

Introduction

Open space and the protection of scenic amenity in the rural areas of the Redlands is important. This chapter considers the issues facing the rural, or non-urban, parts of the city. The assessment has been strongly informed by the *Redlands Rural Futures Strategy* currently in development (2012), for Council. A discussion paper prepared for the study by Cardno HRP, in association with Gilbert and Sutherland, Chenoweth Environmental Planning and Landscape Architecture, and Norling Consulting¹ is referenced below.

Rural Redlands, for the purposes of this strategy, includes all areas outside of the defined neighbourhoods on the mainland (see Figure 9-1). It essentially includes all of the mainland area not included in the Urban Footprint. The rural areas of North Stradbroke Island are not included as they are subject to a Queensland Government study considering the economic and social future of the Island. All other inhabited islands in Redlands are included in the urban analysis.

The area is made up of approximately 11,647 hectares of land comprising generally the southern half of the city.

Although comprising approximately 54% of the mainland area, of the 11,647 hectares of land in the rural Redlands, only 2,595 hectares is currently zoned for rural purposes. This figure does not include conservation and environment protection zoned land.

Rural Redlands is diverse, and extends from the marine and coastal environment of Moreton Bay in the southeast corner of the area, across the low hills of the central hinterland and the township of Mount Cotton, and opening into the undulating rural lands that extend northwards to the urbanised northern half of the city.

The main settlement in the rural Redlands is Mount Cotton with a population of approximately 3,000 persons. Note: Mount Cotton township has been included in the urban open space analysis as Suburban Catchment Area 5.

Although a large part of rural Redlands is retained as vegetated environmental open space, a relatively large number of rural land uses are carried out. Poultry farming operations (including farming and processing operations) remain the predominant agricultural activity in rural Redlands, with other land uses being for a variety of nurseries and small cropping enterprises such as flower growing and bush seed growing, as well as a variety of rural residential 'lifestyle' lots.

The ABS, in 1998, reported the then Shire's total value of agricultural production at \$68.6 m, comprising in order of importance, poultry production (\$50.8 m), nurseries, cut flowers, potatoes, sweet potatoes and tomatoes. The Queensland Treasury's Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) has reported the value of agricultural production in 2005/6 as being \$66.2 m which is a decline, in real and nominal terms, since 1998.

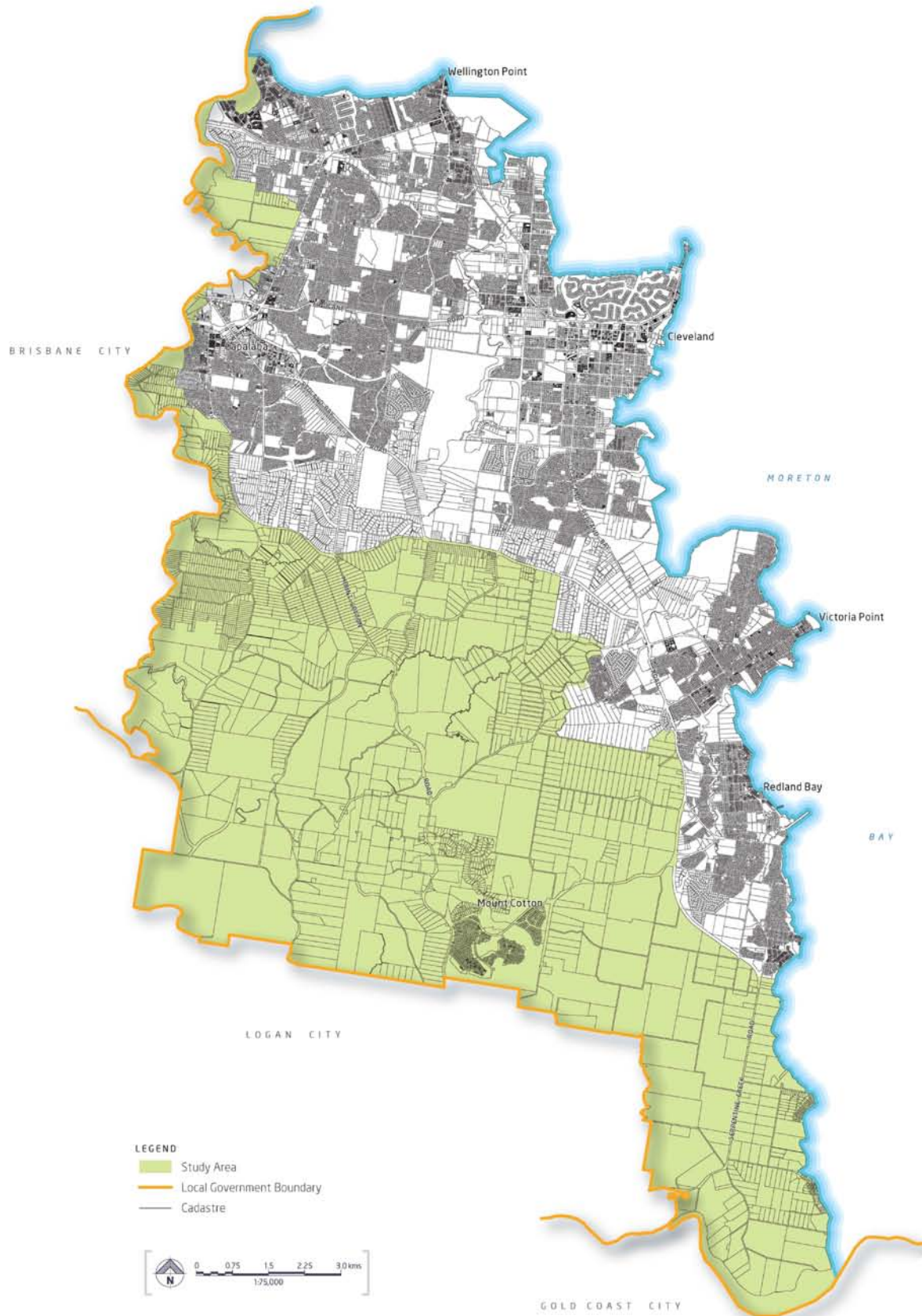
Recreation and tourism use of rural lands

