Tallowood Ventures Ltd

RAIL and TRAIL

COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

TALLOWOOD VENTURES Ltd

MARCH 2025

The Flow

- Who Are Tallowood?
- Explore the historical background of the rail corridor
- Rail Trails
  - Who uses rail trails
  - Benefits of rail trails
  - Lessons from current trails
  - Potential Risks
  - Next steps
- Rail Operations
  - Current situation, Plans, Timing
  - Potential Risks
- Achievements
- Discussion
- Questions
- Contacts

Our Goals

INNOVATIVE DESIGN

EDUCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL

- Build a walking and cycling trail
- Utilise a defunct section of Glenreagh to Ulong rail corridor
- Repair Steam Engine and Run Train at Glenreagh
- Enable growth in small businesses eg: Accommodation, Cafes, Car shuttles, bike hire, guiding, trail maintenance
- Educational and cultural projects
- Use rail operations to fund maintenance of rail trail

Behind the Brand

TALLOWOOD VENTURES LTD

- Tallowood Ventures Ltd (TVL) operates as a "Not for Profit" organisation, setup late 2022 as a registered charity
- The board comprises experienced members including two members from exGMR, one member from Woolgoolga Mountain Bike Club, and another member possessing substantial government, business and management expertise
- The Chairman brings extensive management and board experience to the organisation
- All Board members are unpaid volunteers

Tallowood Ventures Story

- Tallowood Ventures has acquired all assets of Glenreagh Mountain Railway (GMR).
- The assets were transferred from GMR in March 2023.
- TVL's primary focus is on Rail Trail and Rail Projects
- TVL is preparing an application for funding to enable the Survey and Design work for the Rail Trail to occur
- TVL will operate the 1919 steam engine along a short section of the line at Glenreagh.

Our Rail History

1900'S

- Constructed from 1914 to 1924
- Ranked as one of the most expensive rail lines ever constructed in NSW

