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### ITEM 1 POST EXHIBITION - DRAFT CRINGILA HILLS RECREATION MASTER PLAN - STAGE 1

The Cringila Hills area has been identified as having excellent potential as a recreation precinct for a variety of activities. A draft Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan was subsequently developed for the area with the intention of creating enhanced recreational opportunities including mountain biking along with expanded play opportunities, walking trails, and complimentary cycling infrastructure including pump track and bike skills park and more contemporary toilets and amenities.

The draft Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan was placed on public exhibition between 19 November 2019 and 31 January 2020 and a series of community engagement initiatives were undertaken to inform the refinement of the draft master plan. The community feedback noted the overall support for the concepts provided in the exhibited master plan and have provided suggestions to consider in a master plan.

This report now seeks Council's adoption of the draft Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan be adopted.
- 2 The implementation summary be noted.

#### **REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of:Lucielle Power, Manager Property + Recreation (Acting)Authorised by:Kerry Hunt, Director Community Services - Creative and Innovative City

#### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan 2020
- 2 Engagement Report Cringila HIIIs Recreation Master Plan

#### BACKGROUND

Council at its meeting of 12 August 2019 resolved:

- 1 The Master plan for the Cringila International Park is expedited.
- 2 The Master plan to incorporate the baseball fields and the proposed children's playground.
- 3 Consideration is given to the possibility of incorporating the proposed bike trail within the existing walk trail.
- 4 The Community is consulted and involved in the development of the masterplan.

Following this resolution, a preliminary draft recreation master plan was initiated and focused on providing multiple recreational opportunities for residents and visitors which in turn would assist in the activation of the area.

Key aspects of the draft master plan included:

- Relocation of the existing playground with additional features and rubber soft fall a larger area is envisioned that in future will allow additional play offerings
- A variety of mountain bike trails, a bike skills park and pump track
- A new formal car parking area and asphalt driveway connecting Lackawanna Street
- Improvements to entry of park including signage, new gates and landscaping
- A formalised walking trail network including an accessible walking circuit
- Park amenity upgrades including tree planting, picnic settings and drinking water



- Perimeter security improvements to limit unauthorised access and activities
- An emphasis to prepare and implement a vegetation management plan.

Council at its 18 November 2019 meeting resolved to:

- 1 Council endorse the draft Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan for public exhibition from 19 November 2019 to 31 January 2020.
- 2 Following public exhibition, Council receive a further report with an updated master plan incorporating the community engagement findings.
- 3 The Public Engagement also include Neighbourhood Forum 8, Lake Heights, Berkeley and Unanderra Schools

An extensive community engagement phase was conducted with the draft master plan placed on exhibition from 19 November 2019 to 31 January 2020 with the community actively encouraged to have its say about the study area and attributes and proposed activation.

The findings of the community consultation are referenced in Attachment 2 and have informed a revised Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan (Attachment 1).

#### PROPOSAL

The Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan is endorsed as the key reference point for the future activation, renewal and development of the precinct and that the proposed implementation plan be noted.

#### CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Noting the Christmas and school holiday period, the community engagement phase ran for an extended period from 19 November 2019 to 31 January 2020 and was communicated to the public via the following means:

- Mail out A colour postcard was distributed to 14,470 households across Warrawong, Berkeley, Lake Heights, Port Kembla, Cringila, Unanderra and Farmborough Heights.
- An email with Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs] and feedback form were sent to 18 stakeholder groups.
- Promotional video distributed online utilising Council's social media and shown on public screens across Council's facilities.
- Development of a Have your Say Page with online survey, FAQ, and copies of key documents.
- A media release was developed and distributed to media organisations.
- Details of the Information Stand and online engagement webpage were included in Council's Community Update pages in local newspaper.
- Flyers and feedback forms were dropped off at local libraries and community centres.
- An email was sent to all Wollongong schools inviting feedback. Schools in Cringila, Berkeley, Warrawong, Port Kembla, Unanderra and Farmborough Heights were phoned and offered workshops with students.
- Social media information about the opportunity to participate was promoted through Council's Facebook account.

The feedback outlined in Attachment 2 was received from four groups and some 289 individuals with strong support for the master plan. Feedback also included key insights from users and residents into the challenges and some concern with the introduction of new activities such as mountain biking into the precinct.