Rural tourism activities and accommodation providers are currently limited in rural Redlands, with most accommodation and tourist activities being located in the eastern coastal parts of the region and, in particular, the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

The most significant rural tourism undertaking at present is the Sirromet Winery located at Mount Cotton. Including a winery and restaurant that caters for corporate events and weddings, the 216 hectare property is also the venue for the 'A Day on the Green' concert series. With a popular and successful mix of wine and food tourism in a rural setting, the Tourism Strategy for the Redlands

¹ Council was in receipt of a 'working draft' report in November 2011. The document is not publicly available

Figure 9-1: The rural Redlands



2010-2014 identifies Sirromet as the model project around which related tourism development in rural Redlands could coalesce.

Other nature-based activities in rural Redlands are restricted to passive outdoor attractions such as self-guided walking tracks and picnic facilities in the national parks and conservation reserves, with some limited commercial activities such as small scale tea rooms.

With no large scale hotels or accommodation providers in the rural Redlands (and only nine hotels with more than five rooms located in the entire Redland area), short-term tourist accommodation is limited. The Kindilan Outdoor Education and Conference Centre in Redland Bay provides a venue for school or corporate groups to undertake a range of nature based activities in an outdoor setting with a 'camping' or dormitory style of associated accommodation. As a standalone facility, the accommodation provided by Kindilan is not available to the general public, and other accommodation options in rural Redlands are limited to a small number of low key bed and breakfast establishments that trade on their relatively remote and 'weekend hideaway' status in the more natural parts of rural Redlands.

Open space issues

Habitat and biodiversity

Rural Redlands contains a range of environmental values of high environmental significance representing potential constraints and/or opportunities for future land uses.

Core habitat nodes

Activities such as forest clearing and the expansion of agricultural lands can lead to a fragmented landscape that contains patches of discontinuous habitat of varying sizes, shapes and degrees of isolation. For many species, dispersal to new habitat patches is made much more difficult via an unfamiliar and hostile environment, which in turn can lead to a much more heterogeneous distribution of species populations within the landscape. The result of this is large continuous patches of habitat will become an important resource for a range of organisms in a fragmented landscape.

Riparian corridors

Within Redland City, riparian corridors form a number of important functions and include hydrological, recreational, ecological, and landscape functions. Functioning corridors can assist with flood mitigation, reducing nutrient, sediment and pollution loads (through bank stabilisation), providing habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species, provision of landscape biodiversity corridors that link core habitat nodes facilitating species movement, and act as an interface between the watercourse and neighbouring development.

The major riparian waterways within the rural lands of Redland City include the Logan River and Upper Tingalpa, Eprapah, California, Serpentine, and Native Dog Creeks, which potentially form effective landscape habitat for a range of terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora species, as well as

contributing to ecological connectivity. Riparian corridors can link the coastal zone in the east with the forested hills in the west, and act also act as movement routes for low impact recreational activities such as canoeing, walking, biking, and horse riding, while simultaneously enhancing the rural areas scenic amenity.

Riparian waterways

The major riparian waterways within the rural lands of city have each had a waterway management plan enacted by Council, and support a diverse range of aquatic and riverine species along with freshwater wetlands. The tidal and estuarine wetlands which fringe the watercourses form the foundation of the delicate coastal and mangrove ecosystems that are found in the southeastern corner of the rural lands.

Koala conservation

Koalas are currently listed as 'Vulnerable' under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for the Southeast Queensland Bioregion. Redland City is recognised as being home to one of the most significant koala populations in Australia and forms the largest part of the Koala Coast area, which also includes small parts of Brisbane and Logan Cities, designated by the State government as key koala habitat. Current koala population estimates sit at approximately 2,000. Since 1999, koala numbers have dropped 27% in the Redlands and 26% in the Koala Coast. Without a recovery plan for the species, the potential for koala extinction throughout the area has been estimated to occur in less than 20 years.

The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) enacted the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016*. This Plan addresses the key threats that koalas face and articulates strategies to halt their decline.

Koala habitat values across the southeast are identified in the *South East Queensland Koala Protection Area Koala Habitat Values Maps* for the *State Planning Policy 2/10: Koala Conservation in South East Queensland* and identify three categories of koala habitat:

1. koala conservation areas
2. koala sustainability areas
3. urban koala areas

According to this mapping, the rural Redlands is entirely classified as being 'koala conservation areas'. Of the three koala categories, koala conservation areas are the most important areas of koala habitat with the highest koala population densities. They provide critical source areas for the survival and dispersal of koalas across the landscape because of the high degree of connection between areas of habitat.

The Redlands community maintains a high affiliation with resident koalas as there is nowhere else where there are substantial populations so close to a major city. In recognition of this, Redlands has ambitions for a 'koala active community' and has prepared and implemented the *Redlands Koala Policy and Implementation Strategy 2008*.