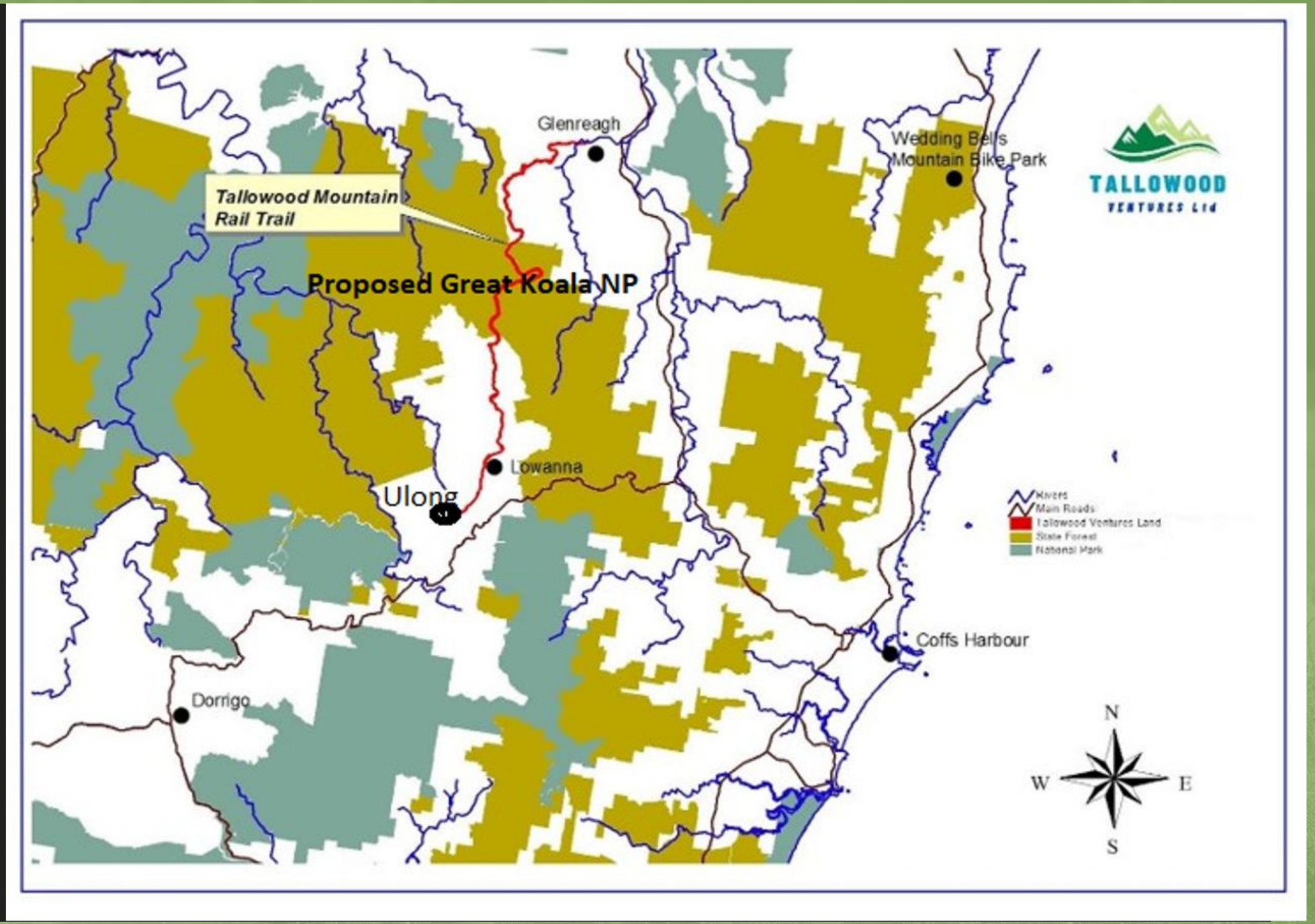
1970'S

- Closed in 1972 due to high running and maintenance costs
- Volunteers made efforts to revive it in the 1970s, 1980s, and later
- Glenreagh to Ulong section sold to GMR

TODAY

- Severe damage to the bridges, culverts and sleepers caused by floods, bushfires, and termites has rendered it impossible for trains to operate between Glenreagh and Ulong in the future.

The Rail Trail Route



What Does a Rail Trail Look Like

NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL

What Does a Rail Trail Look Like

NORTHERN RIVERS RAIL TRAIL

Current View

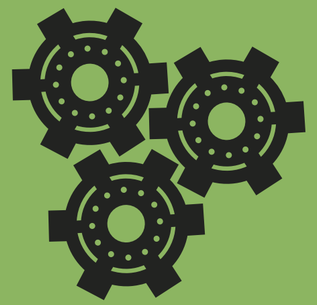
TALLOWOOD
RAIL TRAIL

Current View

TALLOWOOD
RAIL TRAIL

Who Uses Rail Trails

NO ACCESS FOR TRAIL BIKES or 4WD



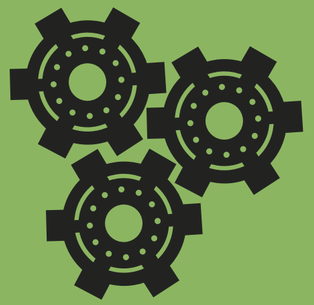
- Families
- Couples
- Grey Nomads
- Rail Enthusiasts
- Cyclists
- Walkers
- Runners
- People with disabilities
- All ages, All levels of experience

Rail Trail Benefits

ECONOMIC

- Bring tourists to Ulong, Lowanna and Glenreagh, Coffs Harbour & Grafton.
- Estimated numbers 40,000 to 60,000 per year

- Boost to Small Businesses - Food, Accommodation, Car shuttle, Bike hire, Guiding, Maintenance.