The feedback in Attachment 2 and how the revised master plan has responded to the feedback, has been summarised in key themes in the following table:

Key Theme	Master Plan response
Overall support	Overall support for master plan noted.
There was strong support for the master plan with people commenting that it provides for diverse recreational and social opportunities and will activate the space providing benefits to locals and visitors. Those who were not in	Mountain bike trails (MTB) will be clearly defined and marked. Ongoing maintenance, careful consideration of trails, construction methods and erosion controls will assist in managing potential environmental impacts.
support of the Plan were concerned about the environmental impacts of mountain biking facilities, the mountain biking facility not catering to more experienced riders, contamination of the site and personal safety and access issues for surrounding residents.	The master plan acknowledges that the MTB facility caters primarily for beginners to intermediate skilled riders as the facility is ultimately defined by the topography and size of area. A medium to long-term aspiration remains to expand the MTB facility which may in future enhance hierarchy of facility and skills levels.
	Potential for contamination onsite is acknowledged with planned contamination testing to be undertaken as part of the typical infrastructure development process and will inform construction methodology.
A safe area People want an area and facilities that are safe for park users and residents that live in adjoining	<ul><li>The master plan has been refined to include:</li><li>Realignment of carpark to allow consolidation of activities</li></ul>
streets.	Incorporation of emergency vehicle access.
	<ul> <li>Slight amendment to walking trails to create larger buffer between rear fences and paths.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Provisions have been made to heighten baseball fence to reduce risk of flyballs.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Perimeter security treatments with known entry points and hotspots for illegal trail bike riding to be targeted. Over time, activation of the area will likely be best deterrent.</li> </ul>
	Should it be required, deployment of temporary CCTV may also be considered in future.
A welcoming and accessible place People want easy access by foot, cycle and	<ul><li>The master plan has been refined to include:</li><li>Inclusion of accessible parking bays</li></ul>
vehicle both to Cringila Hills and within the site. They want new and upgraded facilities that	<ul> <li>Recommendations to extend footpath network to site</li> </ul>
supports inclusive enjoyment of the area by all community members.	<ul> <li>Upgraded amenities that provide public toilets for all park users along with upgraded facilities for baseball including unisex change rooms, canteen and additional storage</li> </ul>
	Urban greening initiatives.
Activities and infrastructure	Support noted.
People support the development of the mountain bike facility, pump track and bike skills park.	A major initiative of the refined master plan is a new amenities building servicing baseball and park



Key Theme	Master Plan response
They also want an upgraded baseball facility that integrates operationally with the other	users. The amenities will include modern unisex changerooms, storage and canteen facilities.
planned spaces.	Other identified activities or facilities are noted and will be subject to further planning and investigation including assessment of demand and application of principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles (CPTED).
<b>Environmental protection and restoration</b> People identified environmental protection and restoration of the site as requiring more detailed planning, alongside the detailed planning for the	The master plan acknowledges the requirement for more detailed planning including the need for a Vegetation Management Plan to manage and enhance the vegetation on site.
mountain bike facility. Some felt mountain biking was incompatible with the protection of native vegetation across the site and reduced the	<ul><li>Other important considerations include:</li><li>Bike and walking trails will be designed to feature the vegetation</li></ul>
potential for regeneration and joining up of patches of endangered rainforest.	Council does not permit illegal trail development
	Urban greening will be a feature of the site
	<ul> <li>Overtime, damage from illegal trail bike riding is anticipated to lessen as general recreation activity increases.</li> </ul>

Workshops were also held with 194 children and young persons from the following schools, preschools and childcare:

- Southern Suburbs Mobile Preschool
- Cringila Children's House Preschool
- Cringila Public School
- Warrawong Public School
- Illawarra Sports High School
- Five Islands Secondary College
- Warrawong High School
- Youth Connect Wollongong Youth Services
- Cook Chill (MCCI) Cringila.

Other schools in Lake Heights, Berkeley and Unanderra were also invited to participate and sent project information but unfortunately did not respond in time to participate in the engagement process.