Vegetation management

Much of the land within rural Redlands supports vegetation that is protected or regulated under State and/or local government statutory provisions, including:

- *Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VMA)*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA)*
- *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031 Regulatory Provisions*
- *Redlands Planning Scheme (i.e. Conservation Zone, Environmental Protection Zone, Habitat Protection Overlay), and*
- *Redland City Council Local Law No. 6—Protection of Vegetation*

Within rural Redlands there exists large portions of land where the clearing of vegetation for development is significantly restricted for the purposes of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* and the *Redlands Planning Scheme*.

There also exists lands within rural Redlands where development may be permitted under certain circumstances, for example, a lot that contains endangered regrowth vegetation may be able to be cleared under a development approval, however it effectively cannot be cleared as part of routine property management.

Beyond the requirements of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the Redlands Planning Scheme provides an additional layer of protection to the management of vegetation.

A large proportion of the Rural Redlands is allocated in either the Conservation or Environmental Protection zones. The Habitat Protection and the Waterways, Wetlands and Moreton Bay Overlays also affect much of rural Redlands. The performance requirements of the zone and overlay codes require the retention of environmental values and, in some circumstances, the enhancement of degraded locations.

Finally *Local Law No. 6 (Protection of vegetation)* regulates the clearing of vegetation for areas subject to vegetation protection orders.

While the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the *Redlands Planning Scheme* and *Local Law No. 6 (Protection of vegetation)* limits the extent to which vegetation can be cleared, there are nonetheless areas within rural Redlands that remain unencumbered by vegetation protection.

Environmental acquisition program

The Object of the *Redland City Council Local Law 15 (Parks and Reserves)* states:

The objects of this local law are to:-

- Provide for the establishment of parks and reserves on land under the Council's control; and*
- Provide for appropriate public access to parks and reserves for active and passive recreation; and*
- Protect the safety of persons using parks and reserves; and*
- Preserve features of the natural and built*

environment and other aspects of the amenity of parks and reserves; and

(e) Regulate activities in parks and reserves and ensure appropriate standards of conduct.

Council's *Conservation Land Management Strategy 2010* identifies the total area of land under conservation control/management is 9,524 ha and falls into the categories outlined in Table 9-1 below.

Table 9-1 Redland City Council conservation lands

Category	Total area (ha)
Conservation Area and Conservation Park (NCA)	1,983
Nature Refuge (NCA listed)	16
Bushland Refuge	377
Nature Belt (Corridor)	40
Creek Corridor	253
Urban Habitat	17
Conservation Coastal Foreshore	6,229
Wetland	538
Drainage Reserve	33
Road Reserve	26

Council maintains a list of lands for purchase as part of its current environmental acquisition program. However, with all high priority purchases now completed, any further purchases need to be targeted to achieve multiple goals. For example, potential acquisitions should be undertaken in conjunction with opportunities to enhance the linkages identified in the *Seven Cs Connection Strategy*.

As with koala conservation and vegetation management, further opportunities exist to align the goals of the environmental acquisition program to the objectives of these other programs.

Ecological and recreation corridors

A range of land uses has degraded ecosystems and left many habitats in the Redlands at threat from impacts associated with isolation and fragmentation such as weed and pest invasion, adverse land uses, altered nutrient and hydraulic cycles, inappropriate fire regimes, and species loss.

Fragmentation is a modern feature of many landscapes, and occurs where areas of continuous habitat are reduced over time to disjunct sets of smaller remnants that are often set in an agricultural landuse matrix. The consequences of which reduces the ability of species finding suitable essential resources, therefore impacting upon the likelihood of reproductive success and longevity. The provision of ecological corridors to maintain connectivity is essential for many species' survival.

Biodiversity Assessment and Mapping Methodology (BAMM) has been used to generate Biodiversity Planning Assessments (BPAs) for a number of Queensland's bioregions. The Biodiversity Planning Assessment for South East Queensland (Version 3.5) shows that most of the rural lands within rural Redlands form part of the Tingalpa Reservoir to Venman Bushland National Park Terrestrial

Corridor (that runs along the western border of Redland City), and contains areas mapped as having State significance.

Further to the broad State significant corridor, Council has identified several continuous and diffuse corridors to enhance connectivity in the city.

The *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* investigated recreational corridors in the city to connect people, plants and animals across private, Council and public land. The Seven Cs identifies 'generators' and 'attractors' at broad strategic levels, along with possible connections between them using primarily natural trails in the rural areas. Some of these connections already exist and some will need to be subject to further investigation.

Landscape character and scenic amenity

The aspirations of the Redland community, as reflected in the Redlands Community Plan 2030, include the following landscape character considerations:

- Vision—the Redlands will be known for the pristine waters and islands of Moreton Bay, and for its protected bushland areas, green spaces and parklands
- Wise Planning and Design Goal 1—retention of the city's distinctive character—sensitive planning, building design and construction integrate with Bay and bushland characteristics and our subtropical climate to preserve the elements of our regional identity and heritage that are loved by the community
- Wise Planning and Design Goal 4—Redlands farmland—agricultural land is retained for primary production and to reflect the Redlands' farming heritage, maintain significant rural landscape values and to feed future populations
- Healthy Natural Environment Goal 8—getting around in nature—walking trails and cycling networks in natural areas are sensitively designed to bring people close to nature and keep nature safe with people

In a broader context, Redland is a bayside community on the edge of Brisbane, and while it forms part of the larger metropolitan conurbation, it is distinctly separated by a band of open space, rural and conservation land identified in the Regional Plan as Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area (RLRPA), including the catchment of Leslie Harrison Dam.

