

# **Appendix F** – Community Consultation Summary Report (DTIS, 2021)

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# Wangetti Trail – community consultation summary

Community consultation summary

# Contents

Background .....	2
Community consultation .....	2
How the community consultation was promoted.....	2
Audience .....	3
Sentiment.....	3
Key response themes .....	3
Social PinPoint activity summary .....	3
Direct emails and hardcopies activity summary.....	4
Appendix A .....	5
Appendix B .....	7
Appendix C .....	12
Appendix D.....	14
Appendix E - REDACTED .....	17
Appendix F.....	18
Appendix G .....	20
Appendix H.....	23

## Background

The Wangetti Trail will be one of Australia's leading adventure-based ecotourism experiences, attracting visitors on an international scale.

The Queensland Government is delivering the \$41.4 million Wangetti Trail in Tropical North Queensland. \$33.4 million of State funds has been allocated to the construction of the trail complemented by the Australian Government's investment of \$8 million into the project from the National Tourism Icons Program.

The trail will enhance conservation and protection while delivering environmental, social and economic benefits to local communities and Queensland.

Approximately 94-kilometres in length, local and international visitors will enjoy the dual-use walking and mountain biking track through Tropical North Queensland's coast and hinterland from Palm Cove to Port Douglas. The trail will provide a one-of-a-kind experience of the region's Aboriginal cultural history and stunning coastal and hinterland scenery of the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef.

## Community consultation

Between Monday 3 August 2020 and Friday 11 September 2020, the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (formerly the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation) undertook a second round of community consultation on the Wangetti Trail.

During this time members of the public were invited to view and comment on the amended alignment for the Wangetti Trail along with additional information on the proposed trail construction methodology, proposed campsite construction methodology, proposed waterway crossings and approvals process.

A set of Frequently Asked Questions was also developed to assist with the consultation.

The community consultation undertaken in August and September 2020 was in addition to the first round of consultation undertaken between 8 April 2019 and 31 May 2019.

This document outlines responses and engagement primarily generated through the online engagement tool, Social PinPoint (see Appendix A), email and via Facebook.

## How the community consultation was promoted

- Print advertisements in Cairns Post
- Promotion on the Queensland Ecotourism Trails Facebook page
- Article in the Cairns Post upon commencement of the consultation (see Appendix F)
- Ministerial Media Statement (see Appendix G)
- Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport website (formerly the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation)
- On the [Queensland Government's Get Involved website](#)
- An email to the project's key stakeholders (see Appendix H)
- Douglas Shire Council promoted the consultation on both their website and social media pages
- Key stakeholders – Cairns Regional Council, Douglas Shire Council and the Traditional Owners, Wet Tropics Management Authority – were all advised of the upcoming community consultation prior to its commencement

## Results

Between Monday 3 August 2020 and Friday 11 September 2020 there were:

- 5117 total visits to online site (Social PinPoint)
- 2004 unique users (Social PinPoint)
- 118 unique stakeholders (Social PinPoint)
- 185 comments (Social PinPoint)
- Six hardcopies received via email and Australia Post
- 182 of 190 respondents were from Queensland

The responses have been redacted to preserve anonymity of the submitter.

## Audience

The community consultation was open to all stakeholders and community members with an interest in the trail. This ranged from local residents, the mountain bike (MTB) and walking community and others with an interest in ecotourism opportunities in Queensland.

## Sentiment

Of the Social PinPoint responses:

- 157 were neutral
- 18 were positive
- 9 were negative

## Key response themes

- Majority of comments were from the mountain bike community who didn't want to be diverted along Quaid Road. Responses to these concerns advised these were options for consideration only and were subject to approvals and market processes for the eco-accommodation and operations.
- Requests to change alignment of the trail away from the Wangetti township (from Wangetti residents). The Project Team has since engaged exclusively with the residents' nominated representative to understand concerns further.
- No comments on the proposed size/scale/location of eco accommodation and public camping areas
- Concerns for the protection of the World Heritage Area
- Both positive and negative comments about integrating both mountain bike and walkers on the same track

## Social PinPoint activity summary

Details users	Stats
Total visits	5,117
Average time on site	2 min 30 sec
Unique Users	2004

Unique stakeholders	118
Comments	184

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## Direct emails and hardcopies activity summary