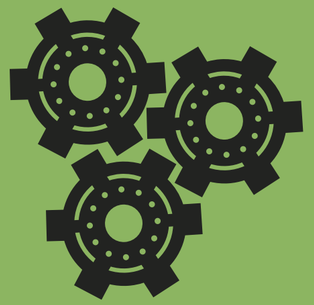


- $110 in economic benefit per day user (University Study)
- $187 in economic benefit per multi day stay (University Study)

Rail Trail Benefits

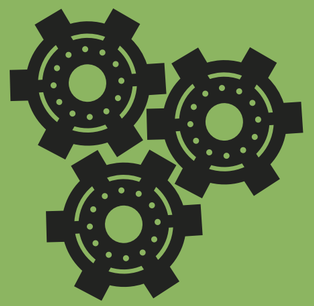
- Hosting Special Events – Special rides, Organised Walks, Open Days, Rail Rides.
- Preparation of materials for the trail.

- Maintenance work on the trail, running projects.
- Attract new businesses and boost existing businesses.



- Destination NSW – A hinterland experience to attract tourists.
- Reinvigorate an historical community asset

Rail Trail Benefits

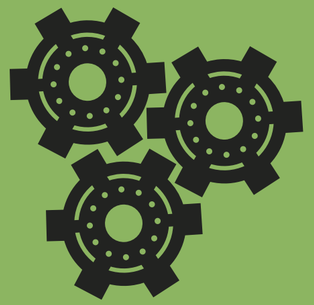


- Cyclists and walkers can enjoy the path at no cost, with the option to donate.
- Enhancing community fitness levels.
- Ensuring the safety of riders and walkers by avoiding traffic.
- Providing educational opportunities for school groups and trail users.

Rail Trail Benefits

- Exploring aspects such as indigenous history, rail history, cultural heritage, flora, fauna, geology, and geography.

- Offering access to untouched bushland including a section of the planned Great Koala National Park.



- Supporting bush regeneration in open spaces and creating wildlife corridors.

Insights from Other Rail Trails

1 Length	2 Annual Users	Rail Trail Name	3 Annual Economic Value
25 KM	100,000 to 200,000	NORTHERN RIVERS	$10 to $20 million
161 KM	30,000 to 50,000	BRISBANE VALLEY	$4 to $8 million
152 KM	15,000 to 80,000	OTAGO	$12 million
35 KM	50,000 to 100,000	TALLOWOOD (estimation)	$5 to $10 million

Potential Risks

SOCIAL LICENCE

Mitigation: Holding public meetings, neighbour meetings, local, state and federal government meetings both representatives and bureaucrats, indigenous elders, National Parks, State Forest etc

STATE OF THE PHYSICAL RAIL TRAIL ASSETS

Mitigation: Hire a professional design and consulting service to evaluate bridges, tunnels, & other structures. Quotes have been received.

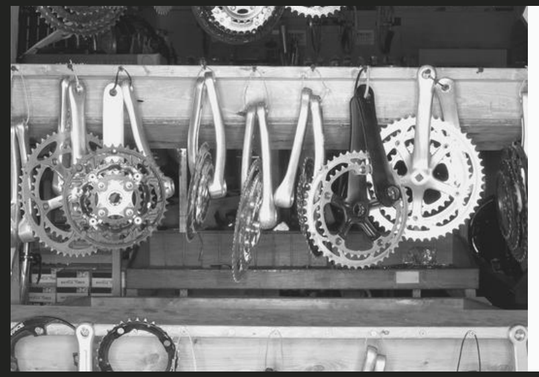
FUNDING

Mitigation: Exploring funding options such as grants, donations, philanthropy, and sponsorship. A funding application is being prepared for the Federal Government, rPPP.

ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

Mitigation: Develop an environment and heritage management plan with registered professional services. Full discussions with authorities. This is included as part of the Survey and Design.

