Range.

Through formal partnerships such as Wildcare, volunteer groups may get access to training, certification, or funding through volunteering. Members may be covered for worker's compensation and public liability in case of accidents or emergencies; however, all volunteers still need to register as a Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET) volunteer. Insurance cover is provided to approved and authorised NRET volunteers through the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund (TRMF).

There is a need to formalise and maintain partnerships with community organisations and user groups, and provide for agreed and authorised program works plans that comply with NRET PWS policies and procedures. Once works have been approved, groups would then be free to apply for funding on PWS-managed land, with the full support of the PWS. Community groups must consult and collaborate with the PWS prior to seeking external funding for program works on land managed by the Department. Through the assessment process, approvals can then be provided, or further information supplied as to why the works cannot proceed.

Government funded training schemes

Opportunities may exist to use government funded training schemes to implement work programs for minor track and trail works within the Dial Range. The PWS would consider these opportunities if associated funding and management resources are provided.

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
18	Foster partnership arrangement between the PWS and the CCC for future funding and works	Ongoing
19	Maintain and review partnership agreements	Ongoing
20	Work with NRET volunteers for opportunities in the Dial Range	Ongoing

Community participation

The local community has had an involvement in the management of the Dial Range going back at least 100 years. The Penguin Tourist Association has had a long association with the Dial Range, from the initial proposal for a Scenery Reserve along Myrtle Creek, to the management of Ferndene State Reserve up to the 1970s.

From the 1970s onwards, the North West Walking Club has been instrumental in maintaining the walking tracks on the Range, particularly the PCT. The PWS will continue to rely on the goodwill of local community groups for track maintenance and other works within the Dial Range.

The development of additional tracks within the Dial Range is likely to be dependent on local groups sourcing the funding and committing to ongoing maintenance.

The Penguin Historic Society is a source of information on the history of the Dial Range.

Project reference group

A Dial Range project reference group was established in 2019-2020 to seek stakeholder and community input into managing the reserved land for sustainable use, compatible with the natural, cultural, and social values of the Dial Range. The goals of the project reference group were:

- > to explore and understand the current and desired recreational uses and values management; and
- > to consider stakeholder views and interests to inform the Dial Range Recreation Management Plan.

The project reference group consisted of representatives from the PWS, STT, the CCC and one representative from the main recreational clubs and regular users of the Dial Range reserves. The Project Group participated in facilitated sessions with the consultants Inspiring Place.

A Summary and Review of Stakeholder and Community Engagement Report was prepared by Inspiring Place to capture and collate the community consultation undertaken. The Report was a key consideration when preparing this Plan.

Ongoing involvement in the management of the Dial Range reserves is desirable for both land managers and project reference group representatives. The PWS will manage the ongoing involvement of the community through regular communication and meetings.

Active groups

Table 5 details the active groups and clubs involved in the use and management of recreation facilities or experiences in the Dial Range.

TABLE 5: ACTIVE GROUPS AND CLUBS

Group/Club Name	Recreation/Interest
Braddon 4WD Club	4WDing
North West Walking Club	Walking
Cradle Coast MTB Club	Mountain biking
Penguin clay target club	Clay target shooting
Central North Field Nats (Disjunct Naturalists)	Field naturalist studies, botany, ecology
Friends of Penguin Cradle Trail	Walking
Coastal Motocross Club (Blackwood Park Motocross club)	Motocross bikes
the Professional Cross Country Club of Tasmania	Running
Canoe Tasmania	Canoeing / Kayaking
Tasmanian Enduro Riders Club	
Friends of the Leven	Field naturalist studies, botany, ecology
Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club Inc	

Management Strategies

#	Name	Priority
21	Maintain ongoing communication, and a minimum of one annual face-to-face meeting, of the project reference group representatives	High
22	Work collaboratively with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in the protection, conservation, presentation, and monitoring of Aboriginal cultural values	Ongoing



