Currumbin Eco-Parkland

Community Engagement Evening – 27 April 2022

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Currumbin Eco-Parkland – EDQ Development Team

- Lisa Timoney – Senior Development Manager, EDQ
- John White – Executive Director, EDQ
- Dianna Lynch – Community Engagement, EDQ
- Andrew Neighbour and Stephen Orr - Lat 27 – Landscape Architecture

Currumbin Eco-Parkland – Background and Works Regulation

- Election Commitment
- Site Acquisition and Works Regulation
- Under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act, there is a Works Regulation outlining the project brief for Currumbin Eco-Parkland.
- The Works Regulation states:

"The site presents opportunities for the preservation and rehabilitation of the natural environment including flood plain storage and endangered ecosystems." ***Source*** *: Background, Currumbin Eco Parkland Project Report. June 2021*

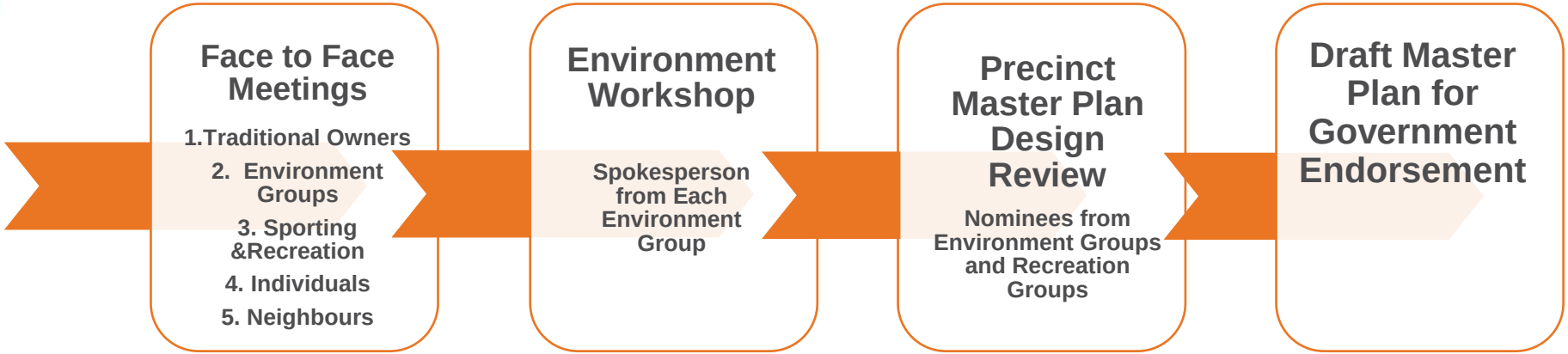
The Currumbin Eco-Parkland project comprises 148 hectares of land within the Currumbin Valley. Concept planning for the parkland has commenced and once completed will include:

- *sporting and recreational elements for family and community enjoyment;*
- *protections for local koala habitats, including fodder eucalypt plantation;*
- *nature based recreational trails; and*
- *opportunities for rehabilitation and appreciation of the natural environment through eco-tourism."*

Source : Project Description, Currumbin Eco Parkland Project Report. June 2021

Currumbin Eco-Parkland – Community Engagement

- What has been the Community Engagement process to date?
- How are we responding to all the requests for Face to Face Consultation?
- What will we discuss tonight?
- How will we move forward from this meeting?





Currumbin Eco-Parkland
Community Comments
March 2022

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Overview

Have your say…

Two tools launched on 22 December 2021 to gather community ideas:

- “What are your thoughts?”
  - 151 surveys completed
- Interactive Options Plan, providing opportunity for the community to comment:
  - 242 comments pinned to the plan

Survey findings top 5…

- Protection for koalas
- Nature based recreational trails and facilities
- Sustainable and disability access public toilets
- Walking trails
- Boardwalks and bird hides around the wetlands