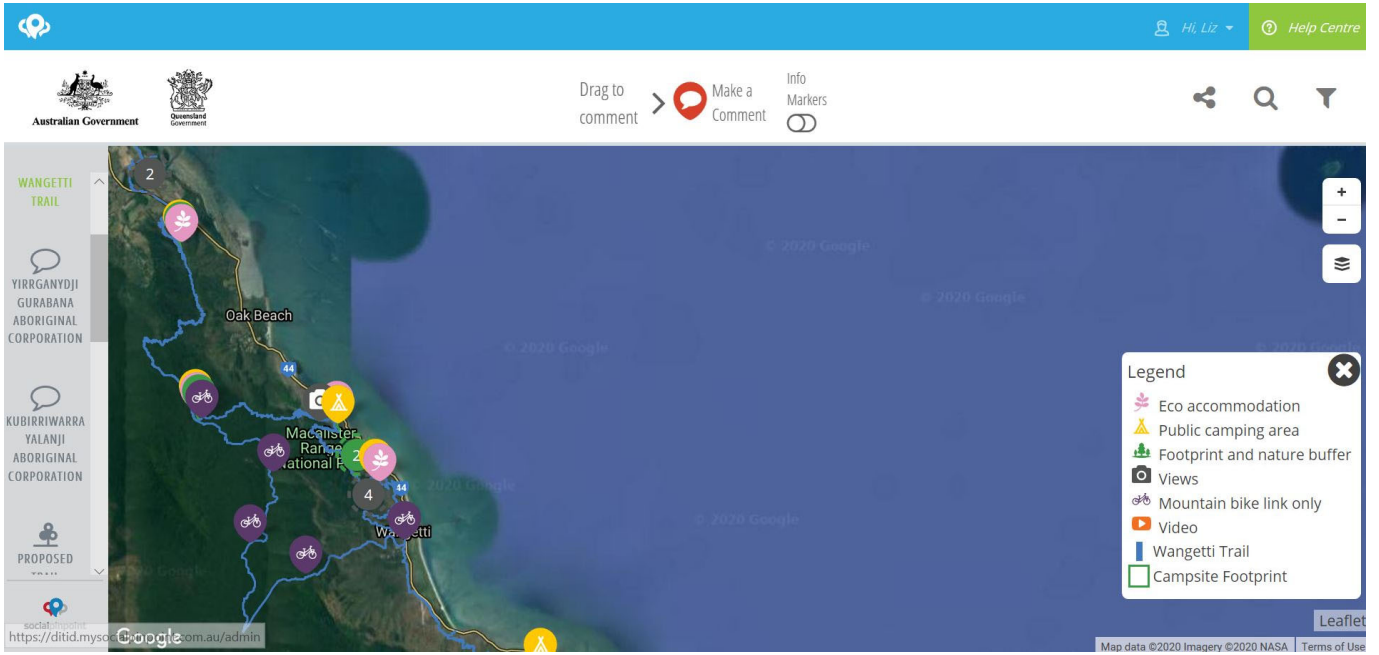
Hardcopies (see Appendix B) of the consultation were also available at:

- (former) Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation in Cairns
- Douglas Shire Council office in Mossman
- Port Douglas Library
- Mossman Library
- Copies were also available if the community directly emailed or called the Project Team

The Project Team received six hardcopy responses via email and Australia Post.

# Appendix A

## Social PinPoint version





## Appendix B

### Hardcopy version

**APPROVAL PROCESS**

In June 2020, the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation secured a permit from the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) for the Wangetti Trail. A WTMA permit is just one of the numerous environmental and development approvals required for the Wangetti Trail before construction can commence.

The project team has also referred the Wangetti Trail to the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for assessment under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act provides for the protection of the environment, especially Matters of National Environmental Significance.

A summary of the remainder of the statutory framework and approval requirements being undertaken by the Queensland Government for the development of the Wangetti Trail include:

- *Native Title Act 1993* Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) or notification procedures
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for the construction of the trail and public camping areas, as well as the development of ecotourism facilities in national parks
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACH Act) a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) or another form of agreement may need to be established with the relevant Aboriginal parties
- *Planning Act 2016* and *Planning Regulation 2017* a Material Change of Use development permit assessable under the Douglas Shire Council planning scheme and a Material Change of Use development permit assessable under the Cairns Regional Council Planning Scheme
- Under the *Planning Regulation 2017* and *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act) an Operational works development approval for clearing of native vegetation
- Under the *Planning Regulation 2017* and *Fisheries Act 1994* Development Permit for operational works for constructing/raising waterway barrier works Compliance with Accepted development requirements for operational work that is constructing or raising waterway barrier works and *Water Act 2000* Riveine Protection Permit Exemption Requirements
- Under the *Planning Regulation 2017* and *Fisheries Act 1994* Development permit for operational works for removal, destruction or damage of marine plants
- Under the *Planning Regulation 2017* and *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* Development permit for operational works for interfering with quarry material on state coastal land above the High water mark within a Coastal Management District (CMD)
- Under the *Land Act 1994* land owners consent for works on State Land
- Riverine protection permit under the *Water Act 2000*
- Species management program (SMP) under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act)
- Protected plant clearing permit or Exempt clearing notification under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act)
- Road corridor permit under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* (TI Act)
- Under the *Land Act 1994* permanent closure or short-term occupation within road reserves
- General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- General Environmental Duty under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- Environmental offset requirements under the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*



**WANGETTI TRAIL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION  
MONDAY 3 AUGUST TO FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Wangetti Trail is a priority for Tropical North Queensland. The project has been made possible with funding from the Australian Government and Queensland Government for the construction of the Wangetti Trail under the National Tourism Icons program. The trail is being delivered by the Queensland Government and Australian Government in collaboration with local governments, all working closely with the Traditional Owners and broader local community.

When operational, walkers and mountain bike riders will be treated to a one-of-a-kind experience, including the opportunity to experience the region's rich Aboriginal cultural history while taking in the stunning coastal and hinterland scenery of the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef from Palm Cove to Port Douglas.