THE DIAL RANGE FOREST AREA IS DOMINATED BY WHITE GUM (*Eucalyptus viminalis*)

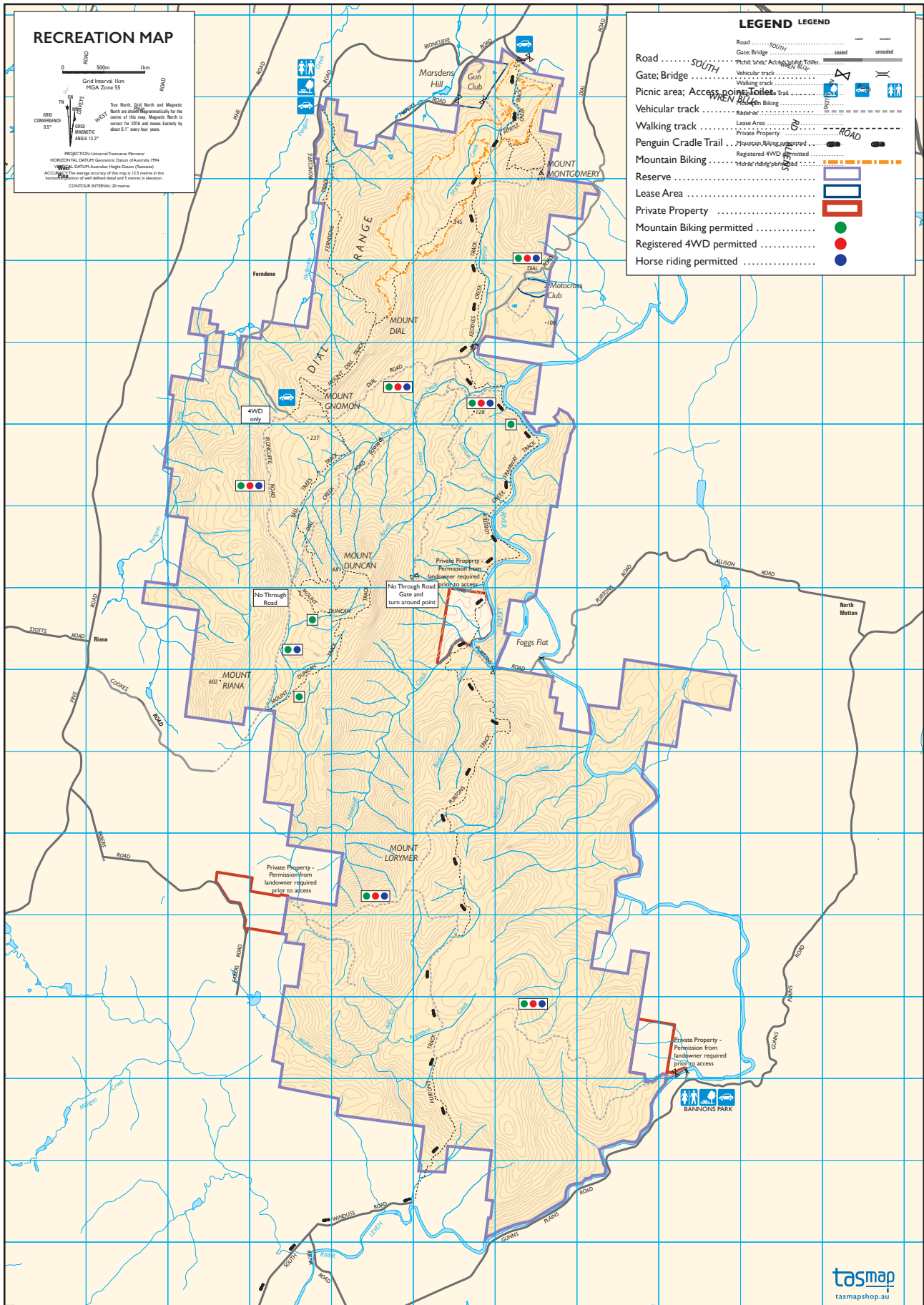
Appendices

Appendix 1: Table of Management Strategies

#	Strategy	Priority
1	Manage additional risks associated with the multiple use of tracks, applying the PWS Visitor Risk Management Policy framework.	Ongoing
2	Monitor vehicles tracks. If tracks are significantly damaged, implement track closures and rehabilitation works.	High
3	Consider and assess new track development in accordance with PWS RAA policies and frameworks. When considering track development proposals, the PWS will review the maintenance and utilisation of existing tracks and consider the sustainability of the whole track network.	Ongoing
4	Develop Site Plan for the Mount Gnomon car park.	High
5	Develop Site Plan for the Mount Montgomery car park (CCC).	High
6	Develop a Weed Management Plan for the Dial Range, in collaboration with land managers and community groups.	High
7	Consider weed management stations for track users, and washdown for bikes, in site planning at Mount Montgomery and other main entry points.	High
8	Monitor tracks and trails for erosion, and implement mitigation action.	Medium
9	Assess road classifications and conditions, and update AMS where required.	Medium
10	The PWS continues to liaise with private property owners regarding access.	Ongoing
11	The PWS assesses lease/licence applications over the Dial Range using the Dial Range Recreation Management Plan as a guiding document.	Ongoing
12	Reinstate barriers on tramway track to prevent vehicle access.	High
13	Monitor illegal and unauthorised activities, and undertake compliance where required.	Medium
14	The PWS, in consultation with the CCC, to develop signage plan for the Dial Range.	High
15	Implement signage plan.	Medium
16	PWS website information promotes the recreational opportunities available in the Dial Range.	Medium
17	The CCC to move 'no through road' sign on Ironcliffe Road up to gravel section.	Medium
18	Foster partnership arrangement between the PWS and the CCC for future funding and works.	Ongoing
19	Maintain and review partnership agreements.	Ongoing
20	Work with NRET volunteers for opportunities in the Dial Range.	Ongoing