Specific activities and questions were developed for engagement with children and young people with a focus on elements to include in the play space and bike skills park. Ideas on what would make the area a comfortable place to visit were also sought, as well as what other recreational activities they would like to see in the space. To this end, children and young persons indicated support for the following elements:

- Expanded play offerings including more adventure and natural play opportunities
- Supporting amenities including toilets, bubblers, free Wi-Fi, phone charging stations, shade (including planting of trees) and seating
- Need for food and drink at the park



- Other recreational opportunities including art opportunities, skate facilities, basketball, table tennis table, scooter track and water park
- Inclusion of space and facilities catering for other sports including football, athletics, rugby, tennis, volleyball, baseball, basketball, netball and soccer.

Children and young persons also highlighted the importance of creating a safe space to recreate. Ideas and suggestions included considering an emergency help point, first aid area and first aid kit, security/cameras and signage with park rules.

#### PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal "Goal 5 - We have a healthy community in a liveable city". It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2021	Operational Plan 2019-20
Strategy	3 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
5.1.1 We work in partnership to build on opportunities to strengthen vulnerable communities	5.1.2.3 Use data to assess the current community infrastructure available, community demand and develop a strategic framework and policies to either rationalise, enhance or expand to meet community needs	Undertake a detailed site assessment for the future development of a Cringila Hills Master Plan
	5.1.2.3 Use data to assess the current community infrastructure available, community demand and develop a strategic framework and policies to either rationalise, enhance or expand to meet community needs	In consultation with the community develop the Cringila Hills Master Plan
	5.1.4.1 Provide an appropriate and sustainable range of quality passive and active open spaces and facilities	Relocate and enhance the Cringila Hills playground

It is recognised that a number of other projects are running concurrently that should be taken into consideration in planning for Cringila Hills including potential legacy projects associated with the UCI– Road World Championship in 2022. This recreation master plan may further provide an opportunity for investment in legacy infrastructure for the local community and its visitors.

#### Ecological Sustainability

The draft master plan has carefully considered the natural values of the site in developing this mountain bike concept plan ensuring minimal disturbance by aligning trail concepts to avoid areas of high sensitivity and/or conservation value. This includes the remnant patches of Endangered Ecological Community, Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest and populations of the threatened plant, Cynanchum elegans.

New trails proposed in the draft master plan feature predominantly gentle, sustainable gradients, which help to reduce issues associated with erosion and sediment dispersion, resulting in a greatly reduced or eliminated environmental impact.

Whilst primary revegetation areas are shown on the draft plan, also identified is the requirement to prepare a vegetation management plan to manage the site to ensure that biodiversity on the site is protected, maintained and enhanced whilst supporting proposed activities.



#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft master plan envisages significant works that will provide new and upgraded recreational facilities, additional supporting amenities and improved security of site.

Initial cost estimates indicate that the total facility will cost approximately \$5.31M which will be staged over a number of years with stage 1a and 1b estimated at \$2.04M. In addition, operational funding of approximately \$50 - \$70K per annum is required for ongoing specialist maintenance of the mountain bike trails.

Stage 1A [playground] is fully funded within budget and additional funding for Stage 1B will be considered as part of the annual planning process.

Any unfunded elements identified below will be progressed for consideration and potential funding in subsequent years through Council's annual planning process.

The Implementation Summary key features are outlined below:



Project	Budget Estimated Cost (including design and construction contingency and project management fees)	Proposed Program
STAGE 1 A		
Playground Design	\$40,000	FY 2019/20
Playground construction incorporating small picnic shelter and artificial shade	\$500,000	FY 2020/21
Stage 1 A- Playground Design and Construction - Sub Total	\$540,000	
STAGE 1 B		
Entry statement Improvements Lackawanna Street including entry signage and landscaping	\$25,000	FY 2020/21
Perimeter control including contingency	\$70,000	FY2020/21
Car Park Phase 1 incorporating gravel carpark and includes extending of existing entry road from Lackawanna to new car parking adjacent to playground with pathway and perimeter fencing to car park	\$200,000	FY 2020/21
Allowance for Detailed Design Documentation for Asphalt pump track and MTB skills park (\$30K), Stormwater Design (\$10K) and Preparation of Vegetation Management Plan (\$10K), REF (\$5K)	\$55,000	FY 2020/21
Mountain bike trails construction and approximate trail contamination remediation costs	\$1,050,000	FY 2020/21
Walking trail construction phase 1 and approximate trail contamination remediation costs	\$100,000	FY 2020/21
Tree planting and landscaping	\$0	FY 2020/21
(To be implemented and funded as part of Urban Green		FY2021/22
Strategy - \$30,000 p.a)		FY2022/23
Stage 1 B – Pump Track & Skills Park Design, Storm Water Design, VMP preparation, Mountain Bike & Walking trail construction, Perimeter Control - Sub Total	\$1,500,000.00	
STAGE 2 A		
Asphalt Pump Track construction	\$650,000	TBC
Walking trail construction phase 2 and approximate trail contamination remediation costs	\$100,000	TBC
Modification to existing Baseball fencing works	\$30,000	TBC
Existing amenities minor refurbishment	\$20,000	TBC