Landscape values

Although the concept of 'landscape' is broad and can be regarded as including a range of biophysical, cultural and perceived values, for the purposes of this strategy, the focus is on the scenic qualities and character of the visible landscape in the rural (non-urban) parts of Redland City. The key landscape values are summarised below:

4. Inter-urban break—the broad band of non-urban land between the Gateway Motorway/ Rochedale (in Brisbane City) and Capalaba/ Cleveland/ Redland Bay (in Redland City), is a regionally significant inter-urban break or green belt separating the two cities. In the southern part,

the Daisy Hill/ Carbrook open space also separates Redland from Logan City, and extends southwards past Springwood to the Moreton Bay coastline east of Beenleigh. Within Redland City, this green belt includes Leslie Harrison Dam, Tingalpa Creek, Mount Cotton and the rural areas of Sheldon

5. Landscape frame—the mainland landscape of Redland is largely framed by the hills of Mount Cotton/ Daisy Hill and the shoreline of Moreton Bay and Logan River, and the offshore islands. Tingalpa Creek and Leslie Harrison Dam also form locally-important landscape edges. Other hills and creeks divide the landscape into viewsheds and neighbourhoods through the rural and urban areas
6. Coastline—the character of the city is strongly influenced by its proximity to Moreton Bay, and this is particularly evident in the urban areas along the coastline. It is also a significant element in the rural landscape in the narrow part of rural Redlands south of Redland Bay, and provides an important background element and focus of easterly views from elevated places throughout the city
7. Forested hills—in addition to the forested slopes and ridgeline of Mount Cotton, other forested hills throughout the rural areas provide local viewsheds and define valleys and neighbourhoods, providing strong visual contrast to cleared farmland and grazing lands, and rural residential
8. Rural character—the rural character of the hinterland comprises a mixture of productive land uses (grazing land, small crops, horticulture and poultry sheds), natural forest and winding roads with an absence of urban elements (kerb and channel, street lighting etc), with only scattered buildings. The distinctive small farms on red soils, which formerly characterised much of the coastal Redland area, are part of Redland's heritage and are valued by the community. Some small cropping remains in pockets between towns. Most rural land which is still being actively used for agriculture and pasture is now to the west of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road and south of Capalaba. There are also several quarries in the rural non-urban area, but are largely screened from road views
9. Waterways and water bodies—in addition to the larger waterways of Logan River, Tingalpa Creek and Leslie Harrison Dam, several other creeks flow north and east through Redland City (and to a lesser extent south to Logan River). These waterways include Tarradarrapin, Erapah, Coolwynpin, Moogurrapum, Hilliards, Weinam and Serpentine Creeks. These creeks are important landscape elements, edges and neighbourhood identity features through both the urban and rural areas, especially where they support riparian vegetation, and where crossed by roads

Many of the above values are protected in reserves and in environmental protection, conservation areas, catchment protection areas and foreshore buffers under the current Redlands Planning Scheme; as koala habitat areas; and as RLRPA under the Regional Plan.

Rural character

Rural character is open space where built form is a minor component of landscapes which are visually dominated by vegetated landforms and open space. Land cover and land uses are typically a combination of rural pursuits and natural areas, night-time lighting is minimal and generally the atmosphere is peaceful.

For this strategy, rural residential areas have been included as part of the overall rural theme, in that they support the rural character albeit with more built form. Accordingly, those parts of the city not included in the neighbourhood analyses are generally considered to be rural in character.

In terms of typical built form, the scale of rural dwellings is relatively small and low-rise (one to two storeys, or high-set). Rural sheds and 'hothouses' or feed storage facilities may be larger, but both these and the houses are generally set well back from road frontages.

Rural character is to be maintained and enhanced as seen from major routes, towns, lookouts and recreational areas. Where views to significant features or high scenic amenity areas are available over rural landscapes, development ought to be compatible, and should maintain views from scenic route sections.

Scenic routes and lookouts

In terms of scenic tourist routes, Council's *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* identifies existing hierarchies of links and investigates opportunities to combine or create links in and as part of an overall network, including an urban and a rural framework.

The *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* identified 'generators' and 'attractors' at broad strategic levels, and identified corridors of recreation, as well as wildlife and biodiversity links between public and privately owned lands to 'provide a high quality' experience that also promotes 'an understanding of the city's history'. The identified attractors are categorised in terms of commercial and community activities, as well as areas of scenic value including parks and conservation areas, lookouts and attractions such as Leslie Harrison Dam and the beaches.

As there are two trunk north-south connections and two east-west connections in the rural network, each link intersects with the Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area which is one of the main attractions in the rural network. Many of these conservation areas and biodiversity connections are protected under the current planning scheme, and contribute to the undeveloped appeal and scenic value of the region.

The north-south connections are:

- Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area—Thornlands link (a continuation of the Thornlands—Cleveland link)
- Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area—Sheldon link (a continuation of the Sheldon—Thornside link)

The east-west connections that link the north-south spines to the Moreton Bay Cycleway, are:

- Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area—Victoria Point link
- Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area—Redland Bay link

The *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* as well as the current *Redlands Planning Scheme* recognises the importance of landscape values, particularly as an integration of scenic amenity and character with biodiversity values.

