

Ipswich Rock Climbing, Bouldering & Abseiling Forum

Thursday, 15 February 2018

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project background
3. Project scope and purpose
4. Assessment methodology
5. Flinders / Goolman assessment outcomes
6. White Rock / Spring Mountain assessment outcomes
7. Discussion
8. Next Steps

Project background

- ICC aware rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling are occurring on its estate (Flinders-Goolman and White Rock – Spring Mountain)
- These activities are not currently authorised by ICC
- ICC does not currently have a policy position on rock climbing, bouldering or abseiling
- ICC are aware of the potential benefits of appropriately managed rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling to the local community and the Ipswich economy

Project Scope

- Determine current and future demands for rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling on ICC estates
- Assess 24 sites for suitability
 - Consideration of environmental, ecological, cultural heritage, geological, safety, risk, site access, etc.
- Identify ongoing management actions for sites
- Develop a discussion paper for ICC – will be used to guide the development of a policy position
- Where feasible, provide appropriate and safe opportunities for rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling on ICC estates

Assessment Methodology

1. Site visits
2. Climbing suitability assessment
 - Suitable structure / size
 - Available pitches / problems
 - Ease of access to site
 - Infrastructure required (tracks, bolts, etc.)
3. Environmental assessment
 - Literature review
 - Data set overlay / evaluation

- Likelihood of occurrence assessment
4. Suitable sites / recommended for further evaluation

Questions

Why change something that seems to work?

- Legitimizing activity
- Potential benefits to ICC
- Minimise risk
- Management of impact on environment

Will the process include onsite environmental assessments? (to Epic)

- Onsite surveys planned in next stages to identify potential issues

Flinders / Goolman

Climbing Suitability

See attached Seima Safety Report

AJ Amies

Locations potentially suitable for climbing activity development

- Flinders Peak East Side
- Scotts Scrub Pinnacle
- Flinders Peak/ Mt Flinders Saddle (Western Ridge)
- Mt Catherine

Comments

Area to the left of Secret Cave has potentially 100+ routes (Dave Reeve, ACAQ)

Ecological Findings

- Mt Catherine
 - Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby habitat area. Historical records in the area. No desktop records of protected plant species near existing climbing site or track.
- North West Ridge
 - Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby habitat area. Historical records in the area. No desktop records of protected plant species near existing climbing site or track.
- Secret Cave Area
 - Known den/breeding site of BTRW immediately east of the cave. Single Marsdenia coronata record. No desktop records of protected plant species near existing climbing site or track.
- Scott's Scrub Pinnacle
 - Potential Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby habitat with historical records in the area. No desktop records of protected plant species near existing climbing site or track (Cupaniopsis tomentella records approx. 1 km south).

White Rocks & Spring Mountain

Climbing Suitability

See attached Seima Safety Report

AJ Amies

Locations potentially suitable for climbing activity development

- Little White Rock
- The Boardwalk
- Slab Land
- The Bat Cave
- Super Hard To Miss
- So Long Gravity
- The Underground
- Super Hard Wall
- Tatooine

Ecological Findings

No major issues – need to manage access

- The Boardwalk and R2 – Little White
 - RockSlender Milkvine and Plectranthus habrophyllus records close by, however not in immediate vicinity of the site.
- Tatooine
 - No desktop records of protected flora or fauna species in immediate vicinity of the site. Slender Milkvine record close by, however not in immediate vicinity of the site.
- Slab Land, R5 – Super Hard to Miss and R8 – Superhard Wall
 - No desktop records of protected flora or fauna in immediate vicinity of the site.

Cultural Heritage Findings

- The Batcave
 - Not on Council land. This Cave is a potential Cultural Interpretive walk feature and would recommend no Bouldering activities at this location.
- So Long Gravity (Cave)
 - Significant cultural site with opportunities to embellish as a focal point for cultural tours. Climbing not appropriate at this site.
- The Underground (Cave)
 - Significant cultural site with opportunities to embellish as a focal point for cultural tours. Climbing not appropriate at this site.
- White Rock
 - Significant cultural site with opportunities to embellish as a focal point for cultural tours. Climbing not appropriate at this site

Comments

- Primarily a risk management exercise:
 - Does a site meet
 - Climbing suitability needs
 - Appropriate safety requirements
 - Access suitability
 - Cultural heritage needs
 - Environmental & conservation expectations (John Bolton, ICC)
- Cultural heritage assessments will be a long process – current understandings may all change as make up of indigenous group overseeing the area has changed significantly (Ben Thomas, ICC)
- Land originally purchased for conservation purposes (John Bolton)
- Large population growth planned for locale – will need suitable recreation opportunities – walking, riding, MTB, climbing ...
- Offer to help with signage from ACAQ based on experience gained from other similar project. (Chris Williams, ACAQ)
- Offer from ACAQ to work with ICC / TouchPoint One on civil liability issues (Chris Williams, ACAQ)

Next Steps

- Conduct stakeholder survey and review data
- Perform detailed site assessments at suitable sites
- Review and validate outcomes of site work
- Confirm suitable sites
- Develop operation and maintenance plans for sites
- Develop rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling discussion paper
- Follow up forum will be held to present outcomes of the next phase