Coronet Trail Network Plan

September 2024

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

This document sets out the framework of how the Coronet Trail Network Plan will be implemented and provides a vision, and guiding principles to inform the management of the site at this stage of the development.

This document details:

01 Ecological restoration and biodiversity

Vision:

To establish an indigenous ecosystem, while providing a recreational space for the local community and visitors.

The revegetation project has been designed to achieve the following key objectives:

- Promote the natural regeneration of native vegetation and provide biodiversity and a habitat for native wildlife.
- Meet the expectations of the community and provide recreation for future generations to enjoy through the establishment of walkways, biking tracks, horse trekking trails and picnic areas.

02 Network plan

The revegetation will take place over several years and the trail network plan is to be staged. Many of the trails will have shared use, with the design providing for loops of varying lengths and difficulties, while providing uphill and downhill trails opportunities. The trail network provides the following:

- Consideration of wider connections, links into Bush Creek, future links to Arrowtown, and Queenstown Trail Trust routes
- A ridgeline route for walkers
- Beginner and advanced loops for horse riders and walkers
- Skills areas for horse riders
- Intermediate trails for mountain bikers
- Progressive loops for mountain bikers
- Advanced climbs for mountain bikers and walkers
- Skills areas for mountain bikers
- Return trails for mountain bikers and walkers
- Access walking track for paragliding launch sites
- Picnic points/lookouts and rest areas within the site
- The main road across the block will provide shared access

The trail network prioritises the physical separation of horse riders and uphill and downhill mountain biking routes by removing any dangerous conflicts.

The network will provide opportunities for a wide a range of users in a sustainable and manageable way that does not compromise its landscape or natural value.

Due to the terrain and steepness of the site the network will accommodate intermediate to advanced mountain bikers.

A deer fence is to be installed around the perimeter to prevent invasive pests such as goats and rabbits from entering the site. The fence is not a complete predator-free fence which would exclude all pest mammals (such as stoats, rats and possums). The fence line follows the existing forestry tracks and there are several gate locations to access the site. While some trails must pass through the fence, this has been accommodated within the design.

The trail design provides a threshold or limit to the future trail development. The plan details what is sustainable within the context of the landscape and has accommodated an appropriate number of trails within the site.

In the future the site should be accessible by transport other than cars i.e. consideration of wider connections, links into Bush Creek, future links to Arrowtown, and Queenstown Trail Trust routes.

03 Sustainability development framework

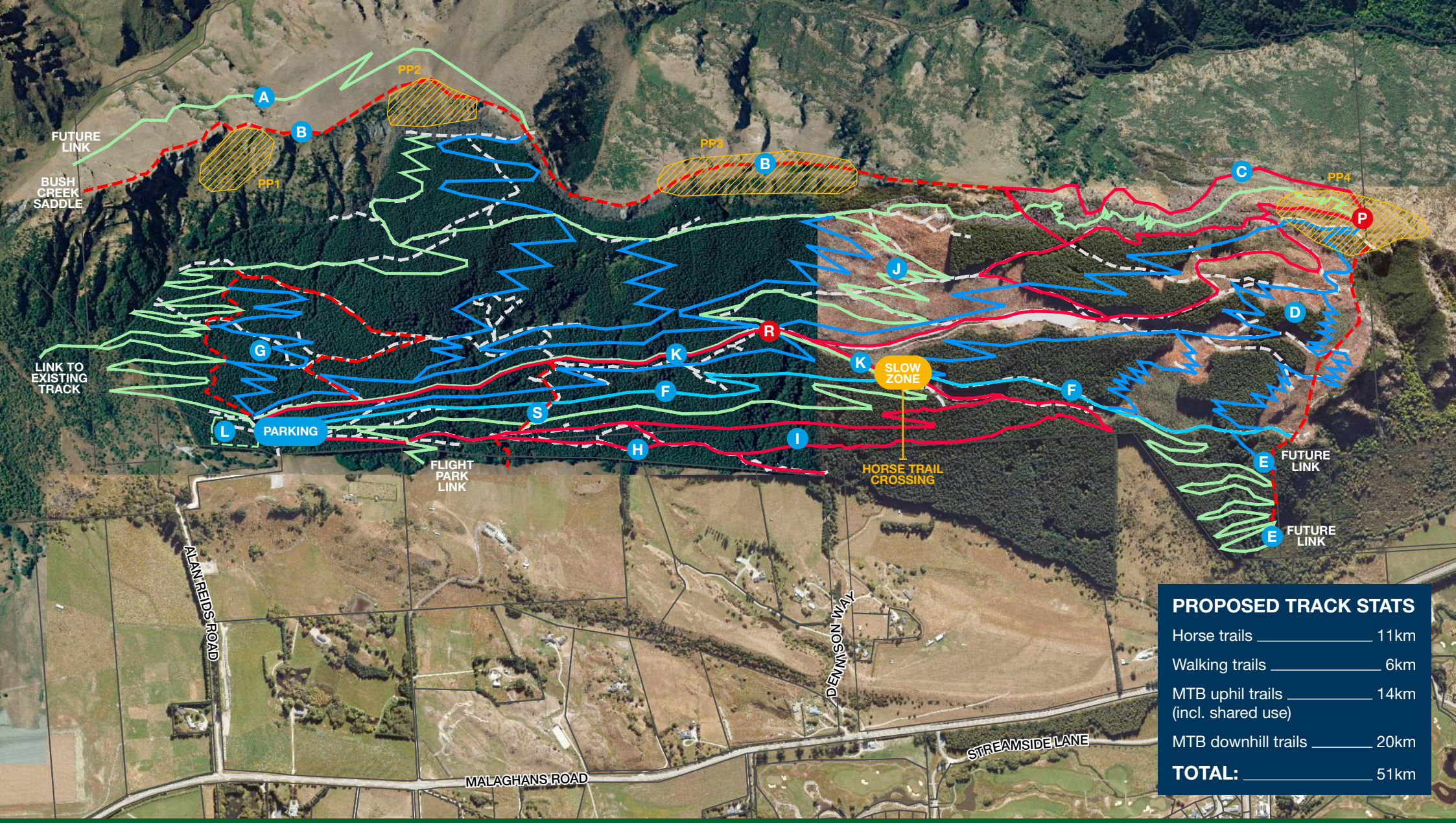
The following guiding principles are to inform the construction and development of the site:

- Trail planning, design, construction and maintenance must adopt methodologies that are sustainable and mitigate landscape impacts and ensure effective implementation. For example:
  - Appropriate planting around trails for site lines and future maintenance.
  - Mitigate the visual impact of new and existing trails on the landscape.
  - Water management across trails.
  - Retaining which supports slope stability.
- Trail construction and maintenance standards will be developed to inform the construction works. This will be guided by the sustainability framework and will consider both handmade trails and machine-built trails.
- The community (both local and wider) will be encouraged to get involved in volunteering activities, including biodiversity management and trail maintenance and management on an ongoing basis, creating long term positive impacts.
- QLDC will consult with iwi on wayfinding and opportunities for sharing mana whenua histories, narratives and cultural identity through pūrakau/ stories and mana whenua interpretation panels.
- Ecological health of all waterways and sites of significance will be protected to respect cultural connections. This will be through clear guidelines which will inform design of trails in proximity to streams and gullies.
- Slope mitigation measures which must be considered during construction:
  - Adjust the trail network to avoid the more at-risk areas and any overland flow paths.
  - Where trails must cross overland flow paths, ensure adequately sized culverts with appropriate erosion protection are installed to minimise the risk of ponding water and scouring.
  - Limiting earthworks to form the trail including minimising the amount of fill placed on the mapped areas of fill and avoiding cutting into the toe of the high-risk areas and any steep slopes.
  - Re-grading over steepened areas of soil and existing fill areas to more stable batters. Consideration could be given to removal of fill from more active/higher risk overland flow paths.
  - Construction of engineered retaining walls or reinforced earth slopes where limiting earthworks are not possible.
  - Construction cut off drains to divert surface water away from any steep slopes.
  - These drains should be outlet to an appropriate location with adequate erosion protection.
  - Revegetating slopes and/or covering the surface with erosion protection such as coconut matting or riprap.
  - A detailed overland flow review to determine if the forestry tracks and associated earthworks could trigger wider slope instability by overland flow diversion and/or drain/water table blockage.

04 Maintenance

Key maintenance objectives to be met:

- Trail maintenance must be guided by robust guidelines related to minimising impacts on to landscape, ecological health and biodiversity.
- Trail maintenance and management must take into account issues that relate to the type of trail to ensure that works consider spatial variability with soils, vegetation, exposure and usage.
- Maintenance and management must be guided by effective standards relating to trail grading, design and construction.
- Maintenance and management of the site must be founded on the vision of a regenerating native forest and consider the objectives of ecological restoration and pest control in all decisions.



PROPOSED TRACK STATS

Horse trails	11km
Walking trails	6km
MTB uphil trails (incl. shared use)	14km
MTB downhill trails	20km
TOTAL:	51km

- MTB downhill trail
- MTB downhill return trail
- MTB uphill/walking trail
- Rest / picnic spot
- Walking trail
- Horse riding trail
- Logging roads
- Paragliding takeoff zone

- A Bush Creek Saddle Link - MTB & Walkers
- B Ridgeline route - Walkers (unformed poled route)
- C Advanced loop - Horses
- D Advanced zone - MTB
- E Potential future link to Arrowtown
- F Main return trail - MTB
- G Progression loops - MTB
- H Skills area - Horses
- I Progression trails - Horses
- J Advanced climb - MTB & Walkers
- K Shared access - main road (including emergency access)
- L Skills area - MTB
- P Picnic point / lookout
- R Rest area
- S Paragliding walking access

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