Significant rural places and features

Places and features in the rural non-urban area which require particular protection or management include:

- Sirromet Winery and vineyard, and the surrounding rural landscape setting
- Leslie Harrison Dam and its foreshores
- all foreshore areas in the southern part of rural Redlands
- major creeks and their riparian vegetation
- roadside vegetation, acoustic barriers and fencing along scenic route sections

Land uses which degrade rural character and landscape values, or have the potential to do so, also require screening, setbacks, height restrictions or other management and control measures. Those likely to intrude upon the rural scenery as seen from scenic route sections and routes identified in the *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* include:

- poultry sheds, large greenhouses and other forms of industrial agriculture
- quarries
- landfill
- rural residential subdivisions, entry statements and dominant fencing
- large visually prominent houses, earthworks, retaining walls and driveways
- billboard advertising
- acoustic barriers and fencing

Protection and enhancement of landscape values

The main measures to protect key landscape, scenic amenity and rural character values includes:

- maintenance of vegetation on hillsides and ridges, as these contribute to the forested skyline when viewed from many roads
- roadside setbacks, buffers and screening for built form, including poultry sheds and other industrial scale agriculture

Rural tourism

Although visitor numbers to the Redlands have been increasing in recent years, with an average growth rate in visitation of 2.9% per annum since 2002, the bulk of visitor nights and tourism infrastructure investment is directed towards the coastal townships and Southern Moreton Bay Islands and North Stradbroke Island. This is evidenced through visitor awareness surveys which found that whilst awareness of the Redlands region as a visitor destination is

relatively low, awareness of Stradbroke Island is high for both Brisbane and other residents

The current pattern of visitation appears to be for tourists to travel through the Redlands and use it as a 'jumping off' point for further travel and visitation to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. In this regard, key issues affecting rural tourism include the following:

- the major tourist attractions are the off-shore islands, with visitors using the mainland essentially as a transit corridor on the way to an island; and
- rural Redlands is relatively small and as such does not function as a convenient location for drive tourists to 'break' their trip through short stops

Options for rural tourism to leverage additional visitation through capturing a percentage of those visitors that travel through the rural parts of the region include:

- provision of additional forms of accommodation
- provision of attractions that encourage visitation to rural Redlands as a destination in its own right

Currently, accommodation options and rural tourism activities are limited in the rural areas. There may be potential to increase the accommodation offer, however this would likely be limited to small scale accommodation (bed and breakfast or similar) in those parts of the area that retain a natural bushland character and enjoy elevation and outlooks potentially towards the Moreton Bay Islands.

Events and education also provide opportunities for further development of rural tourism. Proximity to the major population centres of the southeast corner make the area an attractive destination for educational camps for school or corporate groups to undertake outdoor or rural activities, with alternative visitor options such as farmstays also providing a unique visitor experience.

Sporting and cultural events also provide opportunities for increased visitor growth to the region. Events such as Sirromet Winery's 'A Day on The Green' concert series provide a successful example of cultural events that attract thousands of visitors to the area, and strategies to coordinate a series of events throughout the year would assist in increasing visitor numbers and awareness of the natural attractions of the rural Redlands.

Sporting events can also assist in increasing visitation numbers. Central to the success of such events is the existence of a suitable venue in terms of size and location, as well as the willingness and ability of local sporting clubs and organisations to coordinate such events. The assistance of Council in terms of providing organisational assistance or the establishment of suitable venues would be an incentive to increasing the number of larger and more visible sporting events in the future.

Given the rural history of the Redlands and proximity to the larger population centres of the southeast corner, 'Farmers Markets' may be an achievable style of event that encourages visitation. Farmers Markets promote and showcases local food production, supports local small scale rural production of boutique agricultural products such as flowers or exotic

vegetables, and provides an alternative distribution platform for local food and associated value added products.

The proximity of rural Redlands to the attractions of Brisbane and the Bay Islands, as well as the ease of road access also makes the area potentially attractive to the 'grey nomad' visitor segment. Grey nomad tourism is especially important for rural and regional communities, as grey nomads are more likely to visit these areas and spend time exploring them than other tourists.

Tourist infrastructure including camping, caravan and RV² parks that allow short term (usually overnight) stays encourage greater visitation. Other strategies may include the identification of a 'grey nomad route' that traverses the region, and the coordinated marketing of the rural attractions to the grey nomad market through associated tourism and motoring bodies.

The Seven Cs network of shared use trails, when developed, is intended to provide access through the natural bushland to the west of Mount Cotton including the Koala Bushland Conservation Area. While there are challenges in the network's development it will provide another opportunity to engage with tourists when it is developed.

In general, the major competitive advantage enjoyed by rural Redlands is its relatively natural bushland character and amenity. It is therefore important that in the short term the range of attractions that depend upon these characteristics (activities such as bushwalking and bird-watching) are protected and strengthened. The maintenance and enhancement of these characteristics through programs such as the *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* will over time provide the platform for future opportunities to develop outdoor sport, recreation or cultural activities that will assist in supporting associated tourism infrastructure such as accommodation.

Tourism strategy

Council's Tourism Strategy proposes the following vision for tourism:

"Redlands is the most accessible, diverse and protected nature playground within Brisbane's Moreton Bay and Islands."

Consistent with this vision, much of the Tourism Strategy is focused on Moreton Bay and the Islands, and on positioning Redlands as the gateway to these experiences. However, several of its suggestions are also relevant to the mainland rural non-urban area including the recommended initiative of encouraging an active outdoor lifestyle through the development of walking tracks.

Tourism opportunities and strengths identified in the strategy include accessibility and awareness for 'short breaks' for South East Queensland residents, and education (especially environmental and cultural tourism); while the lack of accommodation has been identified as a constraint.

Outdoor recreation settings

Rural Redlands includes large tracts of open space including the Mount Cotton-Sheldon area but also extending to the Logan River in the southeast, along Tingalpa Creek in the northwest, and as corridors along other waterways. These areas include a wide variety of non-urban landscapes, ranging from the forested hills and bushland patches, rural farmlands and grazing areas, and waterways, to the Moreton Bay foreshore.

Much of the land within rural areas supports open space that is protected or regulated under State and/or local government statutory requirements for flora, fauna or biodiversity management—amounting to more than 50% of the area of Redlands being protected to conserve a range of nationally important natural and cultural assets. The Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area in the southwest of rural Redlands is a key area for conservation, and is also a potential asset for nature-based recreation.