Next Steps



CONTINUE TO CLEAR RAIL TRAIL

- 1/3 currently cleared, work continuing
- Remainder will be cleared as part of the Survey and Design phase

SECURE FUNDING

- Approx. $1.1 million to complete survey & design
- Construction – Tenders sought once designed
- Maintenance – Tallowood will fund from rail operations

SURVEY and DESIGN

- EIS, Community Access, Heritage, Indigenous Archaeological Studies
- Bridges, culverts, landslips
- Full technical design ready for costing

RAIL OPERATIONS

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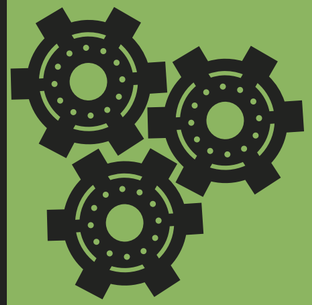
PHOTO TAKEN WHEN LAST OPERATING IN 2008

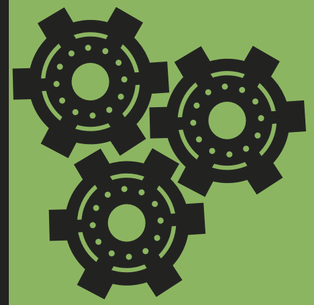
CURRENT SITUATION

- Tallowood Ventures owns the rail corridor and infrastructure freehold
- The Glenreagh Loco Shed has two engines, three carriages, several trikes and other equipment
- There is a 1.4 kilometre section of track at Glenreagh which can take a train
- Tallowood has accreditation from the Rail Regulator for repairs to engine, track and running trikes
- There is no museum for heritage items



CURRENT SITUATION

- Received funding to repair the steam engine
- Repair work underway with competent trained staff
- Accreditation received for rails, repairs and Loco Shed
- Volunteers assisting with repairs and maintenance



- Preparing training programs for volunteers to run train
- Finalising accreditation to run train

CURRENT PLANS

- Repair the steam engine
- Undertake maintenance on 1.4km of track at Glenreagh
- Prepare Accreditation to run trains
- Seeking more volunteers to assist with repairs, maintenance and operations
- Prepare training programs for volunteers to run train
- Prepare website for bookings
- Ensure Glenreagh Loco Shed is a safe location for the public

Potential Risks

RAIL ACCREDITATION

Mitigation: Sought professional consulting advice to research and obtain accreditation. Accreditation granted in December 2024. Next level accreditation being prepared.

STATE OF THE ENGINE AND CARRIAGES

Mitigation: Achieved a grant for repairs from Fires2Flourish. Work has begun on repairs using accredited professionals.