21	Maintain ongoing communication, and a minimum of one annual face-to-face meeting, of the project reference group representatives.	Ongoing
22	Work collaboratively with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in the protection, conservation, presentation, and monitoring of Aboriginal cultural values.	Ongoing

*Timeframes for priorities include: High: 1-2 years, Medium: 2-4 years, Low: 4+ years

Appendix 2: Recreation Map



Appendix 3: Dial Range Signage Plan

Introduction

Signs and maps are important for the management of track-based activities in the Dial Range. Signs in particular are a useful tool for educating visitors on access, the use of tracks and provide information on permitted use.

Signs can also provide visitors with an understanding of reserve values and communicate codes of use, which ideally encourage desirable behaviours.

As per the Dial Range Recreation Management Plan it is recognised that signs are necessary infrastructure in the Dial Range to:

- > Provide direction
- > Encourage compliance
- > Warn of hazards

Due to the multiple activities permitted in the Dial Range, signs are vital for safety on multi-use tracks.

Current Signage in the Dial Range

There are currently:

- > **Entry Signs -**
 - Entry signs are located at Mount Montgomery carpark, Gnomon carpark, Ferndene carpark, Sith Cala
- > **Boundary signs -**
 - There is a boundary sign on Ironcliffe Road as you enter Mount Dial Nature Recreation Area
- > **Wayfinding signs -**
 - Are located on walking tracks, mountain bike trails and at all track heads
- > **Safety Signs -**
 - Hazard signs located at Mount Gnomon and Mount Duncan lookouts
 - Public warning notices are at the entrance to walking tracks

Key Messages

Consultation with stakeholders suggested that the current signage in the Dial Range needs to be upgraded with additional directional signage installed. Other comments included:

- > Information signs that include a map would be beneficial at carparks and major trail heads - such as Mount Montgomery car park; Ferndene State Reserve and Mount Gnomon.
- > Private landowners would like directional signs installed to help users pass their property or be warned in advance where there is no access.
- > That all new tracks need to be well signed so that users know who can and cannot use them.

