

SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL TRAILS MASTER PLAN



The Snowy Monaro Regional Trails Master Plan provides a ten-year action plan to deliver a regional trail network which provides long-term social and economic success through establishing a four-season visitor destination. The prioritised ten-year action plan reflects the community's aspirations and guides Council to provide best-practice trail experiences that connect communities, encourage healthy lifestyles, align with Australian/New Zealand and International Standards, and showcase the region's natural beauty and unique climate. This project was recently awarded a 'Commendation' in the Strategic Planning category of the NSW ACT Regional Awards of Excellence – Parks & Leisure Australia.



Snowy Monaro's mountainous terrain, dense bushland and open plains are similar to that of the New Zealand landscape and is home to the well-known Mount Kosciuszko. Tredwell's experience led to the identification of common but often overlooked issues regarding the trail network in Snowy Monaro. Many of these issues are also present in New Zealand, and Tredwell have the capacity to identify research-based actions and strategies to address these, which ultimately aid in boosting the economic impact trails have, and provide more sustainable, accessible, connected and interactive trails. Some of these common issues include:



Connectivity and Integration

Many regions in New Zealand have excellent individual trails, but there may be opportunities to create a more extensive network that connect different trails, allowing for longer-distance journeys or multi-day adventures. Tredwell can assess the existing trail infrastructure within, and outside of Council regions, and identify areas where connectivity can be improved to provide a seamless and comprehensive trail experience. There is also the opportunity for improved connectivity and integration between existing trails and local townships, particularly on longer multi-day trails. This can aid in drawing walkers, cyclists or horse riders into townships to increase economic impact and overnight stays.



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Accessibility for All Abilities

While New Zealand offers numerous outdoor activities, like Australia, there are gaps in trails that are accessible to people with disabilities or those with limited mobility. Tredwell have experience in exploring the potential for developing inclusive trails that accommodate various abilities, such as wheelchair-accessible paths, sensory trails, or trails with adaptive equipment. By addressing accessibility gaps and working with New Zealand Standards such as the newly developed New Zealand Mountain Bike guidelines, Tredwell can promote inclusivity and ensure that everyone can enjoy the outdoor experience.

Urban Trail Networks

While New Zealand's natural landscapes are popular for outdoor activities, there may be an opportunity to develop urban trail networks within cities and towns. These trails could provide opportunities for commuting, recreational cycling, and walking, creating a more active and sustainable urban environment. Tredwell have experience in working with local authorities and communities to identify suitable locations for urban trails, promote their development, and create a sense of place through tailored signage, stories and infrastructure selection.

Trail Infrastructure for Adventure Sports

New Zealand is renowned for adventure sports such as mountain biking, trail running, and hiking. However, there may be a need for further trail infrastructure development to cater specifically to these activities. Tredwell have experience in assessing the demand for adventure sports trails, identify areas where development is lacking, and work with local councils, communities and adventure sports organisations to create exciting and challenging trail experiences.

Indigenous Cultural and Informative Trails

New Zealand has a rich indigenous Maori culture, and trails can be an excellent way to highlight and celebrate Maori heritage and traditions. Tredwell can build partnerships Maori communities and cultural organisations, as they have done with Aboriginal groups in Australia, to create trails that educate visitors about Maori history, art, language, and traditions. These trails can provide a unique and immersive experience while fostering cultural appreciation and understanding and can also include informative information on native flora and fauna.

Ultimately Tredwell's thorough market research, consultation and expertise allows us to identify specific gaps in trail markets that can contribute to enhancing the overall trail experiences offered in New Zealand and can aid in attracting a wider range of trail enthusiasts through addressing often overlooked aspects of trail planning and design.

"Trail based experiences are rapidly growing across the Snowy Monaro Region and not only benefit our community but also have a significant impact on our economy. Tredwell have delivered a comprehensive strategy that considers all trails for range of users across a diverse area. The result of the trails masterplan plan carefully considers options for sustainable trail development opportunities, planning, on-going management and funding. The final Masterplan was adopted by Council in June 2022 and is an integral part of our delivery and operations plan. I would highly recommend Tredwell for any other recreation or trail based masterplan project".

**Alannah Dickeson
Recreation Planner
Snowy Monaro Regional Council**