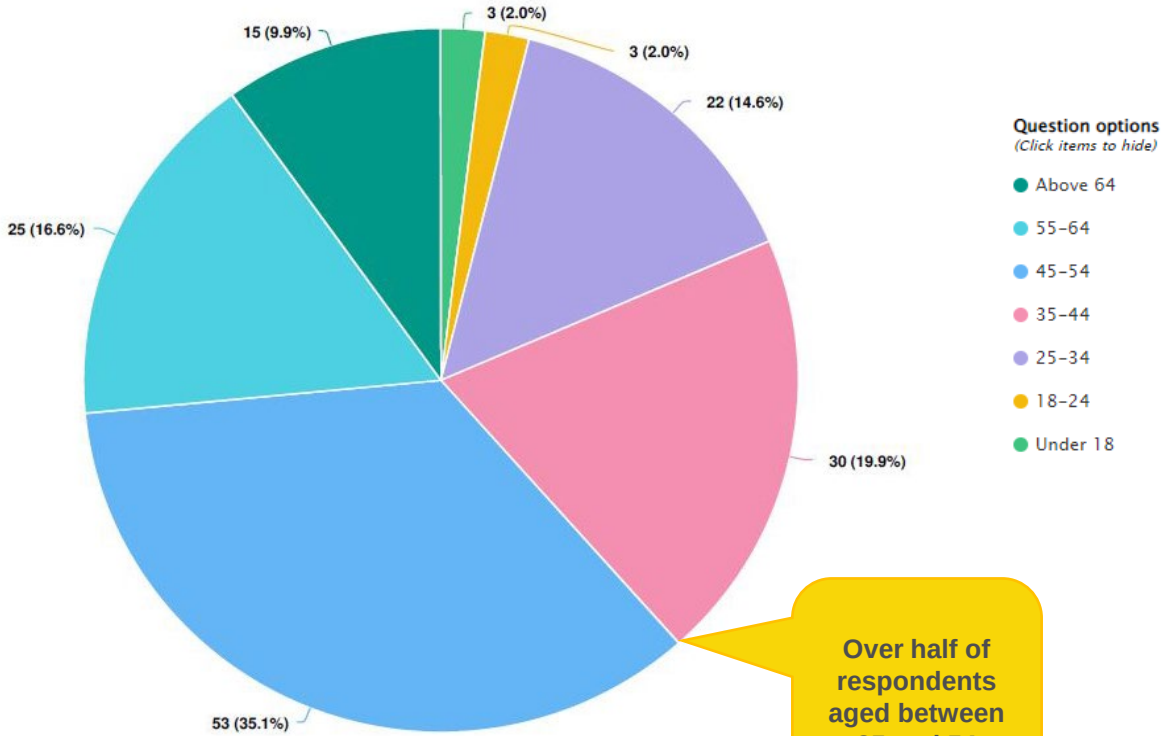
What Are Your Thoughts? Survey Results

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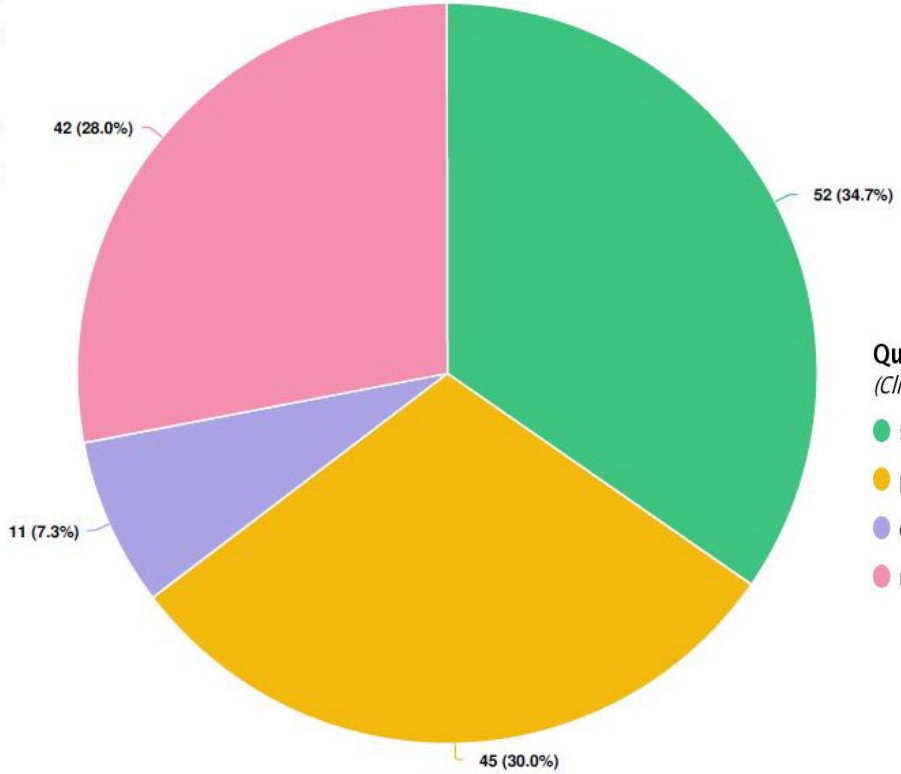
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Survey Result: Choose Your Age Group