Moving Forward

Signage in the Dial Range will continue to strive to be minimalistic while providing critical information for safe navigation and use.

Current signage will be reviewed and updated where necessary in accordance with the *Tasmania parks and Wildlife Service Sign Manual March 2021* (sign manual).

The PWS propose the following signage for the Dial Range which will be designed and installed as per the sign manual.

1. Visitor information sign

Visitor information signs contain important messages to encourage visitor safety, ensure visitors can find their way and explain what visitors can and cannot do while visiting the reserve.

No visitor information signs exist in the Dial Range currently.

A Welcome Sign will be installed at Mount Montgomery and Ferndene carparks containing a map and general information on the Dial Range.

In addition, a Welcome Sign containing information on the history of the Mount Gnomon area and a map will be installed at the Mount Gnomon access point.

Due to the size of the Dial Range it will be difficult

to show all the reserve, activities permitted on each track and key points of interest on a single map. Therefore, it is proposed that a small Dial Range map with minimal detail is included on the Visitor Information sign along with a detailed map of the section of the Dial Range the sign is located in.

2. Plank Signs

The blue plank Entry and Boundary signs are used in the Dial Range to denote entry points to the reserve, welcome visitors and help them find their way. These signs will include information on the tenure of the reserve and advise visitors via pictograms what activities they can and cannot undertake while in that reserve.

Boundary signs are typically used to highlight an informal entrance to reserved land. Consideration will be given to installing boundary signs on the reserved land boundary at:

- > Bannons Bridge (Dial Range Regional Reserve/Private block PID 676962),
- > Fabers Road (Dial Range Regional Reserve/Future Potential Production Forest),
- > Dial Range Regional Reserve/private block (PID 6762823).

Wayfinding signs (directional signs) are currently used throughout the Dial Range in the totem form. Additional signs will be installed where directions are necessary.

3. Safety Signs

Hazard signs highlight the natural hazards that may pose a risk to a visitor's safety. They are particularly important on cliff face edges to warn visitors of a risk.

The Recreational Standards Framework (RSF) will determine the type of hazard sign is required at each site. This will assessment process will be undertaken by PWS.

The PWS propose to install a hazard sign at Mount Duncan in the Dial Range Regional Reserve to warn visitors of the steep cliff face. What this sign looks like will be determined by the RSF.

Additional hazard signs will be installed by the PWS where the risk exceeds the relevant RSF class for the land and where isolated danger exists.

4. Warning signs

Public warning signs and notices are mostly used for short-term communication. These will continue to be installed in the Dial Range where and when required.

The PWS will continue to work with stakeholders including the Friends of Penguin Cradle Trail and Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club regarding public warning notices for short term communications.

5. Other signs

The PWS will work with private landowners on signage that identifies private property adjacent to reserves in the Dial Range in an attempt to warn visitors of no access areas.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT:
VISITOR INFORMATION
SIGNAGE - WAYFINDING,
SAFETY AND ENTRY SIGNS





MOUNT DIAL, DIAL RANGE – Jess Bonde, Tourism tasmania

Appendix 4: Code of Conduct: Recreational use

All users

Respect

- > Share the track – give way to other users by moving aside to let them pass.
- > Warn others when approaching from behind and passing.
- > Keep left, in single file.
- > Respect the landscape – stay on the track to avoid widening or damaging the surrounding area.
- > Use open, authorised tracks only.
- > Use tracks permitted for that activity.

Leave no trace

- > Leave all flora and fauna undisturbed.
- > Take your rubbish home.
- > Wash your bike or shoes to prevent the spread of weeds and plant diseases.

Safety

- > Wear appropriate clothing and safety gear.
- > Observe all signs and rules.
- > Plan ahead – be prepared, know your capabilities.
- > Be informed – get the relevant information and check the weather.

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