The Trail will feature natural ground and surface treatments, a number of low-level bridges and crossings, five public camping areas, four eco accommodation sites and utilisation of existing access tracks.

The trail will be a five day/four night 'grade 3' (Australian Standard for Walking Tracks) walk between Wangetti and Port Douglas and two days/one night 'more difficult' (International Mountain Biking Association Trail Difficulty Rating System) ride from Wangetti to Port Douglas. The southern section of the trail from Palm Cove to Wangetti will be a two day/one night walk with proposed public camping areas only or a single day trip mountain bike ride.

Following months of intensive fieldwork, planning and investigations, the Queensland Government is releasing further information on the Wangetti Trail. We have also listened to the community and amended sections of the trail to improve social, environmental and cultural outcomes.

Community consultation is open **Monday 3 August 2020 to Friday 11 September 2020**.

[www.dittd.qld.gov.au/qld-ecotourism-trails](http://www.dittd.qld.gov.au/qld-ecotourism-trails)  
[QldEcotourismTrails@dittd.qld.gov.au](mailto:QldEcotourismTrails@dittd.qld.gov.au)  
 1800 957 852 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm AEST)  
 Tourism Division, Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation, PO Box 151 68, City East, QLD, 4002

**ECO ACCOMMODATION**

Following a competitive market process, a suitably qualified ecotourism operator will be invited to apply to install and operate eco accommodation sites at four locations along the Wangetti Trail under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

A maximum 20 people can be accommodated at each location, per night and the sites could include the following ecotourism facilities:

- approximately 0.25 ha site footprint with a 100m natural buffer to separate the eco accommodation site from the public camping areas
- 10 small basic huts/glamping tents constructed on elevated platforms
- 1 common building for dining, food preparation and bathrooms
- shower/toilet block
- interconnecting pathways, boardwalks and access tracks
- associated infrastructure such as solar panels, generators and water tanks
- the formalisation of existing back country tracks into service tracks to provide restricted access to the shared use trail and the camp sites for construction purposes, operational purposes, maintenance purpose and for emergency purposes

**Example of eco accommodation**



**PUBLIC CAMPING AREAS**

A maximum 20 people can be accommodated at each public camping area, per night. Each camping area could include the following:

- approximately 0.25 ha site footprint
- 10 x 4 m diameter elevated camping decks
- 1 x 2.5 m x 2.5 m toilet block
- 1 communal gathering area including bike rack, table and seating, cooking and bench area and shelter
- interconnecting pathways, boardwalks and access tracks

The public camping areas, including site layout, will be selected to avoid trees and other important landscape features, wherever possible. Complete infrastructure will be constructed of lightweight materials and apply green building principles.

Public camping areas will be designated for by members of the public using the multi day Wangetti Trail. Public camping areas will be obscured from the walking trail and eco accommodation sites so as to provide privacy and security.

There will be a 100m natural buffer between the eco accommodation and public camping areas.

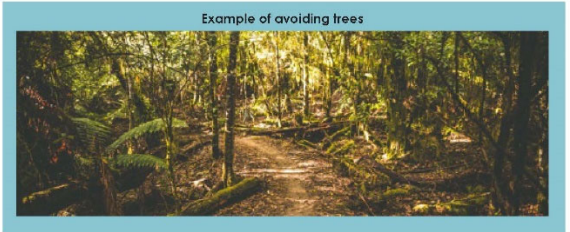
**Example of public camping area at Gramplans, Victoria**





PROPOSED TRAIL CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY

The Wangetti Trail will be constructed using the natural soil and rock found along the trail and will be wide enough to allow easy passing of users travelling in opposite directions. In the unlikely scenario where appropriate rock and soil cannot be sourced along the trail, locally sourced surfacing materials such as fine crushed rock will be used to minimise the risk of erosion and manage the high flow of traffic.



Allowance corridor: The Wangetti Trail will generally be a 1.5m wide track. There is a 40m wide allowance corridor proposed for sections of the trail so that the 1.5m trail has the flexibility to avoid, where possible, impacting on Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES), Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), and culturally significant areas/features.

Key structures: Trail infrastructure is also proposed as part of the trail and include waterway crossings, bridges, viewing platforms, rock armoring and signage where appropriate and required.



"Kubinwarra Yalanj are excited to share our culture, history and stories of our ancestral clan estate with tourists on the Wangetti Trail. We look forward to this project creating long-term economic opportunities for our people and the next generation".

