BOYAGIN ROCK

[BOOGIN ROCK]

DREAMTIME TRAIL

MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

MAY 2014

TREDWELL

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Foreword

The Working Committee for the Boyagin Rock "Dreamtime Walk Trail" project has much pleasure in tabling this Master (Concept) Plan. In developing this Master Plan much time and effort has gone into identifying key stakeholders and opportunities available to the community as a whole if this project were to go ahead. The committee has faced many challenges and has learned much along the way. It became obvious that there are processes in place which needed to be identified and followed if this project is to succeed. These processes can be quite complex and take some time. We sincerely thank everyone involved to date for their positive input and patience shown as we work our way through these processes.

Boyagin Rock is known to the Noongar Peoples as "Boogin". With the many and diverse stakeholders involved in this project it is seen as important, for reasons of clarity, that we make reference to the site by its official name of Boyagin Rock. The committee will however respect the Noongar peoples, by referring to the rock as Boogin during verbal discussions.

We would like to acknowledge the valuable input from many sources. Tredwell Management acted as consultants in the compilation process for the plan. Other sources of input include, but are not limited to, S.W.A.L.S.C, Wheatbelt NRM, Department for Park and Wildlife (DPaW), Pingelly Aboriginal Progress Association (PAPA), Seabrook Aboriginal Corporation, Department for Aboriginal Affairs, Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB) and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Special mention needs to go to Lotterywest who kindly assisted with funding for the development of the Master Plan.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge the effort of the Shire of Pingelly Community Development Officer Vince Holt who is the Project Coordinator.

The Working Committee for this project comprises Ray Marshall (Chairman), John Bostock, Greg Durell (DPaW), Malcolm Jetta and Merv Abraham with Vince Holt as Project Coordinator.

The Committee invites you to read this proposal and encourage and look forward to your opinions during the ongoing consultation process.

R. J. Marshall.

Ray Marshall

Chairman

Pingelly Tourism Group.

lotterywest supported

1. Project Background

Boyagin Rock is a nature reserve managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW), situated within the Shire of Pingelly, approximately 25 kms to the west of Pingelly township. The reserve provides a refuge for a variety of wildlife including numbats, goannas, echidnas and Tammar wallabies and the “Rock” has significant cultural and spiritual meaning to the local Noongar Peoples.

The Pingelly Tourism Group has been operating for around 18 months with the prime focus of reigniting a potential tourist initiative within the Shire of Pingelly.

The Group resolved to seek funding for the development of a Trails Master Plan for an Aboriginal "Dream Time" walk trail around the perimeter of Boyagin Rock, investigating the feasibility of such a proposal whilst continually gauging the in-principle support for the project from the local Noongar Peoples.

The concept for a loop trail that circumnavigates the Rock has been around for some considerable time and has previously been discussed and debated at length by representatives of the Shire of Pingelly, the local Noongar Peoples, the land manager (DPAW), local land owners and other key stakeholders.

The current project has gained support from the local Noongar population (although not all) with the intention of establishing a trail that depicts aspects of Aboriginal ‘Dreamtime’, including the six distinct seasons; Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba & Kambarang.

The Pingelly Tourism Group believe that this trail has the potential to attract tourists (local, interstate and overseas) through a meaningful and educational walking experience in pristine natural bushland and create awareness of Australian Aboriginal culture.

The Trails Master Plan has been developed in consultation with the Pingelly Tourism Group, which includes all the key stakeholders; The Noongar community, the wider community, DPAW and the Shire of Pingelly.

2. Project Methodology

The project has been approached as follows:

Stage 1:

- Desktop research of relevant background information
- Initial meeting with project team and key stakeholders
- Preliminary on-ground assessment

Stage 2:

- Workshop & continuing engagement with key stakeholders
- Summary of initial research and consultation findings

Stage 3:

- Development of the Draft Trail Master Plan
  - Trail theme development – Aboriginal Dream Time
  - Trail route mapping
  - Cost estimates
  - Implementation plan
  - Management plan
  - Funding opportunities
- Presentation of the Draft Master Plan for review and feedback

Stage 4:

- Finalisation of the Trail Master Plan
- Submission to Council for endorsement

3. Trail Master Planning

The purpose of a Trail Master Plan is to provide a framework for future development of trail. It is strategic in nature plan that determines the location, scale and types of developments that could occur at a particular area. The master planning process involves reviewing the existing physical conditions, analysing site issues and developing an agreed strategic plan for the trail. Often there is a need to consult with a diversity of stakeholders to assist in determining a series of agreed design outcomes. Specifically it:

- *Assists in addressing issues and identifying site constraints*
- *Outlines community and user group needs*
- *Documents features*
- *Assesses the preliminary feasibility of a proposal*
- *Identifies the probable cost and staging plan*
- *Determines funding opportunities*

The trail master planning process will assist in:

- *Managing trails professionally, effectively and equitably*
- *Providing safe trail designs that adhere to Australian Standards*
- *Catering for diverse trail user groups*
- *Developing sustainable use of trails*
- *Providing a diverse range of trail opportunities for the community*
- *Enhancing relationships with key stakeholders*

4. Trail & Recreational Benefits

Recreation and sport provides a wide range of benefits to individuals and communities that have been identified through numerous university and government research reports and studies. Many of these benefits are equally applicable to trails. These factors can be important contributors to 'quality of life' with individuals benefiting from:

- Improved physical and mental health;
- Positive self-esteem and confidence;
- Increased social interaction and support;
- Sense of achievement;
- Skill development;
- Challenge and competition; and
- Achievement and leadership.

At a broader level the community benefits socially, economically, environmentally (and educationally):

Socially through:

- Improved personal and societal health and wellbeing;
- Increased community pride;
- Social inclusiveness; and
- Safer communities through reduced anti-social and criminal behavior.

Economically through:

- Employment in the industry and associated industries;
- Economic benefits of sport and recreation tourism such as special events; and
- Reduction in health care costs.

Environmentally through:

- Increased understanding of the environment particularly through trail based activities; and
- Protection of environmentally significant flora and fauna within recreation areas (open spaces, coast, rivers, open spaces, natural reserves etc.).

The following two extracts from the WA Trails Strategy further supports the social, economic and environmental benefits of trail provision.

The Benefits of Trails

Trail users identify numerous benefits from the use of trails, including the sense of well being, unwinding and relaxing, closeness to nature and ability to both spend time with family and friends and time on their own. (Market Equity Trails Research, 2004)

- Trails are a key enabler of community access to sport, recreation, adventure and challenge. Physical activity has been associated with many benefits.
- 63 per cent of Western Australians walk for recreation, nine per cent cycle for recreation.[4]
- Regular physical activity is widely recognised as protective against the overall burden of disease.[5]
- There is clear evidence of the benefits of physical activity in preventing and treating obesity and depression.[6,7]
- Research confirms the mental health benefits of physical activity in a "natural" environment.[8]

Trails provide economic benefits through trail construction and user spending. These benefits are often enjoyed by regional areas.

- Trail construction invested $9 million into the community between 1988-2007.
- Individual users on major trails spend an average of $72 (1 day) to $737 (4 days).[9]
- Total revenue generated by the Bibbulmun Track (an example of a major WA trail) exceeded $21 million per annum.[9]

Trails also provide an avenue for community development and an opportunity to leverage the enthusiasm of volunteers. Volunteerism is a significant input into the Australian economy.

Value creation opportunities/avenues			
Individual	Local communities	State	Australia
Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for: Active recreation. Physical and mental health benefits (inc. prevention). Social interaction. Environmental interaction. 'Escapism' and isolation. Opportunity for generational experiences. Biodiversity and wilderness appreciation and conservation. Heritage and indigenous cultural preservation and appreciation. Adventure and challenge. Transport. Excitement from planning for trails use. A sense of achievement or fulfilment when remembering the whole experience.	Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for: Community health and vibrancy. Community infrastructure and assets. Employment and revenue (particularly for small business). Alternative community resources for active recreation and passive environmental interaction (e.g. photography). Encouraging low-water recreation uses. Community safety and crime reduction. Environmental ownership by the local community. Community development. Physical connection between communities. Offsetting climate change impacts.	Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for: Attractiveness and vibrancy of the state. Economic growth (particularly in regional areas). Active recreation and lifestyles. Community safety and crime reduction. Community use and ownership of the environment. Acknowledgment and appreciation of indigenous culture and heritage.	Developing, promoting or creating opportunities for: National identity. Thought-leadership. Tourism appeal.

