



Focus on Swan Coastal District

Number 6

Collaboration blazes trail

Gnangara and Pinjar off-road vehicle areas

Partnership pays off

A unique collaboration between DEC and the Departments of Sport and Recreation, Water, Local Government and trail bike associations has resulted in a great outcome for all.



Gnangara impresses minister

An August tour of the work in progress at the Gnangara off Road Area by Terry Waldron, Minister for Sport and Recreation, resulted in praise for the project. Tony Simpson, MLA Darling Range, Paul Miles, MLA Wanneroo, and Steve Pretzel, Recreational Trail Bike Riders Association WA, also joined Kathleen Lowry, Parks and Visitor Services, Manager Recreation, Interpretation and Community Involvement Branch and Mike Meinema Swan Coastal District Manager on the inspection.

During the tour of the areas under development, Kathleen and Mike emphasised the issues and opportunities these sites created, not only to enhance safety but to provide appropriate areas for trail bike enthusiasts to engage in their favourite pursuit..

Kathleen said the meeting resulted in an appreciation of the benefits of cross-department initiatives such as the family trail in Pinjar.



above l to r Terry Waldron, Minister, Department Sport and Recreation; Steve Pretzel, Recreational Trail Bike Association WA; Tony Simpson, MLA Member for Darling Range; Paul Miles, MLA Member for Wanneroo, Mike Meinema, DEC.





Radical process

“The project represents an innovative approach to a complex issue for land managers, recreational users and the general community,” she said.

Mike added that this working arrangement was a pilot project which would serve as a model for other regions. He praised the creativity of DEC landscape architect, and the DEC construction teams.

Healthy and happy people is a key aim of Department of Sport and Recreation. Activity has been associated with reduced obesity, better mood and even better educational outcomes. Adrenalin and endorphins are released as the riders traverse the tracks – a natural high.

An added benefit is that the younger children have good stories for ‘news’ on Monday.



Getting it right

Land managers, regulators, environmental groups, trail bike riders and industry, other trail users and the general community are all stakeholders. How to ensure comprehensive consultation? One-on-one meetings, group presentations, email, written submissions, on site interview and surveys ensured that everyone had a chance to participate. Online surveys produced 1400 responses. Over one hundred submissions were received during the public feedback process.

Teams dovetail

Mike applauded the relationship between DEC and community members. “Community involvement has been a key element of this project. DEC has worked with the various trail bike associations to build seven kilometres of purpose-built, one-way trails,” he said.

Active outdoors

A fun, young rider’s course is in place with plans to create a more family friendly atmosphere with the provision of picnic facilities.



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