John Hartley, Chairperson, Kubinwarra Yalanj Aboriginal Corporation

1



PROPOSED CAMPSITE CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY

Materials and equipment methodology

The construction of the camp sites will ultimately be determined by the nominated construction contractor in conjunction with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, however the following objectives will be apply to the construction phase:

- camping areas and eco accommodation must be sympathetic to the terrain and topography – they must blend into the landscape and create a sense of purpose and movement through the landscape
camping areas and eco accommodation will connect to existing roads, vehicle tracks or walking tracks, avoid areas of highest environmental significance and be built to modern best-practice standards for sustainable accommodation and amenities
structures at the camp sites will consist of modular, pre-fabricated and easy to assemble construction technologies to reduce construction related impacts
the nominated contractor will be required to use locally sourced material that is lightweight yet durable, wherever possible
renewable, durable, non-toxic and environmentally sustainable materials will be used wherever possible during the construction phase of the camp sites
waste streams to be managed during construction through re-use of on-site materials that are within the development zone (eg. soil, vegetation, fabricated materials)
water sensitive urban design practices such as rainwater tanks, onsite recycling of water/wastewater, swales and bio-retention basins for water treatment and water efficient appliances be considered during the construction phase

Design principles

- there will be a degree of physical, visual and audible separation between the public camping areas and eco accommodation sites
ideally, no trees should need to be removed for the construction of the camp sites and associated facilities, tent pads, walkways, communal shelters, huts, etc. will be located to avoid the need for tree removal, wherever possible
ideally, the broad objective is to ensure the retention of as much vegetation as possible – only the area directly beneath each structure (i.e. tent pads, shelters, toilets, etc.) and connecting walkways and pathways is to be cleared of vegetation. There will be no broad scale clearing of vegetation across the entire site. This requirement ensures protection of environmental values, but also helps to preserve the intended experience for the users – i.e. immersion in nature, solitude etc.
in-situ materials will be used wherever possible (eg. rock for the access track, pathways, and stormwater deviations)
the construction contractor will liaise with qualified ecological consultants to understand the implications of each camp site, and to adjust the position of each element to achieve the best possible environmental outcomes



"The Wangetti Trail is one of the most important economic benefit projects for the Yirganydji people and the Cairns Regional Claim in a generation. Yirganydji country, where the rainforest meets the reef, has been our home for thousands of years and we are excited to share our land with new visitors and educate them on our cultural and significance of this place in our identity, our history and our future generations"

Jeanette Singleton, Chairperson, Yirganydji Gurubana Aboriginal Corporation

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- the intent of the camp sites is to enhance the trail experience; therefore, camp site arrangements need to sympathise with the environment, prioritise views where possible, allow privacy and space between campers and embrace the uniqueness that is at each location
each camp site will be designed in a robust manner to minimise potential damage from vandalism or other anti-social behaviour

FOOTPRINT AND NATURE BUFFER

The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government and local governments to gain all necessary approvals.

The Wangetti Trail will be a mountain bike and walking trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas. The 1.5m wide trail will be constructed within an identified 40m trail construction corridor. The corridor alignment has been selected to avoid areas of environmental significance and the actual alignment of the trail within this corridor will be further refined to avoid the removal of trees or other features (such as rocks or cultural heritage finds) as construction progresses.

A footprint and nature buffer has been identified by the Queensland Government, providing an indicative location of the sites that will be used to provide overnight accommodation options for users, along the Wangetti Trail. Each of the areas identified is intended to include both an eco accommodation site and a public camping area with the exception of the southern-most campsite, which will include a toilet block only.

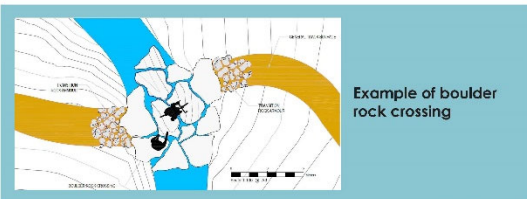
The total footprint for each of the public camping areas and eco accommodation sites will be approximately 0.25ha each, resulting in a approximate footprint of 0.5ha at each location. Selective and limited vegetation will be removed within each site to allow for infrastructure to be installed within the approximate 0.25ha, noting that the entire areas WILL NOT be cleared.

Should the eco accommodation operator wish to select alternate locations, they must secure all approvals prior to proceeding.

PROPOSED WATERWAY CROSSINGS

The exact type of structure proposed as the waterway crossings will be suggested by the trail builder and could consist of a proposed suspension bridge crossing at Hartleys Creek, becular crossings and gully crossing style bridges

The design aspects of the structures include the crossing will be well-suited for the terrain and landscape, the bridge structure is located well above flood level and construction access is very limited and would be along the constructed tracks to each side.



Example of boulder rock crossing

3



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are you undertaking community consultation?

Following initial community consultation in April and May 2020, the project team and its advisors have undertaken further studies, ground truthing and consultation with Traditional Owners, which has resulted in amendments to the final Wangetti Trail alignment. The new alignment, proposed campsite footprints, the proposed trail and campsite construction methodology is now available to be released.

What community engagement has been undertaken on the project so far?

Since assuming management of the project in 2018, the project team has had over 270 individual engagement activities with stakeholders including:

- >20 incoming phone calls from local residents
>100 emails to stakeholders including community members, local residents, advocacy group, local councils and potential proponents
>100 face-to-face engagement activities including one-on-one meetings, group meetings, meetings with local councils, Traditional Owner engagement, presentations on the Wangetti Trail with community members, local residents, advocacy groups and interested parties
Two letter box drops to Wangetti and Oak Beach residents
>80 group meetings with external stakeholders including Traditional Owners, special interest groups (such as the National Parks Association of Queensland) and local councils

As well as the above-mentioned activities, an initial round of community consultation on the Wangetti Trail's proposed alignment was released between 8 April 2019 and 31 May 2019. During this period 4,162 people viewed the preliminary trail alignment and shared their ideas and comments on the trail.