Over half of respondents aged between 35 and 54

Survey Result: What do you think is the most important aspect of the government's future plans for the site?



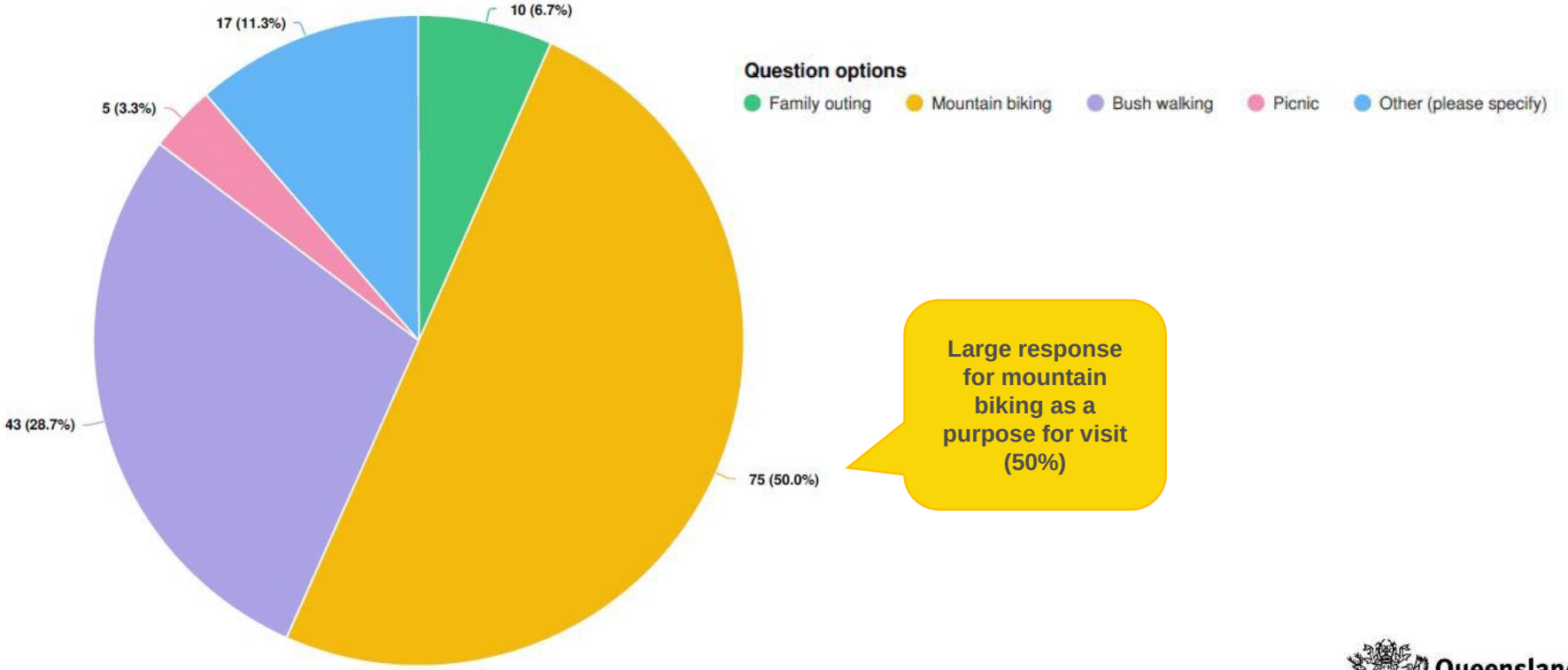
Large response for sporting and recreational elements (over 34%)

Question options

(Click items to hide)