Project	Budget Estimated Cost (including design and construction contingency and project management fees)	Proposed Program
Construction Mountain Bike Skills Park	\$120,000	TBC
Stage 2 A - Asphalt Pump Track & Skills Park construction, Walking Trail construction, Baseball Fencing & Minor Amenities improvement - Sub Total	\$920,000	

#### STAGE 2 B

Vegetation Management Plan – Phase 1 implementation		
works	\$200,000	TBC
Park Furniture including large picnic shelter, water refill station, bike racks and bins	\$170,000	TBC
Upgrade Amenities	\$850,000	TBC
Stage 2b – VMP, Furniture & amenities upgrade - Sub Total	\$1,220,000	
STAGE 3		
Vegetation Management Plan – Phase 2 implementation works Phase 2 works	\$200,000	TBC
New Footpath (Lackawanna Street - 140m)	\$85,000	TBC
Internal Shared pathway loop (assumed 1,014m <sup>2</sup> x 150m <sup>2</sup> including contingency)	\$185,000	TBC
Public Art	\$80,000	TBC
Car Park Phase 2 construction	\$580,000	TBC
Stage 3 – VMP, Street footpath, pathway loop, Public Art and Carpark Construction - Sub Total	\$1,130,000.00	
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT	\$5,310,000	

If adopted, the draft Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan will help inform the forward capital delivery program requirements and facilitate further external grant opportunities.

#### CONCLUSION

A comprehensive community engagement process has been undertaken with findings used to refine the master plan. As the community was very supportive of the overall concept it is recommended that the draft Cringila Hills Recreation Master Plan be adopted.



















# OUR PLACE our voice SEUTURE

CRINGILA HILLS RECREATION MASTER PLAN

## ENGAGEMENT REPORT

February 2020





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The information in this report is based on data collected from community members who chose to be involved in engagement activities and therefore should not be considered representative.

This report is intended to provide a high level analysis of the most prominent themes and ideas as expressed by those who participated. While it's not possible to include all the detailed feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to the project manager for review and consideration.



## **Executive Summary**

Council has developed plans for a new recreation area in Cringila and invited the community to help shape what is offered to provide for sporting pursuits, general recreation and social opportunities.

The draft Master Plan sets out concepts for a play space, walking trails, a purpose-built mountain biking facility as well as a bike skills park and pump track. It also contained proposals for picnic facilities, shelters, water bubblers, upgraded toilet facilities and a new car park, as well as environmental protection and restoration. The community were asked to provide their thoughts and ideas from 19 November to 31 January 2020.

The communication process included a media release, social media posts, Council's Community Update in the Advertiser, a video and postcards delivered to households across 7 suburbs. Information was distributed to key stakeholders including Aboriginal groups and Traditional Owners, the Cardinals Baseball Club and schools and community centres in neighbouring suburbs. A project page on Council's Engagement HQ website provided maps of the site, frequently asked questions, a background report and an online feedback form. These documents as well as a feedback form were made available at Council libraries and the Customer Service Centre.

Targeted engagement activities were held including workshops for children and young people. Community engagement activities for the broader community included onsite information stands at two locations.

Feedback was received from 4 groups and 289 individuals. An analysis of the feedback received provides an insight into the diversity of community sentiment, concerns and ideas regarding the Cringila Hills plan. Comments received have been themed to inform the Master Plan and the detailed planning stages to come.

An overview of feedback is as follows:

#### A safe area:

People want an area and facilities that are safe for park users and residents that live in adjoining streets.