Have you obtained a permit to build the Wangetti Trail in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area?

In June 2020 the Queensland Government obtained a permit under the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 to allow for the proposed works associated with the trail between Palm Cove and the Mowbray River to occur within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Wet Tropics permit provides conditional approvals for construction of the trail, associated infrastructure (eg limited signage and amenities) and campgrounds.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) undertook a comprehensive assessment of the project against the assessment criteria in the Wet Tropics Management Plan. This considered the potential impacts on the Areas World Heritage values and integrity, and also the views, concerns and potential impacts on the broader community, including Aboriginal people with an interest in the Area. WTMA were provided with the outcomes of consultation and engagement activities undertaken to date by the Queensland Government to help inform their considerations.

A copy of the WTMA permit conditions is attached to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) referral application to the Department of Environment and Energy.

The Queensland Government has been working with the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA), the Australian Government and others to ensure environmental assessment, public notification and approval activities for the Wangetti Trail are integrated wherever possible. This is also to ensure processes are coordinated and do not duplicate assessment activities potentially leading to conflicting conditions and requirements.

4



#### What could the Wangetti Trail include?

The Wangetti Trail will accommodate mountain bike riders and hikers and will feature:

- natural ground and surface treatments
- a number of low-level bridges and waterway crossings
- five public camping areas
- four eco-accommodation sites
- utilisation of existing access tracks and extension of access tracks where required

The trail will be a five day/four night 'grade 3' (Australian Standard for Walking Tracks) walk between Wangetti and Port Douglas and two day/one night 'more difficult' (International Mountain Biking Association Trail Difficulty Rating System) ride from Wangetti to Port Douglas. The southern section of the trail from Palm Cove to Wangetti will be a two day/one night walk with public camping areas only or a single day trip ride.

#### What is being built between Palm Cove and the Mowbray River for the Wangetti Trail?

The section between Palm Cove and the Mowbray River will include:

- a trail for use by hikers and mountain bike riders, consisting of natural ground surface treatments
- trail infrastructure, including low-level bridges and crossings, including a suspension bridge at Hartley's Creek
- five public camping areas
- four eco accommodation sites
- a potential mountain bike only alternative trail
- utilisation of existing access tracks, or extension of access tracks where required.

#### Will you be clearing vegetation to build the trail?

Clearing of vegetation will be limited to that necessary to support the trail itself which will be approximately 1.5m wide. The width will allow easy passing of users travelling in opposite directions.

In addition, limited and selective vegetation will be removed in campsites to make way for ecotourism facilities and campsite infrastructure.

#### What are you using to construct the trail?

The trail will be constructed using the natural soil and rock found along the trail. In unlikely instances where appropriate natural soil and rock cannot be sourced along the trail, locally sourced and imported surfacing materials may be used to minimise the risk of erosion and manage the high flow of traffic.

#### How will the trail be constructed?

The majority of the trail, between Palm Cove and the Mowbray River, will be built using mini-excavators, which require a minimum head width of 1m to operate safely. Where it is not safe, practical or desirable to use a mini-excavator, the trail will be hand constructed.

#### Why is there a construction buffer for building the trail?

A 40m wide allowance corridor is proposed for the trail sections to allow flexibility for the generally 1.5m trail to avoid, where possible, impacting on Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES), Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), and sensitive culturally significant area/features.

The entire allowance corridor WILL NOT be cleared. The wide allowance minimises the risk of needing to unnecessarily remove any vegetation if a suitable path can be found 20m either side of the surveyed alignment.

5



#### How will the campsites be designed?

- there needs to be a degree of physical and visual separation between the public and private campsites
- ideally, large trees should not need to be removed for the construction of the camp sites and associated facilities. Tent pads, walkways, communal shelters etc. to be sensitively located to avoid the need for tree removal
- ideally, broad objective is to ensure the retention of as much vegetation as possible – only the area directly beneath and around each structure (i.e. tent pads, shelters, toilets etc.) and connecting walkways and pathways is to be cleared of vegetation. There should be no broad scale clearing of vegetation across the entire site. This requirement ensures protection of environmental values, but also helps to preserve the intended experience for the users – i.e. immersion in nature, solitude, etc.
- the use of in-situ materials wherever possible (eg: rock for the access track, pathways, and stormwater deviations)
- minimal clearing and grubbing during construction
- liaise with qualified ecological consultants and cultural heritage advisors to understand the implications of each camp site, and to adjust the position of each element to achieve the best possible environmental outcomes
- the intent of the camp sites is to enhance the trail experience; therefore, camp site arrangements need to sympathise with the environment, prioritise views where possible, allow privacy and space between campsites and embrace the uniqueness that is at each location
- where duplication can be achieved, this is encouraged as it may minimise costs, create ease of construction and simplify ongoing maintenance, user booking and actual use by trail hikers / bike riders
- each camp site will be designed in a robust manner to minimise potential damage from vandalism or other anti-social behaviour

#### How will the campsites be constructed?

The construction of the camp sites will ultimately be determined by the nominated construction contractor in conjunction with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, however the following objectives will be apply to the construction phase:

- the public camping or eco accommodation must be sympathetic to the terrain and topography, it must blend into the landscape and create a sense of purpose and movement through the landscape
- the public camping or eco accommodation will connect to existing roads, vehicle tracks or walking tracks
- the public camping or eco accommodation will avoid areas of highest environmental significance where possible
- the public camping or eco accommodation will be built to modern best-practice standards for sustainable accommodation and amenities
- the structures of the public camping or eco accommodation will consist of modular, pre-fabricated and easy to assemble construction technologies to reduce construction related impacts
- the nominated contractor will be required to use locally sourced material that is lightweight yet durable
- renewable, durable, non-toxic and environmentally sustainable materials to be considered during the construction phase of the camp sites

6



- waste streams to be managed during construction through re-use of on-site materials that are within the development zone (e.g. soils, vegetation, fabricated materials)
- water sensitive urban design practices such as rainwater tanks, on-site recycling of water/wastewater, swales and bio-retention basins for water treatment and water efficient appliances be considered during the construction phase

#### How will the campsites function being remote from local townships?

The camps will have no reliance on reticulated services and will be self-sufficient for energy, using a combination of solar and gas with a small back-up generator for emergency power. Water will be sourced from roof capture. Domestic waste will be required to be carried out by users of the public camping areas, or by the ecotourism operator.

#### Why has the trail alignment changed over time?

A desktop planning study was initially undertaken in 2018 and used to develop a conceptual alignment for the Wangetti Trail. Subsequent to this, it was determined by undertaking ground-truthing field works that the conceptual alignment was not feasible and needed to be changed.

In the conceptual alignment (released for community consultation from 8 April to 31 May 2019) a section of the trail appeared to traverse along a hillside with minimal deviations. In reality that traversing section is interrupted by numerous deviations in/out of gullies which added an approximate 10-20% extra distance to the trail.

Other items identified and subsequently amended include:

- length of the main route once walked has decreased from 110km to approximately 94km
- two campsite locations were removed due to the decrease in the trail length
- there are extremely steep and challenging building conditions identified on the ascent and descent on some of the trail
- proximity of the trail to private properties in Oak Beach
- concerns around the potential for people to short-cut the link section through to Spring Creek campsite
- campsite 1 near Hartley's Creek was removed. This is a direct response to concerns of the campsite's proximity to Hartley's Creek

The trail and camp sites have been carefully located in previously disturbed areas and following existing access tracks wherever possible to achieve a least disturbance outcome.

#### What type of waterway crossings will be built?

The exact type of structure proposed as waterway crossings will be determined by the trail builder in conjunction with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and Partnerships and could comprise of the following options:

- suspension bridge crossing
- boulder crossing
- gully crossing style bridges

The design aspects of the structures include the following:

- the crossing will be well-suited for the terrain and landscape
- the bridge structure is located well above flood level
- construction access is very limited and would be along the constructed tracks to each side

7



#### What impact assessments have been undertaken for the Wangetti Trail?

The Project Team along with its consultants have undertaken the following impact assessments to facilitate the project:

- land use, management and tenure
- flora and fauna
- biosecurity
- water resources
- hazard, health and safety
- social and economic
- public amenity
- cultural heritage
- transport
- waste management

#### Who will operate and maintain the trail after it's built?

Eco accommodation sites will be managed and maintained by an ecotourism operator, in conjunction with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

The Wangetti Trail and public camping areas will be managed in accordance with QPWS trail maintenance procedures and manuals.

#### Will the Wangetti Trail host any racing events?

The Wangetti Trail has been designed as a multi-day hiking/biking eco trail with a minimised footprint wherever possible. It will feature camping and eco accommodation facilities that have been carefully located to minimise impacts on protected areas. Events are not part of the project scope nor envisaged as part of the eco accommodation operations.

#### What is happening on the Mowbray River Bridge?

In order to connect the Wangetti Trail from national park estate in the south to Port Douglas in the north, works are being undertaken on a new pedestrian bridge across the Mowbray River. Commencing in February 2020, the work includes a new bridge crossing and pedestrian underpass. Construction activities are forecast for completion in late 2020.

#### What is happening next on the project?

The project team and its advisors will be undertaking the following on the Wangetti Trail:

- finalise the Mowbray River pedestrian bridge
- a tender is currently in the market to design and construct the trail and public camping area between Palm Cove and Wangetti (23 June to 20 August 2020)
- the project team has referred the Wangetti Trail to the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for assessment under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- release the Expression of Interest (EOI) for the engagement of an operator of the eco accommodation and guided walks for the trail
- continue developing the planning and environmental assessment of the trail, and to gain the appropriate approvals required to construct the trail, public camping areas and eco accommodation sites between Wangetti and Mowbray River

Subject to approvals, the Wangetti Trail is targeted to be operational and open to the public in 2022.

8

**WANGETTI TRAIL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION  
FEEDBACK FORM**  
MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020 TO FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2020



As part of the Queensland Government, the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation has responsibilities under the *Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)* (IP Act) regarding the collection, use, storage and disclosure of personal information. The IP Act also provides access and amendment rights for personal information held by the department.