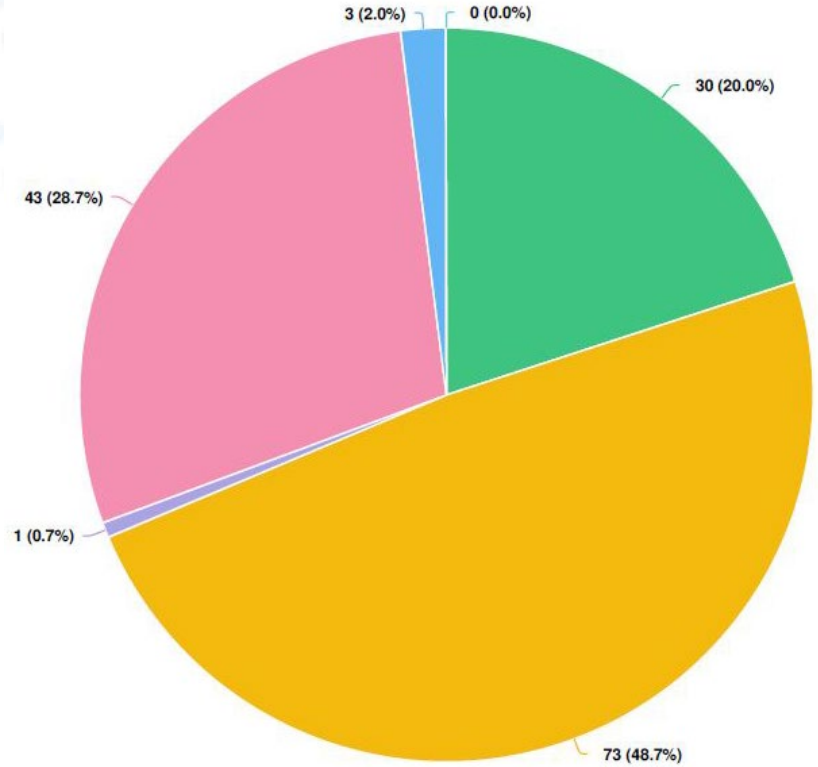
- sporting and recreational elements for family and community enjoyment
- protections for local koala habitats, including fodder eucalypt plantation
- opportunities for rehabilitation and appreciation of the natural environment through eco-tourism
- nature based recreational trails through 46ha of blackbutt forest

Survey Result: If made publicly accessible, why would you want to visit the Currumbin Eco-Parkland?



Large response for mountain biking as a purpose for visit (50%)

Survey Result: If you were planning to visit the site what mode of transport would you prefer to use?



Question options
(Click items to hide)

Walk · Bicycle · E-scooter · Private vehicle · Bus · Motorbike

Significant bicycle intention as mode of transport (48.7%)

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Comments: Koala Rehabilitation Facility – Yes!

- #71 I like the idea of koala rehabilitation and expanding the koala habitat and wildlife corridor. 47 agree, 0 disagree
- #76 Koala rehabilitation facility is a great addition. It should allow access for community involvement though to help increase awareness. 38 agree, 0 disagree
- #132 I want the parkland to be fully dedicated to maintaining koala habitat. In the Moreton Bay region, the koala habitat is destroyed by massive developments. the koalas have nowhere to go. Keep the parkland for the koalas please or it will be the end for the koalas. 30 agree, 0 disagree
- #165 Don't allow dogs within area to ensure native animals such as koalas are truly protected. Plenty of dog walking areas around the Gold Coast already 30 agree, 1 disagrees

Dec 23 2021 at 11:56AM Suggestion

The priority of this park must be Koala habitat and the planting of gum forests. Walking trails would compliment this.

remove edit reply 43 0

Dec 30 2021 at 10:35PM Suggestion

agree. Ensure no access for trail bikes

remove edit reply 35 5

Positive support from survey responses, which showed 79% would be very supportive of the protection of koala habitat