Outdoor recreation activities

Evidence and demand surveys indicate that at a minimum Rural Redlands, The Islands and Moreton Bay are currently supporting the following outdoor recreation activities on public land, the creeks and the bay;

- bird watching and other forms of nature study bushwalking
- camping
- canoeing
- climbing, abseiling and rock climbing
- conservation activities
- kayaking
- rafting
- fishing
- two-wheel and four-wheel driving
- horse riding, trail and endurance rides
- motor-boating
- picnicking
- road cycling and mountain bike riding
- sailing
- sailboarding
- kite-surfing
- swimming in the sea and lakes
- waterskiing
- orienteering
- rogaining
- ropes courses
- archery
- snorkling and scuba-diving
- surfing
- trail running
- jet skiing
- kite flying
- picnicking
- skateboarding / rollerblading

Many of these activities occur at Kindilan Outdoor Education and Conference Centre in Redland Bay.

These activities need to be better understood, and planned for, to ensure that the natural areas in which the activities take place are being managed to meet the demand. The demand is not only from Redland residents but also from the wider region. The locations where these activities occur and where Council would like for them to continue to occur should, where possible be protected from encroachment and other impacts.

Seven Cs Connection Strategy

Council's *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* aims to integrate recreational corridors with wildlife linkages through both the urban and rural areas, with the recreation network functioning to:

- connect 'generators' with 'attractors' or residential communities with destinations
- provide trails for cyclists, walkers and horse-riders, through both public and private land, that allow residents to discover new places
- be promoted as a low-cost recreation experience which increases levels of physical activity

The Seven Cs network proposes a series of shared use trails that cater to walkers, cyclists and horse riders in the rural network, and cyclists and walkers in the urban network, connecting with and adding to the Moreton Bay Cycleway. In developing and mapping the network, generators were identified (i.e. where people were coming from, such as residential areas) and connected to attractors (i.e. locations where people want to go).

Rural recreational connections

The *Seven Cs Connection Strategy* identifies existing hierarchies of links and investigates opportunities to combine or create links in and as part of an overall network, including an urban and a rural framework as described above. The urban network includes connections to the Moreton Bay Cycleway.

The rural network includes two north-south trunk connections and two east-west trunk connections as shown in Figure 9-2.

Each of these links the Koala Bushland Coordinated Conservation Area (KBCCA) as one of the main attractors with the urban generators and the urban network plus secondary High Order Collectors, as follows:

North-south connections:

- KBCCA—Thornlands link (a continuation of the Thornlands—Cleveland link through urban areas)
- KBCCA—Sheldon link (a continuation of the Sheldon—Thornside link through urban areas) and including the existing Koala Coast Trail
- Mount Cotton Lookout High Order Collector
- Sirromet Winery to Pinklands Sporting Complex High Order Collector (although this is not suitable for horse-riding)

East-west connections (also linking to the Moreton Bay Cycleway):

- KBCCA—Victoria Point link, linking the Eastern Escarpment Conservation Area with the Sandy Creek Conservation Area and passing through Sirromet Winery and Karingal Campsite

- KBCCA—Redland Bay link, with potential future links to mountain bike trails in Cornubia Forest (Logan City)
- Avalon Road—Eastern Escarpment Conservation Area High Order Collector
- German Church Road—Redland Bay High Order Collector
- Leslie Harrison Dam High Order Connector (if recreational use of the reservoir foreshores is permitted)

Some of these routes will require more planning, upgrading and detailed design in order to be suitable for walking, cycling and/ or horse-riding. There are some sections through private land which are yet to be negotiated, including the Koala BCCA—Thornlands link and links through Sirromet Winery and Karingal Campsite.

All routes through rural non-urban areas pass through a variety of attractive rural landscapes. Areas of high scenic amenity and landscape character within view of these routes require consideration in planning for alternative uses of rural lands, so that the recreational experience of moving through non-urban countryside is retained and enhanced.

Green living hub

Green living hubs envisage achieving broad community outcomes through linking existing and new environment education/ sustainable living hubs and programs through partnerships with community and private organisations.

A green living hub identified in the *Redlands Social Infrastructure Strategy 2009* envisages closer cooperation between Sheldon College, Sirromet Winery, Duncan Road Equestrian Centre and a proposed regional sports facility.

Such a cluster has the potential to accommodate sporting or recreational activities to complement the winery, college and equestrian centre, opportunities for rural/ greenfield industries, limited accommodation associated with rural non-urban uses and wildlife habitat corridors, eco-business development, social and cultural enterprises.

Summary

The mainland rural non-urban areas of Redlands offer the following potential for outdoor recreation opportunities, physical activity and sport:

- recreational routes and trails for walking, cycling and horse-riding through 'countryside', connecting the urban residential areas and Moreton Bay Cycleway to the KBCCA and other nature conservation areas and creek corridors
- in the longer term, quarry rehabilitation may provide opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as habitat

Queensland Moto Park

In 2010 Redland City Council entered into a partnership arrangement through the South East Qld Council of Mayors to see the development of a trail bike facility in the Scenic Rim Shire Council area.

As Council has no suitable location for a trail bike facility within the boundaries of the city, the Council of the day believed that investing in a regional facility was a way of supporting the 1000's of motor bike riders who live in the Redlands.

The Wyaralong Regional Trail Bike Facility is a safe and family friendly environment for trail bike riding. It also provides ancillary activities for riders across South East Queensland. It is an environmentally responsible facility that is sensitive to surrounding uses and activities.