5. Trail Sustainability & Accessibility

Prior to the consideration of a new trails initiative it is important to ensure that the proposal is both sustainable and accessible. This will assist in attracting a desired user group, minimise the likelihood of environmental damage and maximise opportunities for funding:

Sustainable Trails

It is fundamentally important that recreational trails are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Recreational activities that diminish natural values (biodiversity and landscape amenity) are inappropriate and will not be acceptable to the community or other stakeholders. It is vital, therefore, that high quality recreational experiences are developed in landscapes that are capable of supporting the activities.

The conservation and enhancement of natural areas, protection of biodiversity and raising environmental awareness should underpin the development of an environmentally sustainable trail network. This can be achieved through appropriate trail design, location selection and ongoing management.

Trails must also be economically and socially sustainable. There is a growing body of evidence which identifies the economic benefits that well developed trails can bring to a local community and/or a region through increased visitation, including tourism. However, the development of recreational trails must also take into account the sensitivities and desires of local communities. While well designed and managed recreational trails can enhance the well-being of local communities by improving access and increasing physical activity, recreational trails should not be developed at the expense and safety of local residents and adjoining property owners.

Accessible Trails

Intertwined with the objective of sustainability is the need for trails to be accessible. One of the main roles of trails is to link communities to a variety of high quality experiences and interesting natural and rural landscapes. In addition, trails can improve mobility and connectivity within and between urban areas. Trails which are readily accessible and provide links between communities and landscapes can enhance lifestyles through the promotion of physical activity, reducing the reliance on motorised vehicles and improving health and fitness.

Accessibility is determined by:

- proximity to the metropolitan area, population centres or tourist attractions;
- proximity to transportation facilities such as railway lines or road network providing access to the site;
- existing or proposed linkages to other trails and the wider trails network;
- proximity to natural attractions such as scenic views, native vegetation, waterfalls, lakes, coastline, etc;
- presence of existing facilities that may support or facilitate use of the trail such as car parks, toilets, picnic facilities, camping sites, tourist information centres, cafes, tour operators, etc;
- the nature of the terrain and landform; and
- access for emergency vehicles.

Proposals for new trails, or upgrades to existing trails, should clearly demonstrate that they meet at least half of the accessibility determinants expressed above. This will assist in the promotion of the trail to prospective user groups and ensure that any associated economic and social benefits are shared amongst nearby communities.

6. Trail Design & Construction

Section 7.0 of the Sustainable Recreation Trails Guidelines (Trails SA; 2008) provides guidance on the design and construction of sustainable trails. Key guidance includes the following:

Design

- Generally, it is preferable to design a trail system with loops that offer a number of options and a variety of experiences, while preventing the need to back track;
- The planning and design phase should clearly determine whether the trail is intended for single or shared-use; shared-use will encourage greater usage, however they need to be carefully designed to avoid conflict between users;
- Identification of 'control points' (places of interest) will dictate where the trail should commence and finish, the location of parking areas, structures, road and water crossings etc;
- The most sustainable trails tend to have a low overall grade (less than 10% change in elevation) thereby minimising the potential for water erosion. They also tend to follow existing contour lines;
- Design should respond to 'trail flow'; mountain bike riders tend to travel faster than walkers and horse rider and require a certain tempo/rhythm. Types of flow might be described as 'open and flowing', 'tight and technical', or a combination of both;
- Once a preferred route alignment is identified consideration will need to be given to items such as trail dimensions (corridor/path width & height clearance), construction timelines, logistics of the build and responsibilities for associated infrastructure (signage, parking, stiles, crossings etc); and
- Conservation values of the area need to be considered in terms of protecting habitat and areas of cultural significance through control and management of access.

Construction

- There may be a need to clear obstacles from the chosen route. Tree and vegetation removal may require prior approval from relevant planning authorities (such as local Council) of from the Native Vegetation Council;
- Trails are usually built on sloping ground therefore some excavation will likely be required. When tree roots or impenetrable rock make it difficult to establish a full bench a retaining wall can be built to support the downslope side;
- Natural surfaces will be suitable in many circumstances, whilst an artificial trail surface (such as bitumen, crushed rock, sand) may be required if anticipated user numbers are high. Types of surface are also dependent on the type of user;
- Running water will erode the trail so diverting surface water off the trail is a high priority, achieved through the use of cross slopes, grade or drain dips and waterbars;
- Water crossings are sites that may have the greatest impact on water quality and also the greatest potential to damage the trail. ; and
- Where possible, low lying and boggy terrain should be avoided, otherwise a raised boardwalk or reinforced tread may need to be considered.

7. Trail Planning Principles

The following recreation and trail planning principles have been tailored to guide this trail planning process. The Boyagin Rock Dreamtime Trail project will:

- Provide a trail that is readily accessible and provides links between communities and landscapes;
- Ensure local indigenous people's involvement in the planning, design and interpretation of the trail;
- Provide a diverse trail experience relevant to the needs and demands of the community;
- Deliver a safe trail experience through adherence to relevant legislative and activity safety requirements;
- Maximise use of existing access trails/tracks where they are appropriately located and have the capacity to sustain additional use;
- Encourage community involvement in the planning and design of the trail; and
- Ensure socially, economically and environmentally sustainable trail development and management.

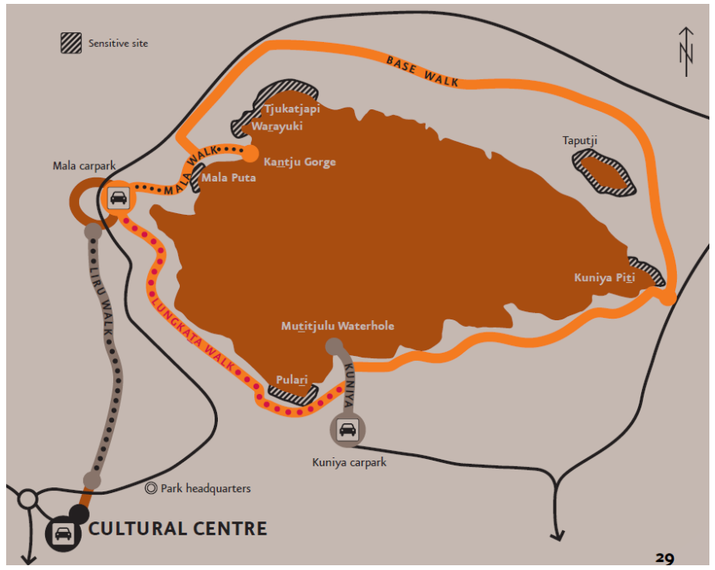
8. Case Studies

There are numerous excellent examples around Australia of locations that have established trail-based experiences revolving around Aboriginal cultural heritage. The two examples included here are provided for information purposes only; not all the facilities and activities will be appropriate for inclusion at Boyagin Rock. Nor is it suggested that the Aboriginal significance of these locations is equivalent or similar to that of Boyagin Rock.

Uluru

Uluru is a large sandstone rock formation in the southern part of the Northern Territory in central Australia. Uluru is one of the two major features of the Uluṟu-Kata Tjuṯa National Park. Uluru is sacred to the traditional land owners, the Aboriginal people of the area (known as the Yankunytjatjara and Pitjantjatjara people or Anangu). The area around the formation is home to a number of springs, waterholes, rock caves, and ancient paintings.

Aboriginal culture states that Uluru was formed by ancestral beings during Dreamtime. The many caves and fissures found at Uluru are thought to be evidence of this, and some of the forms around the rock are said to represent ancestral spirits. Rituals are still often held today in the caves around the base.