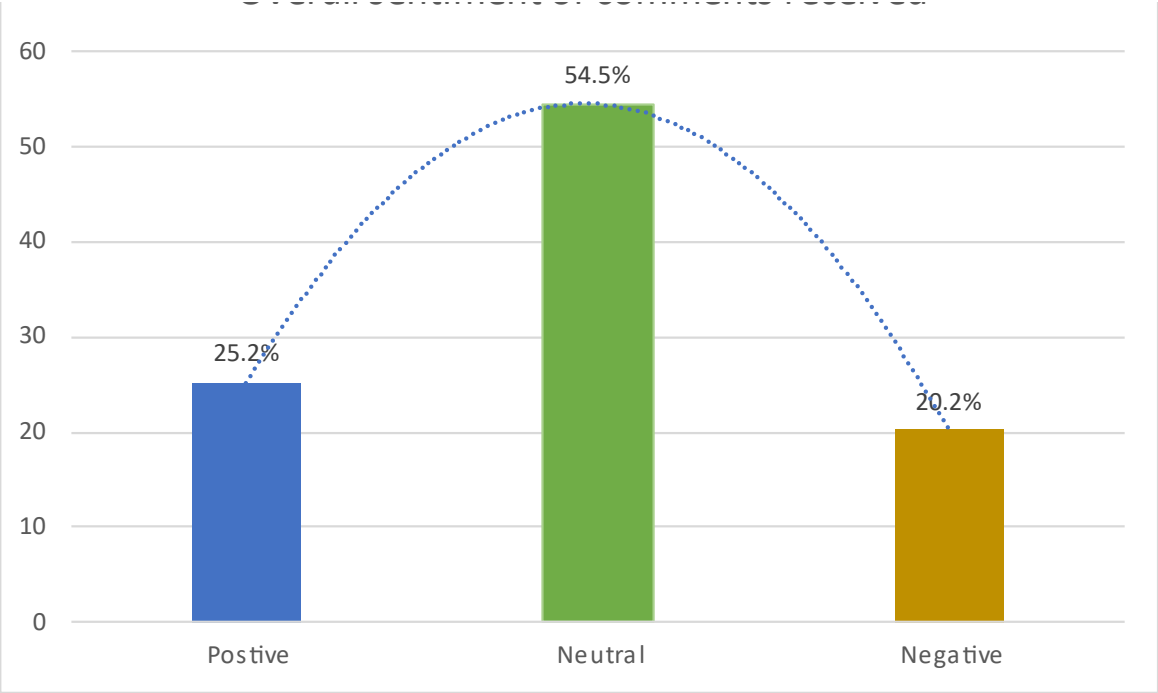
Options Plan Comments

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Comments: Overall Sentiment Towards the Proposed Precincts/Uses



Comments: Mountain Bike Skills

- #70 Mountain bike trails, as in properly built trails by a professional trail building company, as opposed to a 'mountain biking skills precinct', whatever that might be. (Sounds like a pump track for BMX). 2 agree, 29 disagree
- #83 it is great there is to be the inclusion of mountain biking in the area. I think the MTB park model at Sugarbag Rd, Caloundra would a great starting point to replicate / build on locally 11 agree, 40 disagree
- #126 This would be an excellent area to start a single direction network of mountain bike trails, graded for different skill levels 11 agree, 40 disagree
- #131 Its good to see a MTB skills park proposed. However it would be ideal to have this paired with mtb single track throughout the natural areas to compliment this… 7 agree, 35 disagree
- #133 Not just a mountain biking skills area, we need to have actual trails/single track for mountain bikers…Beginner, intermediate and advanced trails should all be added to account for all types of riders. 5 agree, 36 disagree
- #151 Totally in support, some single track trails green and blue in level built in harmony with the environment would provide a fantastic opportunity for family's to enjoy exercise in the outdoors together. 2 agree, 30 disagree
- #192 Mountain biking has become a major issue when used in protected areas due to the damage caused. Here on the Gold Coast they already have 174km of trail not including fire trails. 16 agree, 1 disagree

Jan 17 2022 at 12:10PM Suggestion

I couldn't agree more - mountain bike trails are enjoyed by many and are growing steadily in popularity - if planned and managed effectively, the precinct will represent another excellent reason to travel to the Gold Coast.

remove edit reply 5 16

Jan 19 2022 at 10:54AM Suggestion

Sounds good, as long as illegal trails aren't created that would mean hudreds of trees cut down along with vital wildlife habitat (like rock habibat for reptiles and insects) destroyed to make way for MTB

remove edit reply 15 0

Mixed support for MTB trails from plan comments, with many in support of the idea, but just as many comments calling for responsible use, or no more trails on the GC at all.

Positive support from survey responses, which showed that 54% would be very supportive of mountain bike skill track, including viewing shelter.