The site is located at Wyaralong, south of the proposed Wyaralong Dam. It is situated off the Beaudesert – Boonah Road, it is located approximately 14 kilometres from Boonah and approximately 85 kilometres from the Brisbane central business district.

The site comprises six individual parcels, having a total area of 775 hectares. The physical geography of the site is varied. The eastern aspect is the flattest area of the site, which is characterised by a gently graded landform. These areas are largely cleared as a result of ongoing grazing activities, contributing to areas of significant degradation. This landscape quickly changes across the central and eastern aspects of the site. These areas are dominated by steeper gradients (ridges and gullies). The density of vegetation also increases, as the gradient has limited the use of these areas for grazing activities.

Grades across the site vary from essentially <5% to more than 25%, although the majority of the site has a gradient between 10 and 17%

The land is owned by the Queensland Government. The park infrastructure has been paid for by the Queensland Government, the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors and Motorcycling Queensland. Motorcycling Queensland is the operator of the park.

The aim has been to develop and deliver a world-class off-road motorcycle venue designed by some of Australia's leading experts in the field.

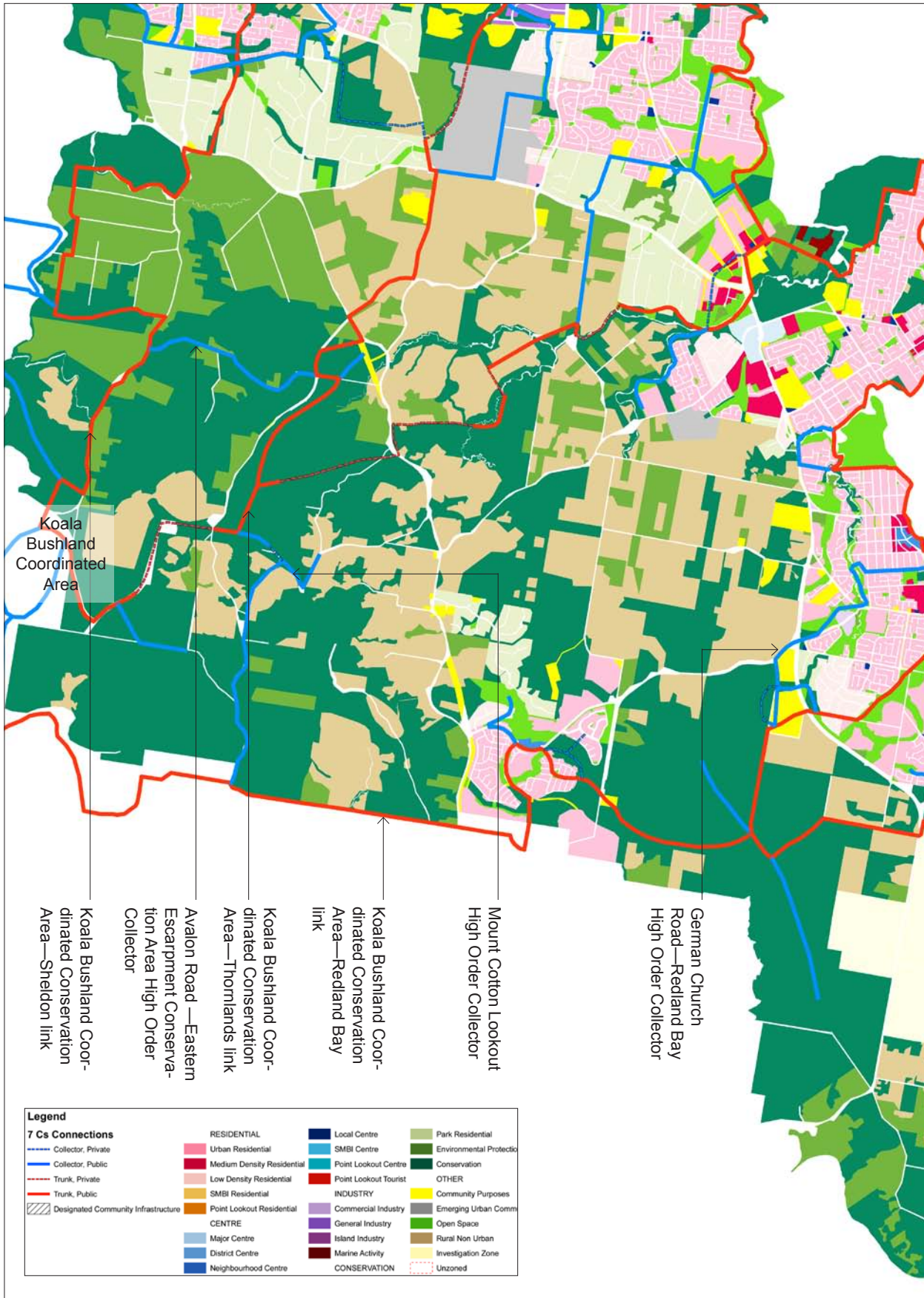
The facility provides the following;

- A wide variety of motorcycling options.
- A facility for off road riders of all ages and skill levels.
- A well managed, safe, fun, family friendly riding facility.
- A dedicated commitment to preserving the environment.
- A positive alternative to illegal riding
- See the map of the rides on the next page)

The facility operates on the following hours;

- Operating Days will be from Thursday to Monday every week. (Only Tuesday and Wednesdays will be closed for maintenance)

Figure 9-2: Rural Seven Cs network (mainland)



The tracks on offer include;

- a variety of constructed and natural terrain Motocross tracks including a nippers / Pee Wee track and a family track
- a Supercross, Freestyle Motocross and Stadium-cross style tracks.
- 50km of trails, also available to be used for Enduro's and an area dedicated to Moto-Trials.
- A dirt track is planned for Stage 2 development.