In total there are 6 trails provided. These trails are detailed below

Mala Walk
Grade 1 - All access(to Kantju Gorge) 2 km return, 1.5 hr

Kuniya Walk
Grade 1 - All access (to Mutitjulu Waterhole) 1 km return, 30-45 min

Lungkata Walk
Grade 2 – Easy. 4 km return, 1.5 hr

Liru Walk
Grade 2 – Easy. 4 km return, 1.5 hr

Dune Walk
Grade 2 - Easy (sandy) 600 m return, 30-45 min

Uluru Base Walk
Grade 3 – Moderate 0.6 km full circuit, 3.5 hr

The climb is not prohibited but tourists are asked to respect the law and culture of the traditional owners by not climbing Uluru. The main reasons used to discourage people from making the climb are cultural significance, environmental issues & safety reasons.

Methods of discouragement of climbing the Rock include the advertisement of messages on signage at the bottom of the climb, websites, and brochures/other information at the local cultural centre. There is also a policy document that details the sensitivities of the site and appropriate behaviours.

Bald Rock

Located in Bald Rock National Park, 33 kilometres north of Tenterfield, Bald Rock is Australia's largest exposed granite surface. Bald Rock is approximately 200 m above the surrounding bushland, is 750m long, 500m wide and rises to 1,277m above sea level.

Eric Walker, an elder from the Bundjalung Nation described Bald Rock as an important meeting place for the three Aboriginal nations in the area: the Jukambal, Bundgalung and Kamilleroi. Bald Rock was a neutral place as it formed a boundary marker between nations. This enabled the nations to meet without having to pass through each other's territory.

There are four walking trails:

1. **Bungoona Walk**: 4km walk climbing to the 1277m high summit across Bald Rock saddle with interpretation describing its geological, botanical and natural features
2. **Bald Rock Summit Walk**: 3.2km each way with a universal access track leading up to the base of the

Rock. From the summit are stunning panoramic views

3. **Border Walk**: 12km loop traversing through swamp and creeks and attractive woodlands with views back towards the fine profile of Bald Rock
4. **Little Bald Rock Walk**: 14km through forests of mountain gum and granite outcrops.

9. Boyagin Rock

Boyagin Nature Reserve is located approximately 2 hours drive from Perth, between the regional townships of Pingelly and Brookton.

The Reserve is dominated by an imposing granite outcrop known as Boyagin Rock. The surrounding landscape is spectacular, composed of remnant bushland, heathland, sheoak thickets, open woodlands with a wide variety of species such as wandoo, eucalyptus, York gums and marri.

There are two Registered Aboriginal Sites identified for the area:

- Boyagin Rock Registered Site (3225)
- Jelcobine Complex Registered Site (3459)

It is important to note that the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 protects all Aboriginal sites in Western Australia, whether or not they are registered.

There are various stories about why Boyagin Rock is significant to the Noongar Peoples, but what is consistent is that it is always referred to as being either significant or sacred to the Noongar Peoples. Below are a few different reasons as to why the rock is said to have significance:

- The Rock is a culturally significant site due to its connection with the *Wagyl* (Rainbow Serpent).
- It is said that during *Nyitting* (dreaming) that the *Wagyl* came up out of the earth at Boyagin before beginning its journey in which it created many valleys hills and waterways.
- Noongar Peoples believe that this is the last resting or sleeping place of the Waugal
- Boyagin Rock is said to be alive with the spirit of the *Wagyl*, and Noongar Peoples tread lightly and respectfully here as it is known as a sacred place.
- Noongars believe if you walk to the top of the granite outcrop without stopping you will have a long life.
- Noongar Peoples have cultural and spiritual links with the gungurru plant; Noongar ancestral knowledge indicates that this plant originated from the Rock.
- Boyagin is significant due to the diversity of eucalypts, wandoo and powderbark wandoo.

Boyagin Rock is a popular gathering place for the local Noongar Peoples, but generally only by day. After dark the Noongar Peoples do not like to stay there as it is a very spiritual place. Some fear the presence of the *wirdachi* (Also known as the *bulyit* or *mummar*). The *wirdachi* is said to be small, mischievous, elusive and hairy creatures that come out of darkness. It is said to have a terrible smell and that is can emit a piercing whistle that can put Noongar Peoples into a temporary trance where they can be lead astray.

10. Consultation Process

There is a long history of consultations/discussion about the prospects of enhancing the trail experience at Boyagin Rock. In the years gone by this process was very much ad-hoc and varying opinions were captured and it was evident that trying to get a consensus agreement in principle was much too difficult for a community as small as Pingelly.

Over the past 3 years the newly invigorated Pingelly Tourism Group decided to once again visit the idea of a Boyagin Rock redevelopment as it was seen as being strategically important to the region and to the Noongar Peoples. Discussions recommenced between the Pingelly Aboriginal Progress Association and the Brookton Seabrook Aboriginal Corporation. These discussions proved much more positive to the extent where a letter of support was issued to the Pingelly group by the Brookton group.

During the development of this Trail Master Concept Plan community consultation was undertaken to engage with key stakeholders and capture important community values attributed to the site. The process of developing the Master Plan was also informed through continuous liaison with Council staff, the Pingelly Tourism Group, DPAW and representatives from the local Noongar Peoples.

Direct consultation has subsequently been undertaken, in detail, with the following key stakeholders:

- SW Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
- Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB)
- Department for Parks and Wildlife (DPaW)
- Department for Aboriginal Affairs (DAA)
- Wheatbelt NRM
- Department for Sport and Recreation
- Pingelly Aboriginal Progress Association and
- Brookton Seabrook Aboriginal Corporation.

The Project Coordinator has also had several conversations by telephone and emails with various Noongar families including Geri Hayden and Neville Collard. The Shire of Pingelly is updated with progress reports on a regular basis by the Community Development Officer.

These consultations allowed the Working Committee of the Pingelly Tourism Group to identify many aspects which need to be addressed moving forward. In particular, DPaW have stated that no work can be done at Boyagin unless it is supported by the Noongar Peoples through GKB.

The Shire of Pingelly have posted blogs during this process to keep all interested stakeholders informed of the project developments. The blog remains accessible at this location:

http://boyaginrock2013.blogspot.com.au/

A workshop was undertaken involving key stakeholders early on in the project to capture the thoughts and ideas of the attendees to guide the project moving forward, details of which are included in Appendix 1.

Key issues raised at this meeting were:

- Trail to avoid the Rock itself and culturally sensitive locations around the base of the Rock
- Strategies to passively dissuade visitors from climbing to the top of the rock should be investigated
- Intention is to disseminate knowledge of the Rock including language and oral tradition of the Noongar
- Vitally important that interpretation material is 100% accurate
- Ultimate details of the project will be subject to continual consultation
- Opportunities to be sought to include local community members in the planning, construction and continuing management of the trail
- Important cultural and environmentally sensitive areas must be protected.

Following on from the initial workshop, and preliminary investigations on the ground, a set of initial concept trail alignment proposals were developed, included in Appendix

2. These plans were circulated to key stakeholders for comment and posted on the blog. One key outcome from responses to these initial proposals was that, in conjunction with the cultural sensitivities of the area, consideration must also be given to environmental management issues, specifically fox baiting and risk management, and the need to manage access to the wider Boyagin Nature Reserve area. These items were discussed at a Working Group progress meeting (a copy of the meeting notes is included at Appendix 3).

On April 14, 2014 the Working Committee met with the Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB) Working Committee to provide them with an update on the trail master plan process, seeking in-principle support for the project. In response to the presentation and discussions at this meeting the GKB Working Committee provided positive feedback, providing direction for the on-going consultation process and approval in principle to continue to explore options for developing an enhanced trail experience in the vicinity of the Rock. GKB require that the Working Committee continue to consult closely with the Noongar families that have close connections to Boyagin Rock. A full copy of the letter is included in Appendix 4.

The consultation process will not stop at the completion of this first stage (ie the issue of the Trail Master Concept Plan). Negotiations and discussions will continue with all key stakeholders until such time as a mutually acceptable proposal is agreed to.

Once the Master Plan becomes available for public comment the Working Group will be seeking feedback through electronic/written feedback and feedback coming from public meetings and private meetings with various families and groups/organisations. The overall objective for this stage is to gain further positive support for the proposal and to work toward the formation of a development proposal that is acceptable to all interested parties.