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Comments: Active Recreation and Education

Disc golf - No

- #98 This park would make a great park for a Disc Golf park to be included! 4 agree, 49 disagree
- #107 A Disc Golf course would be a wonderful inclusion in this plan. A well-planned course would weave through the natural bush environment with minimal impact. 3 agree, 43 disagree
- #110 this is not a suitable site for formal sporting activities like disc golf. 41 agree, 0 disagree
- #113 The eco parkland is not the right location for sports facilities like a Disc Golf Park, a tennis court, dirt bike racing etc 47 agree, 0 disagree

Student accommodation - Maybe

- #122 …the eco park could build a reputation as an internationally recognized center of excellence for enviro/eco/ research including areas such as biologic carbon sequestration. 5 agree, 34 disagree
- #142 Encourage use of the site for education and appreciation of the park including care of the bush land; encourage groups such as Schools, Bush Fire Brigades, SES, Landcare, Wildlife Rescue and Carers and like groups. 35 agree, 0 disagree

Dog walking - No

- #165 Don't allow dogs within area to ensure native animals such as koalas are truly protected. Plenty of dog walking areas around the Gold Coast already 30 agree, 1 disagree
- #168 ….Dogs on leads should be allowed and will not affect the native wildlife anymore than people or extra traffic. 1 agree, 27 disagree

Little support for allowing dogs from comments.

Positive support from survey responses, which showed 27% would be very supportive of a recreational and education precinct for school and community groups

Comments: Nature Plan

4WD and camping - No

- #56 I agree, 4wding and camping would be a great inclusion. No where to do those kind of activities in this part of the city. 2 agree, 53 disagree
- #91 we don't want 4WDs & camping here! 42 agree, 0 disagree
- #116 4WD is a horrible…Camping here would require clearing bushland. Camping and 4WD can be kept to private properties on a user pays system 38 agree, 0 disagree
- #181 Agree 4WD and camping in this area would NOT be aligned to preserving the remnant vegetation. 26 agree, 0 disagree

Horse riding - No

- #169 Horse right trails PLEASE! And a public dressage arena would be great 0 agree, 26 disagree
- #170 Great idea. Horse riding trails would be awesome! 2 agree, 31 disagree
- #199 Horse Riding is shown to have serious negative impacts on the environment, this will be public space - like reserves, or state parks or national parks. If there are already established fire trails I would understand but just create trails for personal interest? 24 agree, 1 disagree
- #160 As this part of the Gold Coast has a big horse and rider population a trail network would be beneficial. 4 agree, 35 disagree
- #189 Currumbin Valley has a large horse riding community, it would be nice to see some areas allow access to horse and rider. 1 agree, 24 disagree

Bicycle paths - Maybe

- #112 Plenty of bicycle tracks please. 3 agree, 29 disagree

Mixed support for nature based recreational trails and facilities from the comments…..

Needs further research and engagement

Positive support from survey responses, 67% said they would be very supportive of nature based recreational trails and facilities.



Comments: Conservation

#51 Keep everything native. 53 agree, 0 disagree

#58 Please scrap these plans, we don't need it, the native animals and fauna don't need it. 31 agree, 3 disagree

#65 Regenerate all the slopes and make sure there are corridors that link the slopes to the wetland areas 42 agree, 0 disagree

#141 Extend existing wildlife corridor along the state border by suitable planting, adding to existing forested upper slopes that form a link with McPherson Range. This would enhance habitat for the existing wildlife of the area e.g.koalas, echidnas, wallabies, kangaroos, multiple birds including owls and parrots, reptiles, frogs and inevitable insects. 37 agree, 0 disagree

#173 This area immediately adjoining the existing residential area currently, and should remain to, be an unimpeded sanctuary for native wildlife. 31 agree, 0 disagree

#144 Survey and monitor existing wildlife and encourage wildlife to use site as a habitat and refuge. 39 agree, 0 disagree

#145 Consider the importance of this site with areas being in a relatively pristine state and the landforms, I.e. hills, gullies, streams without any major alterations. 38 agree, 0 disagree

#155 Perhaps a camphorlaurel eradication facility somewhere in the parkland. 5 agree, 0 disagree

#182 I would like to see a local bushcare group formed. Similar to the Habitat Brisbane program (run by council) 29 agree, 0 disagree

#197 Considering 86% of community supports conservation and expansion of protected areas, this should have been an option in the highly biased community consult which presents only four options... all tourism and development and only one option for koala habitat 25 agree, 0 disagree

Feb 8 2022 at 11:34PM Suggestion

The potential for conservation and ecological protection with this site is immense. I would suggest doing everything possible to avoid disturbing the inherent values of this site, and build upon what presently makes it so special by extending the blackbutt forest beyond the ridge. Reduce car traffic and road construction to an absolute minimum. Make it a real eco park. Future generations will thank us.

remove edit reply 15 0

Support for conservation protection from plan comments, with many in support of revegetation and wildlife refuge….

