

HEALTHY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT PROGRAM – Sample Project

Dorrigo Waterfall Walk and Cycleway, NSW

Bellingen Shire Council
Federal electorate: Cowper

Description of the Project

Dorrigo is a small rural township of approximately 900 people. Located 5km outside Dorrigo, the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre is a prime attraction in the region. The centre is operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as the gateway to the Gondwana World Heritage Area.

The project aims to construct a 4.5km pedestrian path and cycleway. The route would follow Dome Road from the Rainforest Centre, crossing Rocky Creek, and turning onto Waterfall Way toward the Dorrigo, where it meets the end of a shared path that currently leads into the town centre.

The path will be augmented by facilities to encourage safe use of the pathway, including extending an existing park area on the banks of Rocky Creek to provide a resting point. An interpretive display will landmark each end of the cycleway encouraging users to explore the end-points of Dorrigo township and the World Heritage Area.

The Benefits

The project offers a range of benefits:

- Health and fitness for visitors and residents. The proposed route affords access to a range of community facilities, providing alternative options for healthy and sustainable transport to and from schools, parklands, homes, shops and churches which are en-route or readily accessible from the route.
- Increased tourism, in particular eco/nature-based sustainable tourism.
- Improved access to the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, which attracts around 190,000 visitors annually.
- Some of the fundamental benefits of such a facility focus on the promotion and realisation of healthy lifestyle. This includes physical and emotional wellbeing, particularly related to:
- Growth of the Dorrigo community's civic pride, socialising and bonding, through family activity, organised special interest groups, and heightened interaction between local and visiting users

Status of the Project

There has been a significant degree of progress on the project to date, including:

- consultation has identified a strong desire by local residents, visitors, commerce and natural estate agencies to progress this concept;
- the facility has been identified as a priority in the recently adopted Bellingen Shire PAMP and Bellingen Shire Tourism Strategy;
- preliminary surveys by Bellingen Shire Council and the Dorrigo Urunga Bellingen Bicycle User Group (DUBBUG) have identified the preferred route, estimated scope of earthworks and preliminary costing; and
- a commitment by Bellingen Shire Council, including the allocation of dedicated funds over the coming three year period as contributions toward co-funding.

Support for the Project

The project has attracted and secured strong support from a range of stakeholders.

- National Parks and Wildlife Service has expressed strong support, confirming the conservation, recreation, education and promotion benefits, as well as aiding the commercial management of the Rainforest Centre. NPWS has offered commitment

through the provision of machinery, some materials and possibly an element of labour for construction. It has also offered access to its promotional resources to encourage use of the cycleway, and to further investigate access to NPWS property at the Rainforest Centre site to establish signage and bike parking and security facilities.

- Enterprise & Training Company is a non-profit organisation offering employment, training and business facilitation services. ETC has offered its support through the potential to access labour programs and employment resources, and training opportunities, to assist in works and delivery of project outcomes.
- Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce has a particular interest in the project through the benefits it will deliver its Dorrigo CBD member businesses.
- Bellingen Shire Council has made a significant commitment to the project. Council has pursued the project concept through determining preliminary scopes of works and costing. It has allocated a project leader to assist in the co-ordination of advocacy and resourcing of the project. Council has also allocated \$60,000 per annum over three years as a co-contribution to the funding this, or similar, project(s).
- The project has been strongly advocated by the. DUBBUG represents some 145 cyclists and cycling enthusiasts from the Bellingen Shire.