Future stages are planned over the next three years which will roll out improved facilities including;

- new camping facilities with shaded areas and a camp kitchen.
- upgraded site office and canteen.
- mechanical service and spare parts centre.
- Dirt / Flat Track Area.
- viewing mounds and spectator facilities.

Anyone over the age of 4 years can ride. The holders of a Motorcycling Australia licence will get a discounted entry fee, but a licence is not essential for entry;

- Single Recreational Activity Licences will be able to be purchased on site as part of the entry fee.
- Adult MA licence holder - \$35 for residents of supporting SEQ Council of Mayors regions (\$39 for residents outside this area)
- Adult non-MA licence holder - \$42.50 for residents of supporting SEQ Council of Mayors regions (\$47 for residents outside this area)
- Child (U16 years) MA licence holder - \$20 for residents of supporting SEQ Council of Mayors regions (\$22 for residents outside this area)
- Child (U16 years) non-MA member, \$25 for residents of supporting SEQ Council of Mayors regions (\$28 for residents outside this area)
- Camping - \$5 per person, per night
- Admin Fee - \$10 (if you don't book online)
- The park will cater for Quads, particularly on special Quad Ride Days. On all other days, Quads may not have access to the whole facility.

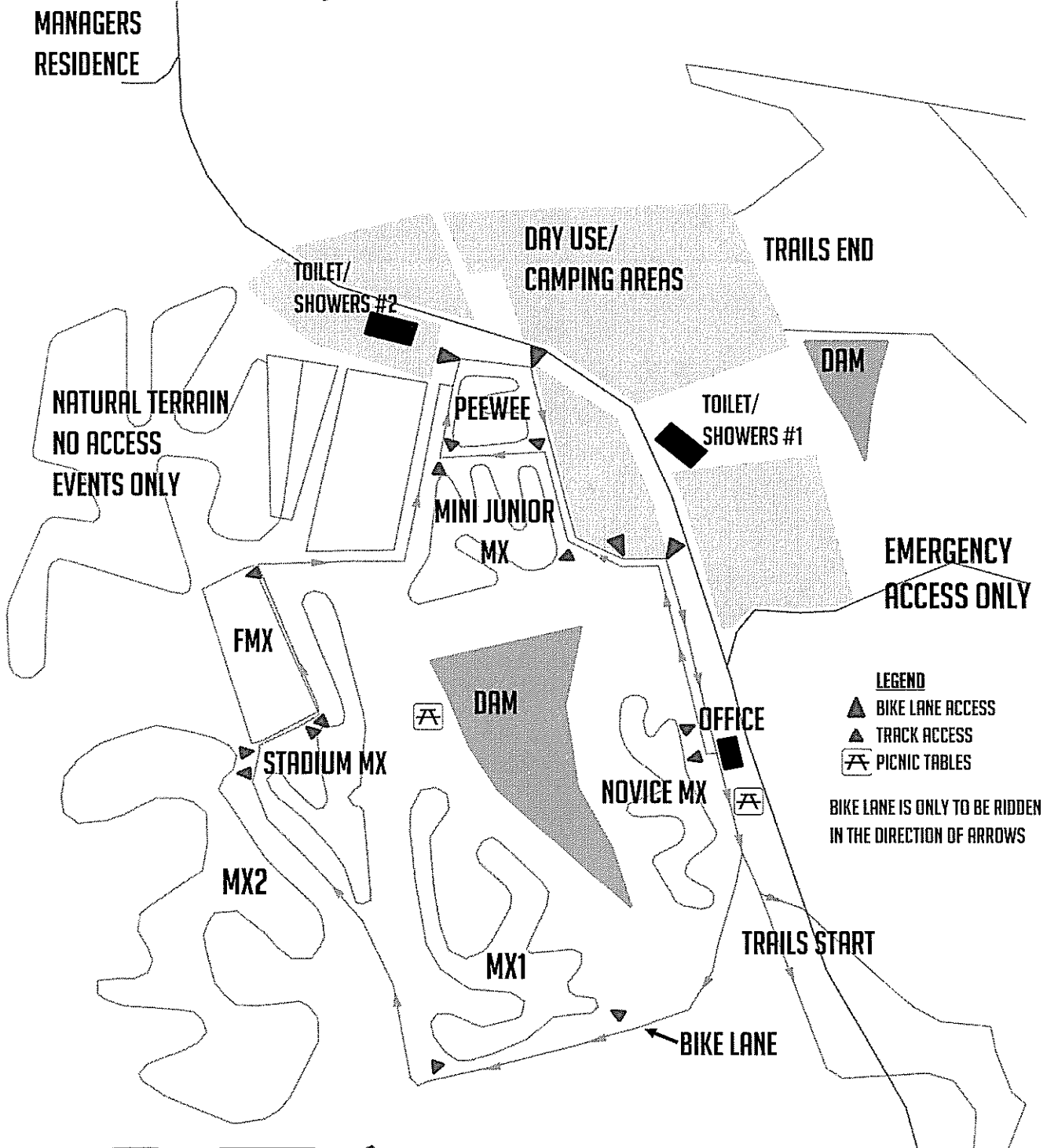
The following Councils supported the facility;

Brisbane, Gold Coast, Lockyer, Redland, Logan, Ipswich, Scenic Rim and Somerset



MQ
MOTORCYCLING
QUEENSLAND

MANAGERS
RESIDENCE



LEGEND

- BIKE LANE ACCESS
- TRACK ACCESS
- PICNIC TABLES

BIKE LANE IS ONLY TO BE RIDDEN
IN THE DIRECTION OF ARROWS