Comments: Indigenous Cultural Values

- #63 this park should be developed in consultation / together with the local Aboriginal people and they should be acknowledged throughout the park and have a designated area to conduct educational tours 31 agree, 0 disagree
- #68 The management of the park should be in true collaboration with the local Aboriginal traditional owners 25 agree, 0 disagree
- #147 The ecological and cultural knowledge of the Kombummeri along with providing a sanctuary and space for wildlife (also culturally significant) could find a perfect home right here. 35 agree, 0 disagree

- #109 The plan provided looks excellent. What is missing is any mention of Indigenous cultural values - the whole park should be culturally interpreted (from the park's name, through to all interpretive signage - eg plant names, history of the area's use, visitor centre themes, etc), with consideration given to local First Nations people managing the park. 36 agree, 0 disagree

Jan 9 2022 at 6:45AM Suggestion

The plan provided looks excellent. What is missing is any mention of Indigenous cultural values - the whole park should be culturally interpreted (from the park's name, through to all interpretive signage - eg plant names, history of the area's use, visitor centre themes, etc), with consideration given to local First Nations people managing the park. There is also an opportunity to enhance populations of now scarce endemic flora - giving insight to the original vegetation on the southern Gold Coast (and even selling those plants for wider planting across the community).

remove edit reply 36 0

Positive support from both the survey responses and comments

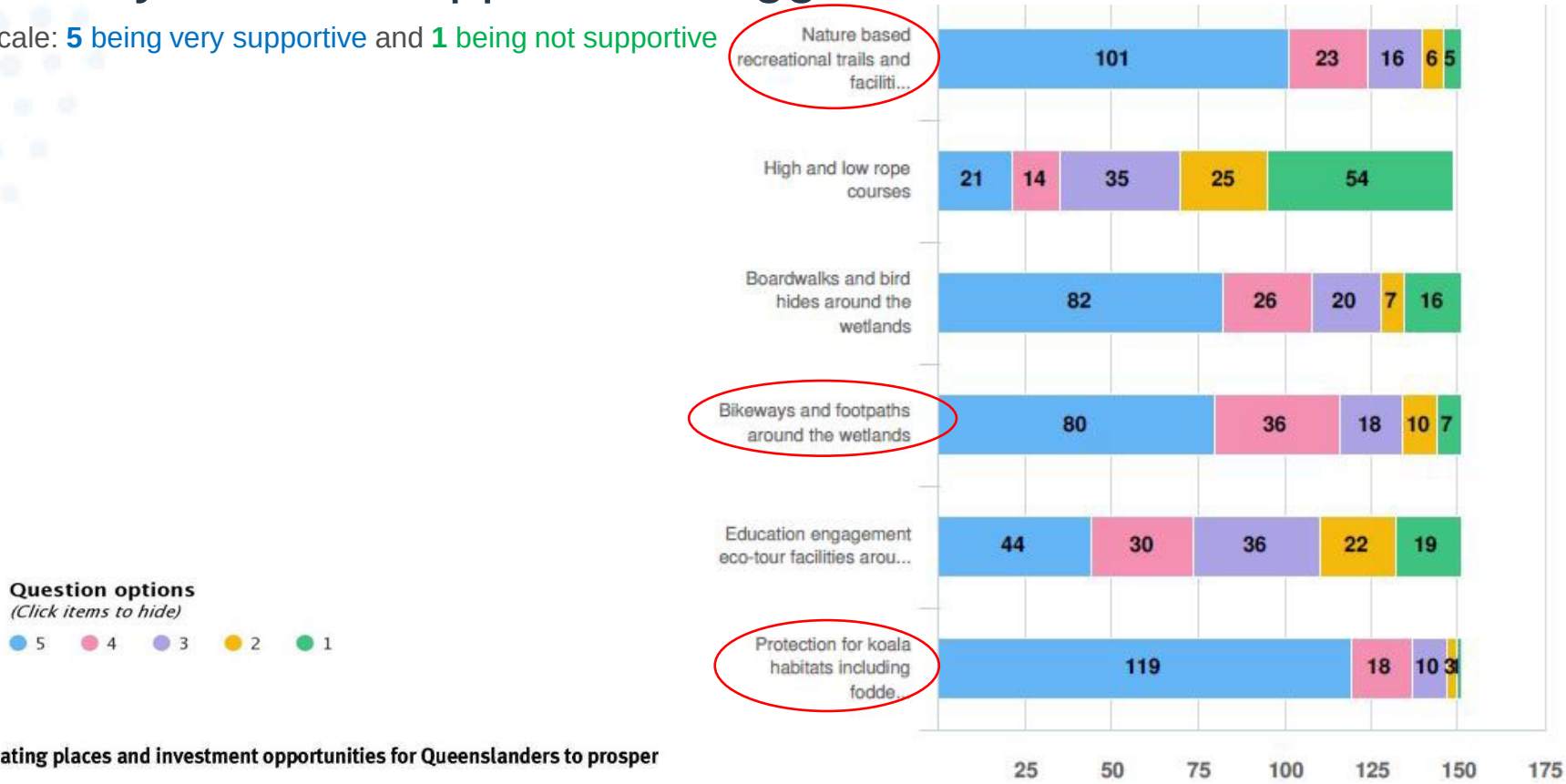
Survey Result: Support for Suggested Uses