#### A welcoming and accessible place:

People want easy access by foot, cycle and vehicle both to Cringila Hills and within the site. They want new and upgraded facilities that supports inclusive enjoyment of the area by all community members.

#### Activities and infrastructure:

People support the development of the mountain bike facility, pump track and bike skills park. They also want an upgraded baseball facility that integrates operationally with the other planned spaces.



#### Environmental protection and restoration:

People identified environmental protection and restoration of the site as requiring more detailed planning, alongside the detailed planning for the mountain bike facility. Some felt mountain biking was incompatible with the protection of native vegetation across the site and reduced the potential for regeneration and joining up of patches of endangered rainforest.



## Background

Cringila Hills is community land south of Jarvie Road including the Cringila Baseball Grounds and Community Park. It is a 39.5-hectare area of open space that Council manages on behalf of the community.

Part of the area, known as Cringila Community Park, has a long history of significance to the community over many decades. It has hosted various landscape and cultural projects that reflect the diversity and interest of the community, such as the 'World Forest', community bread oven, community garden and custom-built art entrance gates.

It is also home to the Western Suburbs Cardinals Baseball Club and is a popular place for low key recreational activities such as walking. The area has important areas of remnant and regenerating natural vegetation, notably patches of the Endangered Ecological Community – Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest.

Over several years, Council has been developing a draft master plan with a focus on providing recreational opportunities and amenities to support more community use. There have been significant investigations carried out including site survey, terrain mapping, geotechnical assessment, service location, contaminated land mapping, amenity assessment, site hydrology, bushfire studies, ecological assessments and more recently concept designs for a mountain bike park.

## Methodology

Questions were developed to focus community feedback across the range of engagement activities. The questions were:

- 1. What do you think about the ideas in the draft Master Plan? Are there other activities you would like to see and what would be needed for them?
- 2. What would make the area a place you would want to visit and why is this important to you?

Specific activities and questions were developed for engagement with children and young people with a focus on elements to include in the play space, pump track and bike skills park. Ideas on what would make the area a comfortable place to visit were also sought, as well as what other recreational activities they would like to see in the space.

The following section outlines the various activities undertaken during the engagement period from 19 November 2019 – January 31, 2020.



#### Table 1: Details of Communication and Engagement Methods

Methods	Details of Methods	
Communication Methods		
The Advertiser	Details of the information stand and online engagement webpage were included in Council's Community Update pages.	
Media release	A media release was developed and distributed to media organisations.	
Council video screens	Video pushed to public screens across Council facilities	
Postcard	A colour postcard was distributed to 14 470 households across Warrawong, Berkeley, Lake Heights, Port Kembla, Cringila, Unanderra and Farmborough Heights.	
Email to stakeholder groups	An email, FAQ and feedback form were sent to 18 stakeholder groups.	
Email/phone calls to schools	An email was sent to all Wollongong schools inviting feedback. Schools in Cringila, Berkeley, Warrawong, Port Kembla, Unanderra and Farmborough Heights were phoned and offered workshops with students.	
Info packs	FAQ's and feedback forms were made available at libraries and customer service.	
Social Media	Information about the opportunity to participate was promoted through Council's Facebook account.	
Engagement Met	hods	
Engagement HQ Website	An online survey tool was used to capture participant's feedback. Background information was also available on the website.	
Feedback Form	A hard copy feedback form was made available at libraries and engagement activities.	
Workshops with children and young people	9 workshops were held at 8 locations – Cringila Primary School, Warrawong High School, Five Islands Senior College, Illawarra Sports High, Cringila Children's House, Warrawong District Library and Cringila Multi-Purpose Centre.	
School drop-in	A one-hour drop-in session was held at Cringila Primary School on 19 March.	
Neighbourhood Forum Meetings	Staff provided an update and talked with people attending Neighbourhood Forum 7 and 8 meetings, in November and December respectively.	
Information Stand	An information stand was held at Cringila Community Halls on Saturday 7 December 10am -12pm. Arabic and Turkish interpreters were employed to assist in community conversations.	



## Results

This section provides details on the participation at engagement activities and the feedback received during the exhibition period.

A separate report on engagement with children and young people has been prepared, such that this report will not include their feedback.