Please view our privacy policy at [www.dstid.qld.gov.au/site-information/privacy](http://www.dstid.qld.gov.au/site-information/privacy)

Please leave us your comment

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**WANGETTI TRAIL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION  
FEEDBACK FORM**  
MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020 TO FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2020



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you DO NOT want to receive additional information on the project, please tick this box

  PLEASE RETURN TO:  
Tourism Division  
Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation  
PO Box 15168, City East, QLD 4002

## Appendix C

### Newspaper advertisement

## **Wangetti Trail Community Consultation** **Monday 3 August 2020 to Friday 11 September 2020**

The Queensland Government is undertaking another round of community consultation on the Wangetti Trail. Following months of intensive fieldwork, planning and investigations, further information is being released.

Ideas and comments can be submitted by going online at <https://ditid.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation> or picking up a printed copy from:

- Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation, Ground Floor, Cairns Port Authority Building, Cnr Hartley and Grafton Streets Cairns (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm AEST)
- Douglas Shire Council, 64-66 Front Street, Mossman (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm AEST)
- Port Douglas Community Hall, Cnr Mowbray and Mudlo Streets, Port Douglas (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm AEST)

For more information:  
[www.ditid.qld.gov.au/WangettiTrail](http://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/WangettiTrail)  
[QldEcotourismTrails@ditid.qld.gov.au](mailto:QldEcotourismTrails@ditid.qld.gov.au)  
1800 957 852 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm AEST)



Australian Government



Queensland  
Government

## Appendix D

### Facebook posts





### Queensland Ecotourism Trails

Posted by Carly-Rae Tatten  
4 Aug 2020 · 🌐

Once complete the Wangetti Trail is expected to attract thousands of visitors - we want this to be a world-class experience for visitors and... See more



👍 28      💬 14 comments      ➦ 52 shares

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share



### Queensland Ecotourism Trails

Posted by Carly-Rae Tatten  
4 Aug 2020 · 🌐

We'd like to address some of the comments regarding the updated Wangetti Trail alignment. You will be able to walk or ride the whole way from Palm Cove to Port Douglas! 🚴🚶

We are just showing the options available, including a mountain bike only link to the west of the trail between Wangetti and Twin Bridges. Of course these are not finalised and we will be seeking approvals for all options, and feedback will inform how the trail is used.



### Queensland Ecotourism Trails

Posted by Carly-Rae Tatten  
4 Aug 2020 · 🌐

Once complete the Wangetti Trail is expected to attract thousands of visitors - we want this to be a world-class experience for v... See more

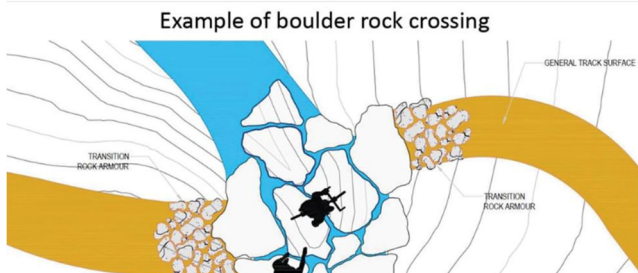


### Queensland Ecotourism Trails

Posted by Carly-Rae Tatten  
18 Aug 2020 · 🌐

Did you know the Wangetti Trail will include a number of waterway crossings? The crossings could involve a suspension bridge, gully crossing style bridges or boulder crossings like the below image.

To provide feedback on waterway crossing styles, construction methodology, trail alignment, public camping and eco accommodation sites visit [ditid.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation](https://ditid.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation)



### Queensland Ecotourism Trails

Posted by Carly-Rae Tatten  
26 Aug 2020 · 🌐

The 94km Wangetti Trail will feature 4 sites offering eco accommodation and public camping, and an additional site with public campi... See more



👍 162      💬 19 comments      ➦ 33 shares



## Queensland Ecotourism Trails



Posted by Carly-Rae Tatten  
10 Sep 2020 · 🌐

Our Wangetti Trail consultation page has been visited over 5000 times! There is still time to provide ideas, feedback and check out some of the views and terrain along the trail - but don't delay this consultation closes tomorrow!

Visit [ditid.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation](https://ditid.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation)

[#QldEcotourismTrails](#) [#WangettiTrail](#) [#exploreTNQ](#)



## Appendix E - REDACTED

*(Responses from Social PinPoint have not been included to preserve anonymity)*

## Appendix F

### Cairns Post article



SECTION: GENERAL NEWS ARTICLE TYPE: NEWS ITEM AUDIENCE : 13,896 PAGE: 7  
PRINTED SIZE: 78.00cm<sup>2</sup> REGION: QLD MARKET: Australia ASR: AUD 391 WORDS: 160  
ITEM ID: 1311656870



04 AUG, 2020

## Trail feedback sought

Cairns Post, Cairns



Page 1 of 1

### TOURISM

## Trail feedback sought

THE community is being urged to have their final say on the design of the \$21 million Wangetti Trail before it is signed, sealed and delivered.

State Development Minister Kate Jones (right) said from Monday the community would be able to view the new trail alignment, eco accommodation and public camping area locations and inclusions, construction methodology, campsite construction methodology, waterway crossings and approvals process.

