



What you said about the concept of a Mogo Adventure Trails Hub

Moruya Golf Club - 29th May 2019, 5.30 – 8.30pm

Your thoughts on the trail hub concept

- The concept of the trail hub at Mogo has merit.
- It has the potential to offer local riders and visitors' access to good trails all year round compared to other regional trail destinations.
- The trails at Deep Creek Dam offer good opportunities because of their location and views from the trail network.
- Mogo State Forest has different geology and therefore the trail experience is very different. It is a separate hub and not linked to Deep Creek.
- If done well it could be a model for Eurobodalla –linking to other areas (*Batehaven, Surf beach, Tomakin*) also be a midway point between other mountain bike destinations (Tathra, Nowra, Cooma). Other longer trails eg to Nelligan could also start/finish here.
- In order to be successful, the hub will need to have:
 - Facilities that service MTB riders and non-riders such as good access, parking, water refill stations, signage at the trail head and at key entrance and exit points at Mogo and adjacent to suburban areas that support the ride-in and ride-out concept.
 - Other facilities such as food, toilets, parking, coffee, bike hire, shuttle option, bike wash facilities.
 - A good single use trail network that provides progression for beginners to intermediate to experienced riders.
 - Trails that provide a mix of gradients and switchbacks, construction, variety of terrain and a variety of technical features (fun tracks, jumps, and downhill).
 - Multi use trails - trails for everyone so there is something to do for others who do not ride (which may mean creating trails just for walkers).
 - Entertainment for non-riders in the hub or close by.
 - Signage to allow people to learn and understand about the country and Elders.
 - Wayfinding signage from accommodation hubs eg Batemans Bay to Mogo.
 - Bike racks and storage in Mogo and at Botanic Gardens.
 - Parking for horse floats will also be required if horses are permitted on the trails.

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Mogo Adventure Trails Hub

Some challenges that you raised

Forestry Operations

- The appearance of logged areas detracts from the visual experience and therefore it is best to maximize use of areas not used for logging.
- You can't log everywhere, so diverse areas that are not worth logging could be designated as "recreational" for trail users'.
- Is it possible to utilise non forestry logging areas as preference – take a trail positive approach with Forestry?
- A challenge will be to manage the trail network within the logging program.

Multi Use Trails

- Will multi use trails be included in the hub? If this is the case then accommodating multiple user groups on the trails will require consideration – Mountain bike riders, bushwalkers, trail runners, horse riders and trail bike users are all users of the area. Strategies, codes, dedicated trails to link tracks for other users are all ways to overcome conflict and safety potential issues.
- A lower dam loop would be good for non-riders - nice walk around the dam.
- There is a need to manage local resident conflicts around the Dam Track. A lot of nearby residents use the tracks for dog walking etc.
- From a bushwalker's perspective:
 - the area around Deep Creek Dam is heavily logged forest and poor bushwalking country. The best area is around Deep Creek Dam, but it needs prettier trails
 - Bushwalkers don't like to share trails with mountain bike riders
 - Generally, bushwalkers prefer national park trails to state forest trails.

Parking and Congestion

- Parking and congestion are an issue at Mogo particularly in peak holiday periods – it would be best to plan for multiple track heads to disperse use.
- Highway safety is an ongoing concern and any development will have to be mindful of its impact.

Connecting Trails to key areas

- Connecting trails with accommodation hubs and other suburban trails is important so users are not forced to drive to the trails. This is particularly important for school students who use the trail network as part of their education program.
- The opportunity to link the Botanic Gardens into the hub would be a good idea. People can enjoy the café and gardens if they are not riding.
- Note that there is limited accommodation in Mogo – so riders will be coming from other areas - therefore connectivity is vital (seaside to Mogo).

Trail Network

- A good single use trail network that provides progression for beginners to intermediate to experienced riders.

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- Trails that provide a mix of gradients and switchbacks, construction, variety of terrain and a variety of technical features (fun tracks, jumps, and downhill).
- The existing trail network could be improved and made smarter with some trails upgraded and others not.

Trail Maintenance

- There are ongoing issues with trail maintenance issues within Deep Creek Dam area and Mogo State Forest.
- A lot of trust needs to be established between Forestry Corporation and local riders for an amnesty to work.
- Any trail development will need a strong and long commitment from the land manager.
- Suggest that specific consultation needs to occur with the 'Trail Fairies'.
- A sustainable maintenance system will need to be developed as there are very few dedicated community members who maintain the trails. There are lots of users but very few maintain the trails. Will Council pay for maintenance? Will the work be done by a contractor?

Different markets – family and E bikes

- The plan should consider opportunities for the family market. Facilities such as a Junior mountain bike park, Skills park, Pump track, more accessible green trails with clear signage to indicate trail level are suggestions.
- Electronic mountain bike use is increasing. This will make it much easier for people to access mountain bike trails with ease – use is increasing nationally and makes it more and it is levelling out the market.

Seasonality

- The hub would be available 365 days (weather permitting) unlike other trail hubs in the region
- We more visitors in the peak holiday period at Mogo will stretch parking that its already at capacity - they will need to be dispersed.

Other comments

- I'll believe it when I see it. I am in favor of the development, however there are significant roadblocks with the land manager.
- Not all riders want a lot of visitors on their track network.
- Flora and Fauna - Give them a home in the bush.