FUNDING

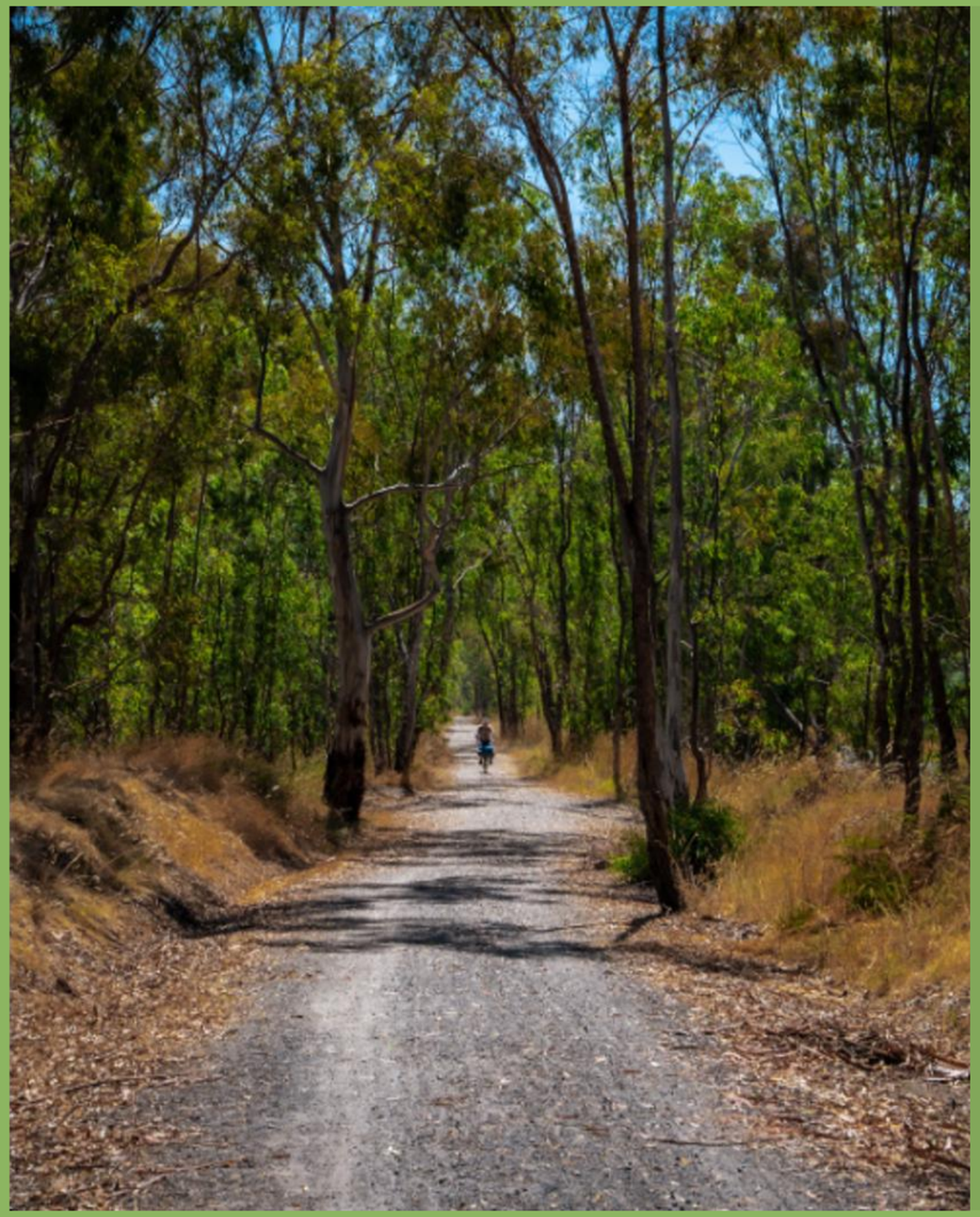
Mitigation: Exploring funding options such as grants, donations, philanthropy, and sponsorship. Funding applications being prepared for the repairs to carriages, fencing etc. Use of volunteers.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Mitigation: Develop a museum on site at Glenreagh to keep all the heritage items in place. Ensure upkeep of heritage buildings such as stations, carriages etc.

Achievements

- PROFESSIONAL BOARD INSTIGATED
- ESTABLISHED NOT FOR PROFIT COMPANY
- RAIL & LAND ASSETS ABSORBED
- SOLVED LEGACY GMR ACCREDITATION AND MANY OTHER ISSUES
- SOURCED GRANT TO REPAIR STEAM TRAIN
- REPAIRS UNDERWAY
- ACCREDITATION FOR REPAIRS GRANTED
- CLEARING OF RAIL CORRIDOR WELL ADVANCED
- RECEIVED QUOTES FOR SURVEY AND DESIGN
- FUNDING APPLICATION BEING PREPARED



Contact Information

CHAIRMAN

WAL MUIR - 0413 042 327
walmuir@hotmail.com

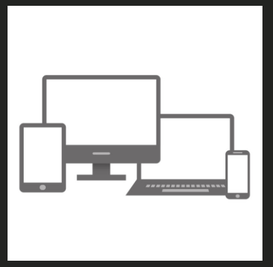
EMAIL ADDRESS

info@tallowoodventures.com

Catch Us Online

FACEBOOK

TALLOWOOD MOUNTAIN
RAIL TRAIL



WEBSITE

WWW.TALLOWOODVENTURES.COM
WWW.TMRT.COM.AU