"They'll even be able to get a sneak peek of the fantastic views that will be visible from spots



along the trail," she said.

"... We want locals to see how they have helped refine the project to create a better design and alignment."

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said online consultation in April and May 2019 attracted more than 7400 visits to the project web page. "Already we've listened to the community and amended sections of the trail to improve social, environmental and cultural outcomes," she said.

To provide feedback, visit: [ditd.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation](http://ditd.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation)

## Appendix G

### Ministerial Media Statement



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## Revised Wangetti Trail released to the community

Published Monday, 03 August, 2020 at 02:30 PM

**Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation**  
The Honourable Kate Jones

The latest round of community consultation and engagement on the Wangetti Trail will begin today.

"Major infrastructure projects that create jobs now and into the future are absolutely vital for our economic recovery," said State Development Minister Kate Jones.

"This project is already supporting dozens of construction jobs and will create hundreds of jobs for locals when it's up and running.

"But we want locals to see how they have helped refine the project to create a better design and alignment. That's why today we're launching another round of consultation which will inform the final product to be delivered."

Construction is already under way on the Mowbray River pedestrian bridge in the first stage of work to deliver the Wangetti Trail.

Consultation announced today is on the next stage of work in which the community will be able to view the new trail alignment, eco accommodation and public camping area locations and inclusions, construction methodology, campsite construction methodology, waterway crossings, approvals process and they'll even be able to get a sneak peak of the fantastic views that will be visible from spots along the trail.

The Queensland Government and Australian Government are co-funding the construction of the Wangetti Trail, from Palm Cove to Port Douglas, under the National Tourism Icons program. It is being delivered in collaboration with Local Governments and local Traditional Owners.

"Because we continue to manage Queensland's health response to COVID-19, we're already delivering our plan for economic recovery," Ms Jones said.

"That means delivering new infrastructure like the Wangetti Trail to support the tourism infrastructure.

"This project will provide important tourism infrastructure and give people another reason to visit the Far North."

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said online consultation in April and May 2019 attracted more than 7400 visits to the project web page.

"Projects like this have never been so important for our region," Ms Lui said.

"The Wangetti Trail is a game-changer for Far North Queensland.

"Once complete the Trail will create 150 jobs and offer up to \$300 million of benefit over the life of the project.

"When operational, walkers and mountain bike riders will be treated to a one-of-a-kind experience, including the chance to experience the region's rich Aboriginal cultural history while taking in the stunning coastal and hinterland scenery of the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef.

"Already we've listened to the community and amended sections of the Trail to improve social, environmental and cultural outcomes.

"The additional feedback will further assist us developing a new world-class tourism magnet for the Far North."

Federal Member for Leichhardt Warren Entsch said the Trail would add to the region's impressive reputation.

"Tropical North Queensland is one of the most beautiful and unique places in the world, which is why it's so important locals have their say to ensure the Trail enhances and protects all that the region has to offer," Mr Entsch said.

"The trail will showcase the region's beauty and be a magnet for tourists, creating jobs and investment.

"The Morrison Government is committed to backing regional tourism, and that's why we're investing in this project as part of the Morrison Government's \$50 million National Tourism Icons package."

The five day/four night Trail will feature a number of low-level bridges and crossings, five public camping areas, four eco accommodation sites and utilisation of existing access tracks and extension access tracks where required.

Construction on the Mowbray pedestrian bridge is underway and will be complete by late 2020 and subject to approvals, the Wangetti Trail is targeted to be operational and open to the public in 2022.

Locals can give their feedback online between today (Monday 3 August 2020 and Friday 11 September 2020).

To provide feedback, visit [ditid.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation](https://ditid.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/wangetti-trail-community-consultation) (external site).

To read more about the Palaszczuk Government's plan for economic recovery, please visit the [Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs](#) strategy web page.

**ENDS**

**Media contact:** Jack Harbour [0419 620 447](tel:0419620447)

Feedback

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [↻](#)



## Appendix H

### Key Stakeholder list

Email was sent to the following on Monday 3 August:

- Cynthia Lui MP – Member for Cook
- Hon Craig Crawford MP – Member for Barron River
- Michael Healy MP – Member for Cairns
- Curtis Pitt MP – Member for Mulgrave
- Warren Entsch MP – Federal Member for Leichhardt
- Cr Michael Kerr – Mayor, Douglas Shire Council
- Cr Bob Manning – Mayor, Cairns Regional Council
- Michelle Singleton - Yirrganydji
- John Hartley - Kubirriwarra Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
- Scott Buchanan – WTMA
- Tim Wong – WTMA
- Angus McLeod – WTMA
- Mark Stoermer – CEO, Douglas Shire Council
- John Andrejic – CEO, Cairns Regional Council
- Paul Hoyer – Douglas Shire Council
- Kelly Reaston – Cairns Regional Council
- Alison Webb – QPWS
- Dannielle Green – Australian Government
- Danielle McKay – Senator Duniam’s Office
- Graeme Bartrim - National Parks Association of Queensland
- Denis Walls – CAFNEC
- Mark Olsen - Tourism Tropical North Queensland
- Wendy Morris - Tourism Tropical North Queensland
- Liz Ross – Douglas Chamber of Commerce