Most importantly, as the process continues, much consultation will take place to work toward a development plan for interpretation themes for the project. Key participants at this stage of the project will be the Noongar families and DPaW.

11. Issues & Opportunities

Cultural Issues

- Respect the wishes of the Noongar Peoples
- Two Registered Aboriginal Site in the area
- Determination of acceptability of walking to the top of the Rock.
- Determination of acceptability of walking around the Rock (and establish acceptable proximity to base of rock, if acceptable at all).
- Need for enhanced communication of the site values and appropriate visitor behaviours.

Environmental Issues

- Potential issues with Threatened Ecological Communities & Declared Rare Flora (plus other vegetation of high conservation value)
- Note: DPAW would need to undertake relevant surveys at appropriate times of year to establish any conflict with the eventual trail alignment
- Fox baiting program

Land ownership

- Land ownership to be clearly established prior to the commencement of any works; it is understood that the land in and around the Rock and existing trailhead is either vested in DPAW or under private ownership.

General

- Economic, education and community development opportunities through trail provision across the region
- Poor condition of existing trailhead infrastructure
- Need for improved mapping and marketing
- Opportunity to enhance the trail experience at the Rock
- Potential to develop a Regional trail experience

12. Trail Hierarchy

Every trail is unique, however, trails can generally be categorised as a state/icon, regional or local trail. The common characteristic of all trails is their contribution to the lifestyle, health and social wellbeing of individuals and communities. It is envisaged that the Boyagin Rock Dreamtime Trail could be promoted as a 'Regional Trail', broadly in accordance with the key characteristics identified within the Department of Sport and Recreation Government of Western Australia's Future Direction of Trails Development in Western Australia, those characteristics being:

- Developed considering several elements, in particular conservation, recreation, heritage interpretation, tourism and occasionally transportation;
- Crosses more than one land boundary;
- Land manager is usually the 'proprietor' of the trail;
- Requires coordinated management and maintenance planning and resource allocation;
- Varied management models, often characterised by the presence of community support groups such as "Friends of" groups;
- Measurable tourism and/or economic benefits for the region; and
- Attracts interstate and intrastate visitors.

13. Trail Classification

In 2010 the Australian Walking Track Grading System was developed and this system has now been endorsed by Parks Forum (the peak body for park management organisations) as a voluntary industry standard. The aim of the Australian Walking Track Grading System is to encourage people who are not regular or confident bushwalkers to get out there and give it a go. It is specifically designed to reassure entry level walkers, particularly the disabled or people walking with children, that a particular track is suitable for their skill level.

Under the new system, walking trails are graded on a difficulty scale from grades one to five, as follows:

- Grade One is suitable for the disabled with assistance;
- Grade Two is suitable for families with young children;
- Grade Three is recommended for people with some bushwalking experience;

- Grade Four is recommended for experienced bushwalkers; and
- Grade Five is recommended for very experienced bushwalkers.

It is envisaged that the Dreamtime Trail would be assigned a Grade Three rating

14. Trail Theme & Interpretation

Trail theme and interpretation material should be developed I accordance with the *Guideline for Interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage, National Trust*.

Two topics have been suggested as appropriate for themes associated with the Rock:

Dreamtime ('dreaming')

The *Nyitting* or dreaming means 'cold', 'cold time', or 'ancestral times' to the Noongar Peoples. This time was known as a time of creation when the spirits came from the earth and sky to create the landforms and life that we see today. It is the stories of this time that produced a foundation for both social and moral order (known as Noongar lore*) within the Noongar culture. It is important to note that Noongar dreamtime stories can change from region to region but all speak of the connection between people, spirits (both good and bad), the landscape, the environment and all living things.

**Noongar lore is unwritten (as opposed to western law which is written) and refers to kaartdijin (knowledge), beliefs, rules or customs. It relates to marriage and trade, access, usage and custodianship of land. Traditionally, it has governed our use of fire, hunting and gathering, and our behaviour regarding family and community. Noongar lore works with nature to protect animals and our environment. Noongar people do not eat animals that have totemic significance with our names. This contributes to assuring biodiversity is maintained and food supplies are always in abundance.*

The Six Seasons

The 6 seasons of the Noongar Calender are based around the emergence of various food sources (plants and animals). This is unlike the traditional western calendar that is based on the prevailing weather conditions. This knowledge was passed down from generation to generation and was used to inform their hunter-gathering lifestyle which relies on specific seasonal knowledge.

1. ***Birak*** - First summer (season of the young) December – January
2. ***Bunuru*** - Second summer (season of the adolescence) February – March
3. ***Djeran*** - Ant season (season of the adulthood) April – May
4. ***Makuru*** - Cold and wet time of the year (fertility season) June – July
5. ***Djilba*** - Growing season (season of conception) August – September
6. ***Kambarang*** - Wildflower season (season of birth) October - November

In addition to the interpretation of Aboriginal heritage, other areas that might be considered as suitable topics for interpretation to enrich the trail experience include:

- Environmental information (eg existing flora/fauna, reintroduction/release programs)
- DPAW's management role at Boyagin Nature Reserve
- More recent non-indigenous history (eg European influences, farming practices)

The exact nature and content of the interpretation material will need to be established in close consultation with the Noongar community.

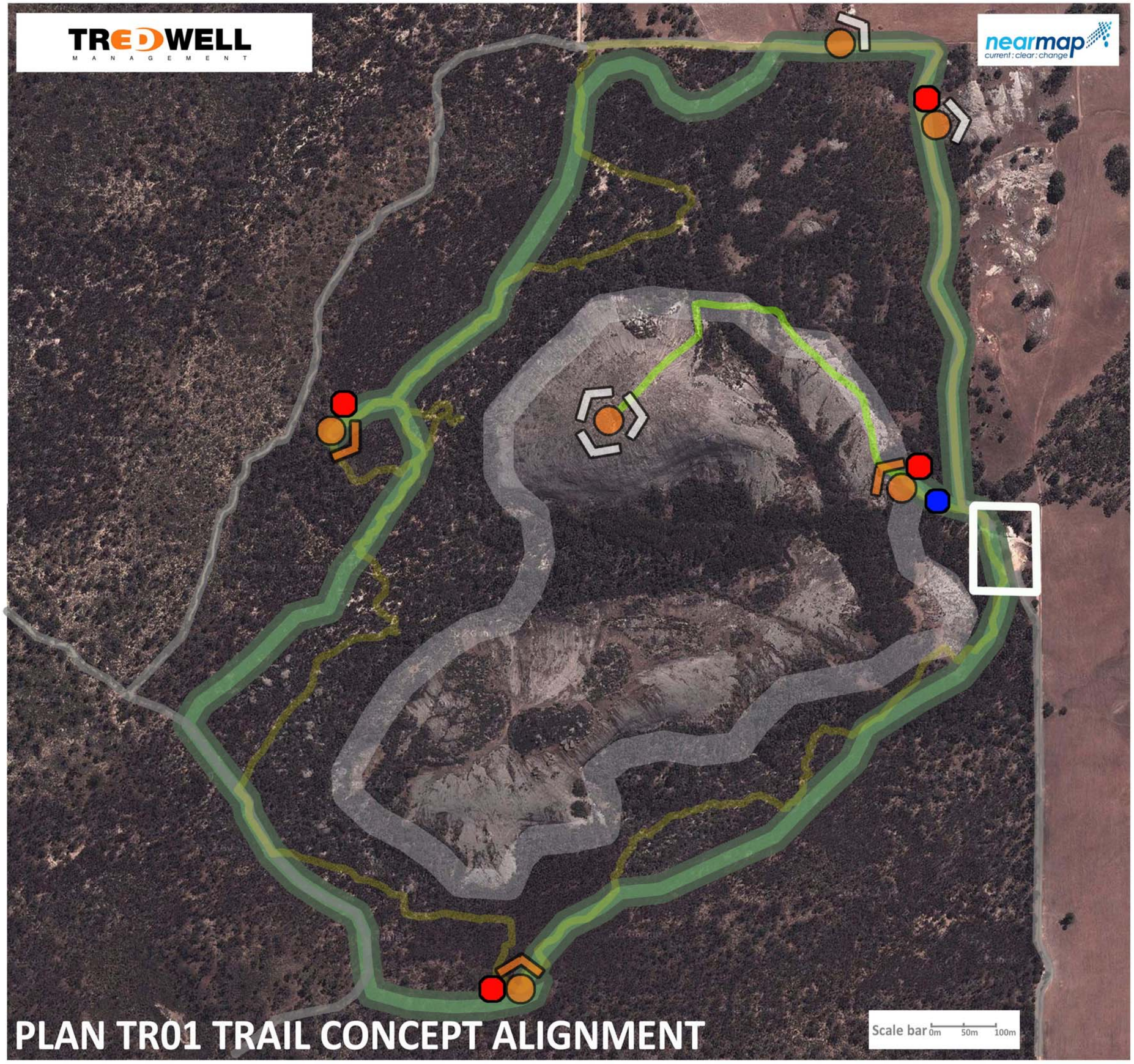
15. Conceptual Trail Alignment

The conceptual trail alignment is illustrated and detailed on the following plans:

- Plan TR01 Trail Concept Alignment
- Plan TR02 Trail Components

The plans identify:

- Existing management tracks;
- Existing trailhead location';
- Nominal location of the 'base' of the rock;
- Current 'informal' walk trail leading to the top of the Rock;
- Route walked during site visit in March 2014;
- Potential alignment of a loop trail;
- Significant vantage points with views towards and away from the Rock; and
- Existing and potential interpretation points.



PLAN TR01 TRAIL CONCEPT ALIGNMENT

- Existing management track
- Trailhead
- Current route to the top
- Existing interpretation point
- 'Base' of the Rock
- Route walked (Mar 2014)
- Potential Trail Alignment
- Significant vantage point (towards the Rock)
- Significant vantage point (over adjacent landscape)
- Potential interpretation points

BOYAGIN ROCK DREAMTIME TRAIL

TREDWELL MANAGEMENT

Existing management track

Trailhead

'Base' of the Rock

Potential Trail Alignment

Significant vantage points

1 Map Reference Point

Refer also to cost estimates table in the next section

PLAN TR02 TRAIL COMPONENTS

BOYAGIN ROCK DREAMTIME TRAIL

16. Trail Components & Cost Estimates

Distance from Trailhead	Map Reference Point	Trail Component / Feature	Estimated cost
Trailhead (0m)	1	Formalise car parking bays	$65,000
		Formalise car park circulation - signage	
		New picnic tables	
		New shade structures	
		New toilet block	
0m		Existing timber post and single rail fence (defines car park extent) - retain	
10m	2	Existing sign ('Boyagin Nature Reserve') - retain	
10m		Existing sign (Warning: '1080 Poison Risk') - retain	
10m		New sign (Waymarker: to base of Rock)	$200
		Head NW towards shade structure	
50m	3	Existing shade structure with interpretation boards (6no. A0) - Retain structure. - Replace interpretation boards (research, indigenous consultation, manufacture & install new boards onto existing structure) - Dreamtime Trail Map	$25,000
85m		Existing sign (Warning: 'Climbing Risk Area') - retain	
85m		Existing boardwalk - retain	
100m	4	New sign (Interpretation: 'Passive' discouragement of climbing rock)	$1,000
		Consider removal of 'formal' footpath leading up to rock summit (35m length)	
		Retrace steps on same section of trail back approximately 100m (to 10m waymarker)	
		Follow existing management track north (waymarkers provided every 250m)	
10m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
260m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
510m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
580m	5	New sign (Interpretation)	$1,000
		Significant vantage point	
760m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
990m	6	New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
		Leave existing management trail to avoid steepest section and form new trail that follows contours and provides more gentle ascent/descent around the Rock (waymarkers provided every 50m)	
		Light clearing/pruning of vegetation and brushing along trail alignment for next 950m	$2,850
1040m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1090m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1140m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200

Distance from Trailhead	Map Reference Point	Trail Component / Feature	Estimated cost
1190m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1240m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1290m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1340m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1390m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1440m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1490m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1540m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1590m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1640m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1690m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1740m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1790m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1840m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1890m	7	New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
		Head SW up to vantage point	
1940m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1940m	8	New sign (Warning: Climbing Risk Area/Risk of Falling/Uneven surface)	$200
		Trail leads onto rocky outcrop with uneven surfacing, steep falls	
1960m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1990m	9	New sign (Interpretation: views back over Rock)	$1,000
		Significant vantage point	
		Retrace steps on same section of trail back approximately 100m (to 1890m waymarker) and continue SE	
1940m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
1990m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2040m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2090m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2140m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2190m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2240m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2290m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2340m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2390m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2440m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200

Distance from Trailhead	Map Reference Point	Trail Component / Feature	Estimated cost
2490m	10	New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
		Rejoin existing management access track, heading SE (waymarkers provided every 250m)	
2740m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
2990m	11	New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
		Leave existing management trail heading SE (waymarkers provided every 50m)	
		Light clearing/pruning of vegetation and brushing along trail alignment for next 1210m	$3,600
3040m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3090m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3140m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3190m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3200m	12	New sign (Interpretation: view back over Rock)	$1,000
		Significant vantage point	
3250m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3300m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3350m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3400m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3450m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3500m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3550m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3600m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3650m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3700m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3750m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3800m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3850m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3900m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
3950m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
4000m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
4050m		New sign (Waymarker: Dreamtime Trail)	$200
4100m	1	Return to trailhead	
		Cost Estimate (excl. GST)	$112,850
		GST	$11,285
		Total Cost Estimate (incl. GST)	**$124,135**

17. Trail Marketing

Trails SA's Sustainable Recreational Trails Guidelines offers the following advice for promoting and marketing a trail:

To attract trail users from further afield (e.g. tourists):

- Develop a promotional brochure/guide/map;
- Distribute promotional material to all major visitor information centres in the region, clubs, groups and other relevant activity associations;
- Local media press releases and stories in outdoor magazines/newsletters;
- Ensure trail head locations are clearly identified on relevant maps;
- Organise an event to attract the attention of state-wide publications;
- Promote the trail as an integral part of the regional visitor experience, advertised in local accommodation outlets and those agencies promoting visitation to the area.

To encourage trail users from the local area:

- Deliver a copy of the promotional brochure to all households within a comfortable distance of the Bridle Trail;
- Ensure brochure is widely distributed to local relevant retail outlets;
- Prepare periodic press releases for local papers;
- Organise an annual event and publicise through local papers and radio;
- Form a 'Friends of' group and undertake maintenance activities and fun rides.

18. Alternative Options

- Out-and-back trail option – utilising only a section of the identified loop trail to take the visitor to one of the two significant viewpoints that provide unique and relatively short-distance views back towards the Rock
- Upgrade the existing trailhead and actively direct visitors to climb to the top of the Rock.
- Upgrade the existing trailhead and 'passively' discourage visitors from climbing to the top of the Rock (through signage/education).
- Upgrade the existing trailhead and leave visitors to decide whether or not to climb to the top of the Rock (current situation).
- Maintain status quo.

19. Funding Opportunities

An essential component of a successful trail is the sourcing of appropriate levels of funding for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the trail.

Utilising a staged approach to delivering the trail would assist in reducing levels of funding required at any one time. A project which can demonstrate a strong component of environmental rehabilitation is also likely to attract funding from a much wider range of agencies.

Applications for grants will likely initially focus on various State Government Departments, however, assistance may also be available from local Council, and local community and user groups.

This section identifies potential external funding sources available through state and federal government programs that could be utilised in the implementation of the trail. The status of these funding programs are continually changing and updated to respond to such issues as shifts in community participation rates and the continual evolvement of the industry more widely.

At the date of publication of the Trails Master Plan current programs include:

Lotterywest

These grants are available to not-for-profit organisations and local government authorities and support various types of trails such as walking, cycling, horse riding and paddling routes. Projects likely to attract funding include those that:

- are identified in relevant local/regional/State-wide trails master plans;
- involve the development of multi-use trails;
- consider the needs of trail users through consultation and planning;
- involve community in trail management, upkeep and promotion;
- gain agreement of relevant stakeholders;
- meet regional and sustainable strategies for trail promotion;
- have good project planning;
- include sound trail management, maintenance and sustainability credentials; and
- promote active involvement of Indigenous people and communities.