Scale: **5** being very supportive and **1** being not supportive



Survey Result: Support for Suggested Uses (continued)

Scale: **5** being very supportive and **1** being not supportive



Comments: Day Uses

Carparking and entrance - Maybe

- #158 The plans show almost 350 car parking spaces. There is nothing eco-friendly about encouraging people to arrive by car…Ensure the bike network to the park from local suburbs supports safe travel to the park by bike. 32 agree, 0 disagree
- #226 Keep the parking to a minimum, please. The last thing we need is an oversupply of asphalt and gas-guzzling vehicles in a space that ought to be reserved for revegetation and ecological regeneration. Cars are koala killers. 14 agree, 0 disagree
- #184 Yes we really need to realise that this will be a popular area for recreation and parking although ugly is necessary. 0 agree, 23 disagree
- #140 Eliminate this park entry point between Galleon Way intersection with Currumbin Creek Road and the northern boundary of the park… Keep all park access further along Currumbin Creek Road west of Galleon Way intersection. 34 agree, 1 disagree
- #111 I am not keen on having a road bisecting the parklands. A couple of entries from C. Creek Rd should be sufficient with parking areas. 49 agree, 1 disagrees
- #157 ….Perhaps a main entrance about 1/2 way between Galleon Way and Piggabeen Rd? 25 agree, 1 disagree

Sustainable transport connects – Yes

- #154 It would be great if, in the development of this eco parkland, the cycle access to Currumbin Valley be improved. In particular cycle lanes need to be added to the section between Bienvenue Avenue and Galleon Way (the eastern end of the ecoparkland) 29 agree, 0 disagree
- #139 Theres enough car parking and infrastructure to turn it into a mini metropolis !! I would strongly re consider the intended foot traffic here - If people want to get here it should be encouraged by bike or walk from near by 29 agree, 0 disagree

Positive support from survey responses, which showed 48.7% of respondents' preferred mode of transport would be bicycle.

BBQs - Maybe

- #66 Any barbeques should be solar, but why bbq? Surely people can picnic. 18 agree, 0 disagree
- #137 Bbq not here please - Go to the beaches and 1000 other parks on the GC - Minimal footprint please 23 agree, 1 disagrees

Positive support from survey responses, which showed that 45% would be very supportive of picnic tables and BBQ facilities

Less support for BBQs in the comments.

EV charging - Maybe

- #93 NO EV Charging station at the park. No shops or cafes, support the already local business and take your own food and then leave when you have run out of food, just like other eco parks in the world. Security would be good you are building car parks and parks in a area where cars do burn outs every time it rains. 36 agree, 0 disagree

Low support for EV charging station in comments. But a third of survey responses said they would use a charging station if available.



Questions?

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