#### **Engagement Participation**

Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Engagement participation results

Engagement Activities	Participation
Children and young people workshops (12 workshops)	194
Cringila Public School drop-in conversations	15
Hard copy feedback forms or emails received	12
Onsite information stands	25
Online participation: Aware – Total number of users who viewed the project page Informed - Total number of users who opened a hyperlink or read a document	579 347
Engaged – Total number of users who have actively contributed to the project	56

#### Feedback Results

The community were asked to provide feedback on the focus questions. Feedback came from 4 groups/organisations and 289 individuals.

Feedback was provided online (56), emails (6), through face to face conversations (40), children and young people workshops (194) and written feedback forms (6). The feedback received is now presented based on the focus questions.

#### Overall support

There was strong support for the Master Plan with people commenting that it provides for diverse recreational and social opportunities and will activate the space providing benefits to locals and visitors. Those who were not in support of the Plan were concerned about the environmental impacts of mountain biking facilities, the mountain biking facility not catering to more experienced riders, contamination of the site and personal safety and access issues for surrounding residents.

#### A safe area

People want to know they will be safe using the facilities, with concern raised over the historic land use of the site and it being potentially contaminated with toxic materials.



There was concern over the proposed mountain bike trails increasing anti-social behaviour in the area, as this is already an issue for residents of Lackawanna Street. Concerns over privacy in residential backyards was also voiced, with a request to re-site trails further away from back fences at this location.

People involved with baseball activities at the site commented about the need to improve safety for other park users by extending the back nets of the baseball field to reduce "flyballs" coming over into the area that would have a carpark, pump and skills track and playground. Some suggested re-locating the carpark closer to the northern end of the existing soccer field to provide an increased buffer between the baseball field and carpark for balls that go over the back net.

Some people saw that fencing the playground was needed so that children will be safe from cars and bikes. A concern for the safety of those using walking trails from mountain biking activities was also raised, questioning how bikes will be excluded from walking trails.

It was felt that the entryway from Lockwood Street needs to be more visible, with a call for clearing of some of the vegetation to improve sight lines and then regular maintenance to be undertaken.

People want access controls to prevent illegal motorbikes getting in and damaging trails, fields and preventing collisions with other park users. This ongoing issue is of concern to baseball players and spectators as bikes frequent the playing field area, damaging the playing surface and making people feel unsafe. Residents also commented that they are discouraged from using areas of the park when the bikes are around. Security cameras were suggested as a deterrent if installed around the Lackawanna Street entrance and baseball field area. It's important for all the community around here we need our kids to have a clean safe park....

The ongoing challenge at this location has been the use by motor bikers (sometimes at high speed across the various flat sections). Which also tends to cause ruts across the existing fields (accelerate & brake) & scare away other passive users. So, any development that may help reduce the likelihood/occurrence would be welcome by many.

*My* dad and brother play baseball at Cringila. I like the big tree that all the kids play in, but the motor bikes are frightening. I like the trees and space, I hope the new bike tracks don't make it hard for people to walk around the ground.

I mountain bike weekly and know firsthand the benefits of mountain biking, I think this plan is great, my only concern would be its close proximity to large industry that has been there for decades and has contaminated land in the area. I would just want to know it's safe before riding there.



#### A welcoming and accessible place

People wanted access to water, shade and seating throughout, well-lit public areas and wayfinding signage.

Many commented that Cringila Hills should be "family friendly" having an area with picnic benches, BBQ facilities and plenty of shade, as well as its recreational infrastructure providing diverse participation opportunities. This included an "eco-nature playground" and informal places with trees and boulders for younger children to explore. It was also recognised, spaces that young people can sit together comfortably and socialise, were important.

The amenities building should be upgraded to include an accessible toilet and shower facility, with a storage area for the baseball club and a canteen facility. Some commented that a new facility was required as the existing amenity building was in poor condition and wouldn't cater for the increased usage. I'd like to see a family friendly area with picnic benches, BBQ facilities and plenty of shade that provides natural habitat for animals.

Having a place where all parts of the community are welcome and embraced.

Ensure there is good bike path access from the surrounding areas. and that the area is well maintained.

People want good transport access links to Cringila Hills, as

well as accessways for residents who might be walking or riding to the area. They also want internal walking trails that link up the different parts of the area.