T-Qual Federal Funding

T-QUAL Grants is a competitive merit-based grants program aimed at stimulating sustainable economic growth in the Australian tourism industry. By providing matched funding to large and small-scale tourism projects, the program aims to increase Australia's supply of quality tourism products and experiences.

Two types of funding are available:

- **Tourism Quality Projects** of up to $100,000 (plus GST) for smaller scale projects;
- **Strategic Tourism Investment Grants** of up to $1 million (plus GST) to fund a small number of larger scale projects to support Indigenous tourism and/or economic development and/or tourism employment.

Tourism Western Australia – Regional Events Scheme (RES)

The RES is an annual funding round administered by Tourism WA, through its Eventscorp division. The scheme is designed to assist with the development of events as tourist attractions within regional Western Australia. Application criteria stipulate that events must:

- Bring additional tourism income to regional communities by increasing visitor expenditure in the host community (economic impact);
- Involve and inspire the local community (social benefits); and
- Attract media coverage that will help to raise the profile of the region as a tourist destination (media impact).

Funding requests must be between $5,000 and $50,000. Lower amounts than what is requested may be rewarded and any request for more than $20,000 must be accompanied by a three year strategic plan. Multiple year funding is available.

Trusts and Foundations

There are numerous trusts and foundations established in Australia and a number provide funding for projects such as this. Often they are established by large corporations. Refer www.philanthropy.org.au.

Information on alternative grants which might be considered can be found at:

www.grantslink.gov.au

www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/spgrants.htm

Regional Grants Scheme

The Regional Grants Scheme is an initiative of Royalties for Regions that aims to improve economic and community infrastructure and services in regional Western Australia. Funding is available to assist the development of infrastructure, services and community projects.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.drd.wa.gov.au/grantandfunding/regional/Pages/default.aspx

20. Next Steps & Implementation

To be clear, any recommendations made in this Trail Master Plan will be subject to ongoing dialogue with key members of the Noongar community.

The land manager (DPAW) will not approve any works on the ground until all proper approvals are in place.

The next steps towards establishing the acceptability of developing some form of trail experience in the vicinity of Boyagin Rock will be:

- Further consultation with the various representatives of the Noongar community
- Formulation of a development proposal that is acceptable to all interested parties
- Additional survey work, such as flora surveys and refinement of the trail alignment where necessary
- Development of trail interpretation themes

Once the details of this trail project are confirmed to the satisfaction of all parties, the project will be taken forward by the key partners (DPAW, Shire of Pingelly, Pingelly Tourism Board, Noongar community) who will be responsible for the implementation of the trail project.

The project will need to be adequately resourced, ideally with the allocation of time and resources of an appropriate person to implement the project in its ultimate manifestation.

Community engagement will be encouraged to ensure that the evolving needs and aspirations of the community are identified and reflected in the trail development proposals.

An ongoing commitment of funds and resources will be required to achieve the objectives of the Trail Master Plan. A range of funding options will be considered, together with the sourcing of potential grant schemes. Opportunities to form partnerships with other potentials stakeholders will be sought where this would deliver successful outcomes and assist in the completion of the project.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Notes from Initial Consultation Workshop

Summary of notes/thoughts on the key issues and themes raised at the meeting:

- Trail alignment to avoid the rock itself and environmentally sensitive locations, particularly at the base of the rock.
- Consider strategies to stop/dissuade visitors from climbing the rock.
- Maintain continuous lines of communication with all stakeholders from start to finish of the process.
- A list of consultees/stakeholders is currently being developed and will be circulated.
- The process must be transparent; the initial stage (Master Plan process) will likely take around 6 months.
- The Master Plan document will establish the most significant opportunities and constraints associated with a establishing a trail at Boyagin Rock, providing a framework upon which more detailed investigations can be undertaken, including the identification of future funding opportunities.
- Disseminate knowledge of the rock, including the language and oral tradition of the Noongar Peoples.
- Respect the storyline and ensure interpretation material associated with the trail is 100% accurate; establish protocols to gather interpretation material and review process to ensure accuracy.
- Avoid replicating the less successful elements of the nearby Serpentine Falls project.
- Very important to establish rights of access to intended areas of use and address issues of land ownership/management.
- All parties are in favour to promote/support the project in some form; ultimate details of the project will be subject to continual consultation.
- Need to provide facilities that attract and encourage visitors to learn the history/stories associated with Boyagin Rock.
- Involve the community and learn from each other.
- Continue to encourage involvement of Shire of Brookton & community.
- Seek opportunities to involve local community members in the planning, construction and continuing management of the trail.
- Key stakeholders will include (but not necessarily be limited to) the Noongar Peoples, the Shire and DPAW.
- Investigate commercial options for the trail.
- The trail must be sustainable; the level of development proposed must be carefully considered to ensure protection of existing attributes/values (including the original purpose of establishing the area as a conservation reserve).
- Important culturally/environmentally sensitive areas must be protected.

Appendix 2 Conceptual Trail Plans

Following on from the initial consultation workshop conceptual trail plans were developed to form the basis for onward discussions:

- **SK01 Trail Alignment Options**
- **SK02 Alignment Option 3**
- **SK03 Trailhead Concept**

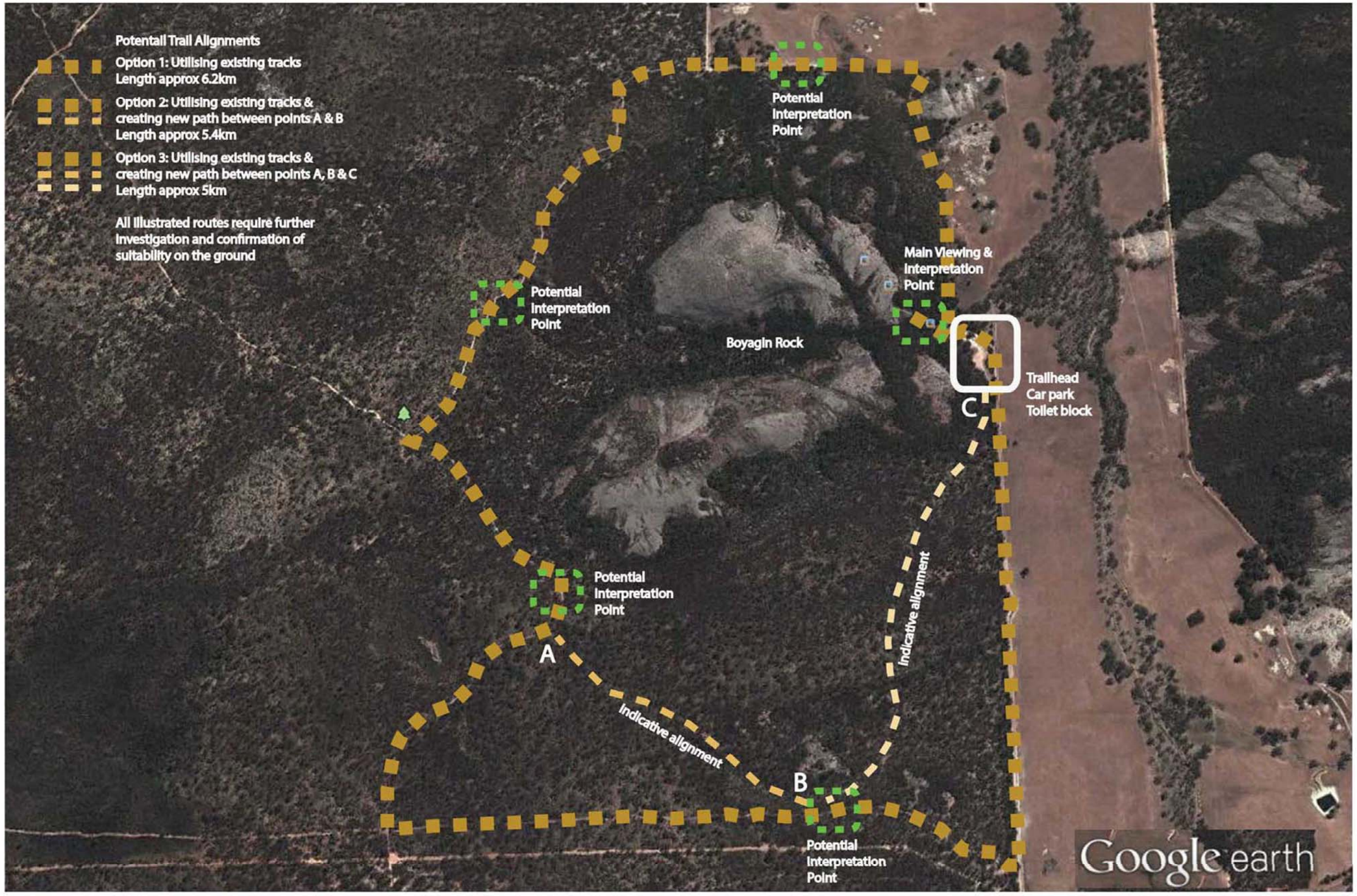
(Plans included on following pages)