Costing

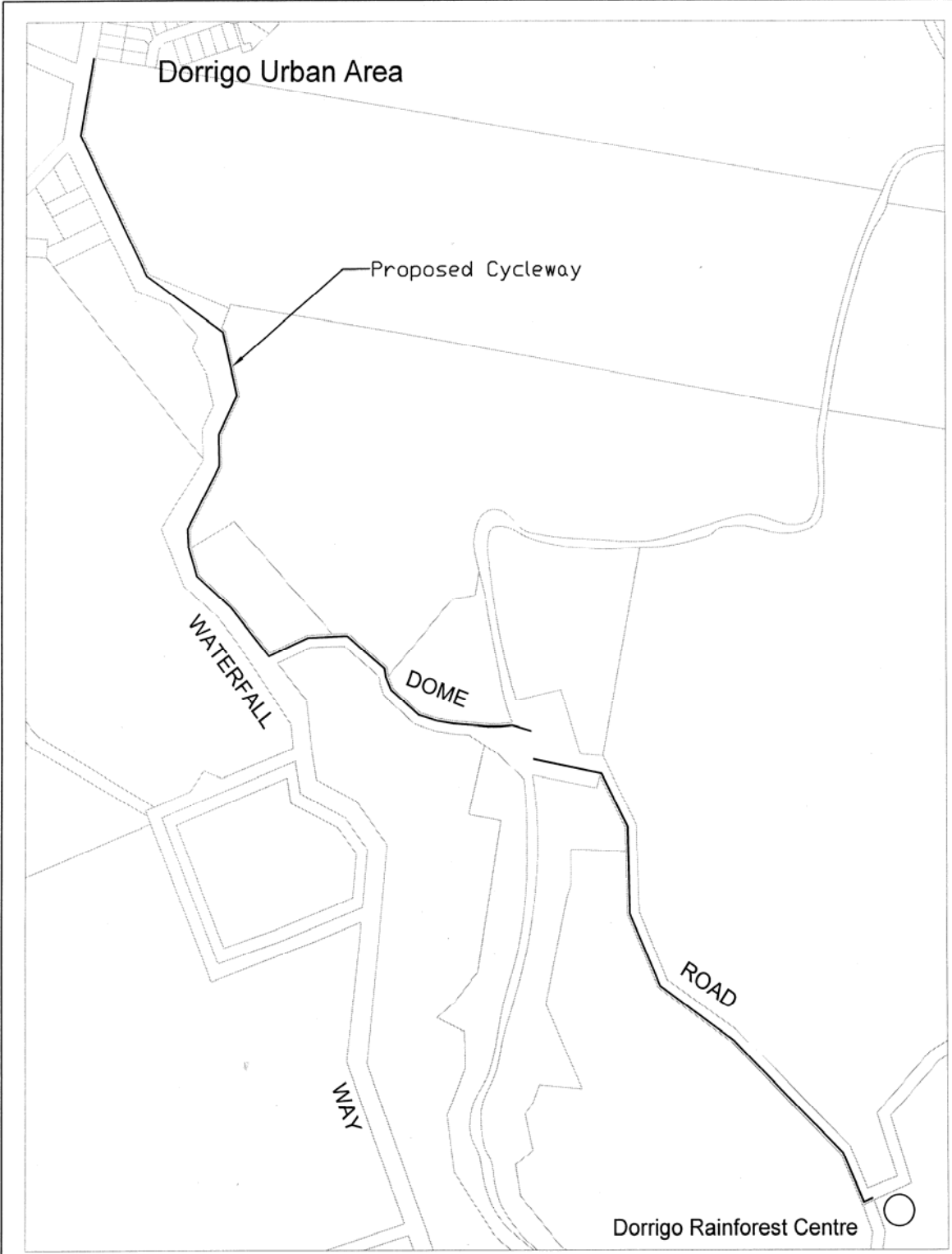
The estimated cost of this project is \$500,000. This includes consultancy, design/planning and construction of a bitumen pathway, a bridge over Rocky Creek, directional signage, beautification works at the Rocky Creek picnic area en-route and road crossing works and barriers. The costing estimate does not include additional facilities works such as BBQs, toilets, bicycle racks or promotional materials.

These estimates have been prepared by professional engineering and surveying staff from Bellingen Shire Council, in consultation with stakeholder groups and professional service providers.

Further information, including a more detailed proposal, can be obtained by contacting:

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Thanks go to Bellingen Shire Council and the Dorrigo Urunga Bellingen Bicycle User Group for this sample HEAT project



Source Data:-
Land and Property Information,
Bathurst NSW &
Bellingen Shire Council

Bellingen Shire Council

**Proposed Cycleway between
Dorrigo Township and Rainforest Centre**