There was support for the provision of a car park, but concerns raised over the volume of local traffic already using Jarvie Road and surrounding streets. It was suggested that a "no standing" zone may be needed at the Lackawanna Street entry to facilitate vehicular access into and out of the park entry.

The idea of incorporating historical information and Aboriginal themes in the facilities as it is developed was suggested.

#### Activities and infrastructure

#### Baseball facility

It was suggested that further improvements to the baseball facility such as a batting cage, and better lights would attract more children and young people to the sport and provide for development activities in line with Baseball NSW. The state of the nets was well recognised as being an issue, with a need to install a new and higher net for safety reasons.

Baseball players also identified the need for space for teams to warm up prior to games and questioned how this could be accommodated given the other activities and infrastructure planned. ...better lights and a batting cage where ...we can run development clinics in alignment with Baseball NSW. This would attract local kids and kids from other suburbs around the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

With multiple games during a day, baseballers need an area away from the field to warm-up. Without this space, the two teams of baseballers will have a much smaller area which will bring the other users and cars into much closer proximity.



#### Mountain bike facility

It was well recognised that Cringila Hills will not provide the same type of experience as trails on the Illawarra escarpment, but that it would be a compliment to those that cater for more experienced riders. There was support for the mountain bike facility incorporating different graded trails to cater for varying levels of skill.

It was hoped that the development of a facility at Cringila may take pressure off developing such a large footprint of trails on the escarpment and that trails would be more ecologically sustainable in this location.

Some felt that the facility planned at Cringila Hills was too small scale and want to see the trails developed on the Illawarra escarpment to make Wollongong a

mountain biking destination.

It was commented that the development of a mountain bike facility would grow visitor numbers to Wollongong through destination marketing, being a new attractor and a site able to host major events. It would also provide economic benefits for new businesses to establish to service visitors and increase foot traffic for existing business.

Associated support for mountain bike riding such as bike hire, bike storage, bike wash down and a bike repair station were also seen as important. It was also suggested that local schools be encouraged to use the facilities, mentoring programs by experience riders undertaken, local biking clubs and businesses get involved by holding events and skill building and workshops. First aid and defibrillator access were also raised as important to riders and other park users. As a keen biker I will be a regular visitor to ride the trails and the pump track, though it will be more for the social and community aspects of the facility, the park probably won't have the scope to tick all my boxes as an advanced rider, but it's a great stepping stone for younger or new riders to the sport to gain confidence and be involved in such an inclusive and enjoyable sport.

#### Other activities

Other activities and/or facilities that were suggested were the provision for a community garden, a book box, legal motor bike riding trails, a skate park, a small soccer field and off-leash dog park. The establishment of a container café and/or mobile coffee van was raised as adding to people's enjoyment of the area.

#### Environmental protection and restoration

Bike trails and walking trails need to be designed and built to prevent erosion and protect the native vegetation communities. There was concern over potential illegal bike trail construction and a call for Council to be proactive in preventing this.

More detailed planning is needed for the protection of native vegetation, specifically Endangered Ecological Communities with a call for a Vegetation Management Plan to be progressed as a priority. It was also seen that more detailed planning of the revegetation of the site is needed and it should be a priority action as well as the further development of plans for recreational infrastructure. The incorporation of an arboretum of native trees was raised as an added attraction for park users that would create habitat for birds and attract bird watchers.



It was noted that bush regeneration work has occurred across this site but has not been sustained over the longer term. It was felt that with adequate long-term funding the area could be restored and allowed to fulfil its potential as an important environmental asset. It was also raised that the value and protection of the Acacia Scrub for its habitat values has not been recognised with trails located in these areas. The area of zig zag trails (Trail 9) through what Dirt Art describes as "pristine" bushland is seen as particularly vulnerable to degradation, reducing any chance of ecological recovery of the Scrub.

Our young people need biking facilities. However, they and the generations that will follow them, have a greater need—the need for a city well-endowed with pockets and corridors, large and small, of healthy, diverse forest and other vegetation communities.

Watercourses across the site are not seen as adequately

recognised in the draft Master Plan. This should also be addressed in the next stage of detailed planning with measures identified to protect each watercourse from the impacts of usage of the area.

Some commented that any mountain biking activities were incompatible with protecting its natural values and called for a new Master Plan to be developed that focused on recreational users whose footprint is light enough not to significantly compromise those values.