Potential trail alignments (SK01) have been considered primarily on the basis of making use of existing tracks that run through the nature reserve. The intention being to minimise costs and environmental impacts on existing ecological communities, whilst discouraging access onto the rock itself and around the base of the rock.

Option 3 (SK02) makes use of existing tracks plus the forming/defining of a new alignment for one section – it may well be that there is an existing network of existing goat tracks that could be 'enhanced' with minimal environmental impact. Interpretation points could be provided immediately adjacent to the main trail alignment, however options to include interpretation points at key locations closer to the rock might be explored, dependent on the nature of the stories being told, and the sensitivities (environmental/cultural) of those areas. These locations might offer closer views of the rock and/or be related to a specific story/location, accessed from a short 'down-and-back' side trail off the main trail.

These options will need to be investigated in more detail on the ground, with appropriate direction from the Noongar Peoples.

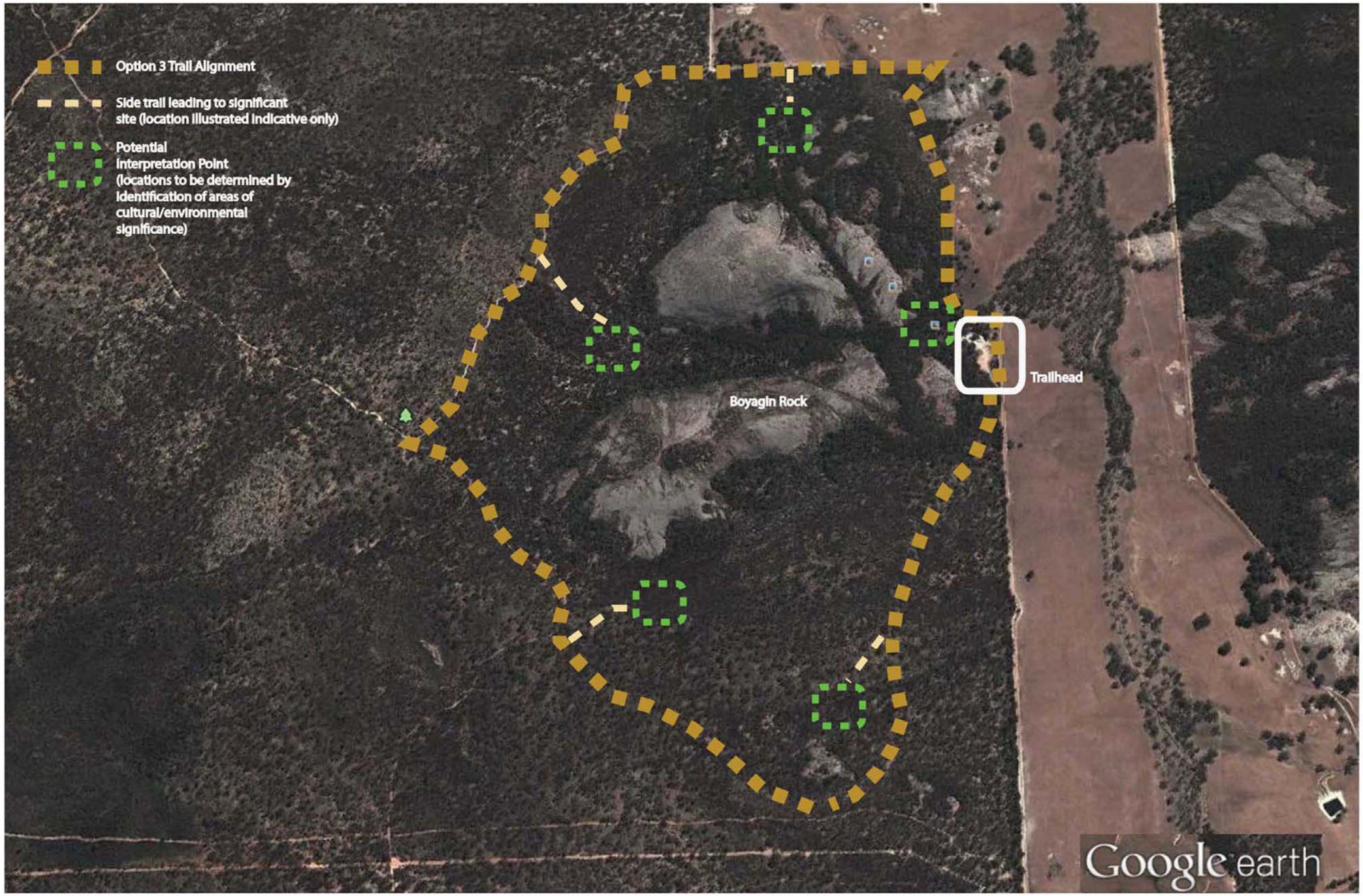
The design of the trailhead (SK03), viewing platform and interpretation area would seek to discourage access onto the rock, in association with developing a voluntary code of conduct to modify behaviours and educate visitors about Noongar traditions and beliefs. Strategies/policies employed to discourage climbing at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park will be further investigated.



SK01: CONCEPTUAL TRAIL PLAN - ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

BOYAGIN ROCK DREAMTIME WALK TRAIL

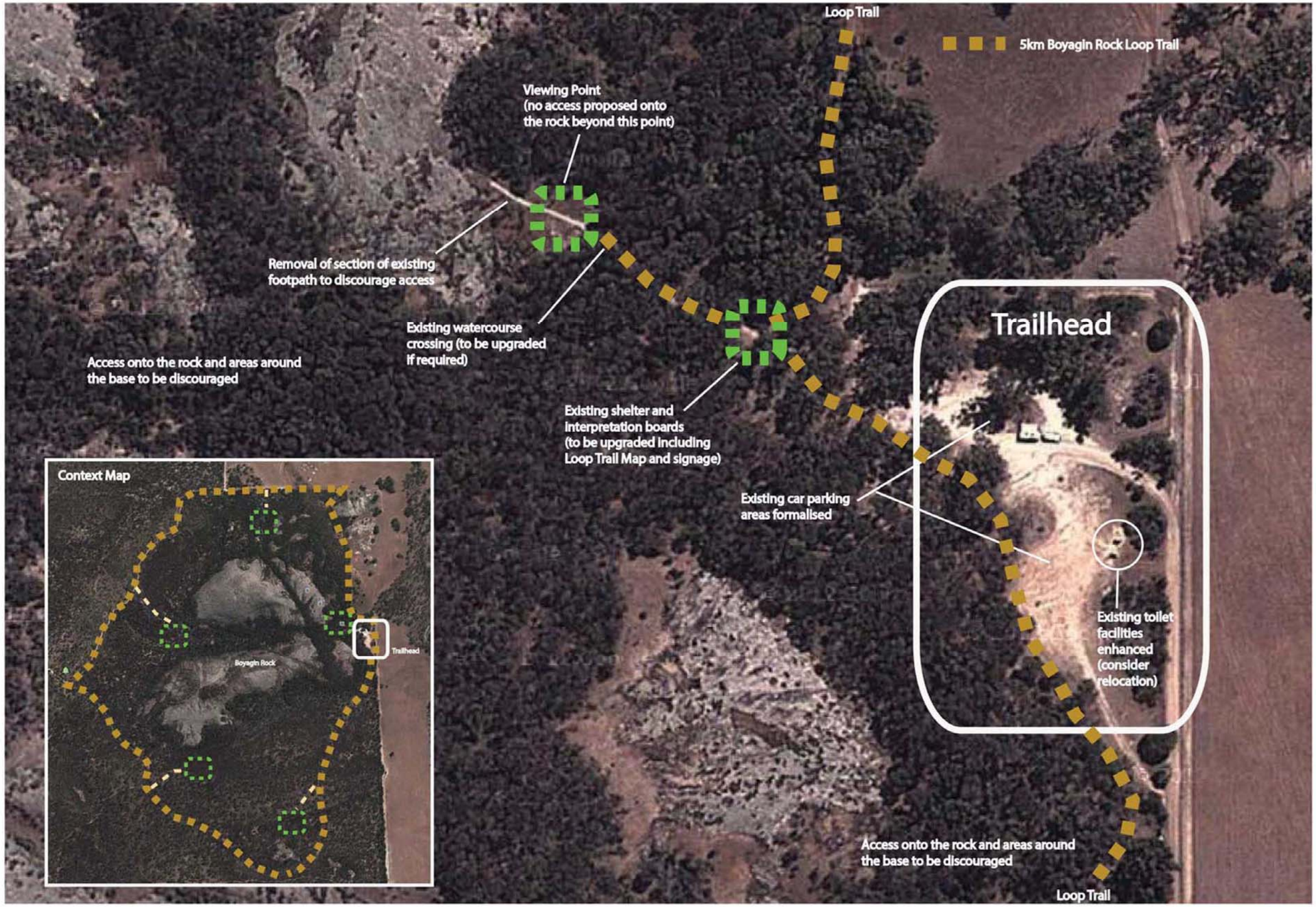
TREDWELL MANAGEMENT



SK02: CONCEPTUAL TRAIL PLAN - OPTION 3 ALIGNMENT

BOYAGIN ROCK DREAMTIME WALK TRAIL

TREDWELL MANAGEMENT



SK03: CONCEPTUAL TRAIL PLAN - TRAILHEAD

BOYAGIN ROCK DREAMTIME WALK TRAIL

TREDWELL MANAGEMENT

Appendix 3 Meeting Notes from Progress Meeting 06/02/2014

Meeting Notes: Boyagin Rock Progress Meeting

Location: Pingelly Shire Offices

Meeting start time: 1.00pm (run time approx.1.5hr)

Date: 06/02/2013

Attendees:

Vince Holt, Gavin Pollock, Ray Marshall, John Bostock, Greg Durell, Peter Wnuk, Merv Abraham, Daniel Ames (TM), Lachlan Giles (TM)

Apologies:

Malcom Jetta

Key Discussion:

- Boyagin Rock is only 1 hour from the Bibbulmun Track – the idea of a potential linkage was mentioned
- Initial conceptual plans of the potential Boyagin Rock walking trail alignment were presented to the group the following feedback was received:
  - DPaW indicated that the larger circular walking route would not be appropriate for further investigation due to various environmental concerns
  - Currently DPaW have no fox baiting buffer zones in place around Boyagin Rock, so if a trail were to be formalised around the rock then appropriate baiting buffer zones would have to apply. This will allow further impingement of feral species into the area.
  - DPaW would prefer that the walking trail allocated would be as small as possible (i.e. as close to the rock as possible) to limit maintenance costs & user risk (i.e. visitor safety) but they acknowledge that a compromise may be possible and that a trail may be achievable in this location, subject to further investigations
  - DPaW informed the group that they can provide Tredwell Management with the following:
    - Rare Flora map of site location
    - Heritage map of site location
  - Merv indicated his support for this project and also indicated that it would be beneficial to map the required buffer zone distances relevant to the indigenous community (i.e. the area visitors should stay away from the base of the rock) to better inform the design of the trail
- It was noted that the Wheatbelt NRM Board have produced high quality documents (i.e. NRM Gnamma Story Book – funded by Caring for Our Country) that have successfully brought together key stories and information from several indigenous groups and that they may be a stakeholder in the future.
- The following points were discussed in regards to project consultation
  - DPaW and the Shire of Pingelly need to be consulted early in the process with the goal of establishing the key principles of this project
  - The Noongar Peoples as well as the Seabrook People are being consulted in regards to this project during the week starting on the 10/02/2014
  - Tredwell Management are to design and distribute to council a consultation plan
  - It was noted that a desktop approach to consultation will be adequate from this stage
  - Neighbouring properties are to be consulted
  - The Department of Indigenous Affairs should be consulted in regards to a heritage site that may be located on the eastern side of the rock
- A Walking Party is to be established to walk the desired route (established by Tredwell) on the next trip to Pingelly (estimated mid-march). This party will involve representatives from Tredwell Management, DPaW, The Noongar indigenous community and the Shire of Pingelly. At this time it was also noted that Tredwell Management will also hold a Workshop with key stakeholders.
- Precise nature of land ownership/management and implications to this project are still to be determined
- It was noted that it needs to be clarified with the Noongar Peoples that there is a story to tell about Boyagin Rock. The NRM board may be able to assist in capturing the detailed story information after the completion of the Master Plan
- As this trail will represent a dreamtime trail sharing the stories of the Noongar Peoples it will be important that they have an opportunity to manage it with the vision for them in the future to potentially manage commercial tours on site with the aspiration for the site and its management to become self-funded and sustainable.
- It was noted that a trail developed recently at Fitzgerald is a good example of infrastructure
- It was noted that the SW Land and Sea Council will have legal representation present at the next meeting

Appendix 4 Gnaala Karla Booja Recommendations (letter dated 06/05/2014)

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

South West Aboriginal
Land & Sea Council

6 May 2014

Mr Ray Marshall
Chairperson: Pingelly Tourism Group
C/O Pingelly Shire Council
17 Queen Street
Pingelly WA 6308

C.C. - Mr Vince Holt
Project Coordinator Boyagin Rock Project
cdo@Pingelly.gov.aw.au

Ms Maria Lee
Acting Senior Operations Officer
Maria.lee@dpaw.wa.gov.au

By Post

Dear Mr Marshall

BOYAGIN ROCK PROJECT PROPOSAL: GNAALA KARLA BOOJA RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you for providing an update on the progress of the Boyagin Rock Project Proposal at the recent Gnaala Karla Booja Working Group (GKB Working Group).

The GKB Working Party also acknowledges the attendance of Ms Maria Lee representing the Department of Parks and Wildlife at the presentation.

Mr Marshall provided an outline of the Project design and consultation process and made the following points:

- that Project consultants will soon present a master plan to the Boyagin Rock Progress Group;
- the Boyagin Rock Project Group had undertaken significant consultation with local Noongar stakeholders:
- the master plan will contain several options as to the final look design of the project and that no decision had been made as to the final proposed design of the project; and
- that the final design is likely to include a Noongar seasons interpretive walk.

Ms Lee stated that DPAW would not support any project at Boyagin Rock where Noongar heritage and cultural values were negativity impacted.

As a result of the presentation the GKB Working Group made the following recommendations:

- although it was recognised that there had been substantial Noongar consultation on the project, it was important that all Noongar families that have a connection to Boyagin Rock are consulted otherwise the project will not have the appropriate level of Noongar support. The Hayden, Bennell, Collard, Reidy and McGuire families also need to be consulted.
- the Boyagin Rock Project Working Group need to take into account Noongar views of what is appropriate development at Boyagin Rock and to ensure the project does not negatively impact on Noongar cultural and heritage values;
- the Boyagin Rock Project Working Group need to provide to the GKB Working Group with a report summarising the Boyagin Rock Project's Noongar consultation process and results: and
- the Boyagin Rock Project Group need to present to the GKB Working Group the final proposal on the Boyagin Rock Project for endorsement before any work commences on the project.

Once again thank you for your attendance and presentation at the recent GKB Working Group meeting.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 9358 7400

Yours sincerely

Justin McAllister
Joint Management Coordinator
South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council
Justin.McAllister@noongar.org.au

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