



**COMMON
GROUND**

TRAIL IMPACTS

SOCIAL LICENCE TO DEVELOP TRAILS



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MISSION

**“Common Ground Trails is reshaping the world
utilising trails to create outdoor enthusiasts and
the next generation of environmental stewards”**



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HOW ARE WE ACHIEVING THIS

- + Team of around 40 passionate outdoors people
- + Architects, Landscapers Architects, Project Managers, Planners, Designers, Builders

NATURAL SPACES (Trails)

STRATEGIC PLANNING

DESIGN

CONSTRUCTION

URBAN SPACES (Facilities)

STRATEGIC PLANNING

DESIGN

CONSTRUCTION



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WHAT DO WE MEAN SOCIAL LICENCE

The Social License can be defined as existing when there is ongoing approval or broad social acceptance from the community.

“Socially Acceptable”

Right to operate in the eyes of the broader community



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SOCIAL LICENCE OF TRAILS

+Walk Trails

+Mountain Bike Trails

Where were we?

Where are we?

Where are we going?

Growing social licence around the appropriateness of trails. Not only being used more but more widely accepted



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OUR OBJECTIVES

- + Develop the best trail
- + Cause no unnecessary harm
- + Conserve and create stewards for the environment
- + Bridge gaps



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WHY 'BEST TRAIL' IS IMPORTANT?

Poor Trails

- + Have large environmental impact
- + Fragment communities
- + Become economic burdens
- + Threaten Social Licence

Good Trails can

- + Reduce environmental impact
- + Protect areas of importance
- + Connect communities and individuals
- + Bring economic benefits
- + Create environmental stewards
- + Improve Social Licence



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How do we measure the Best trail



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Is it functional



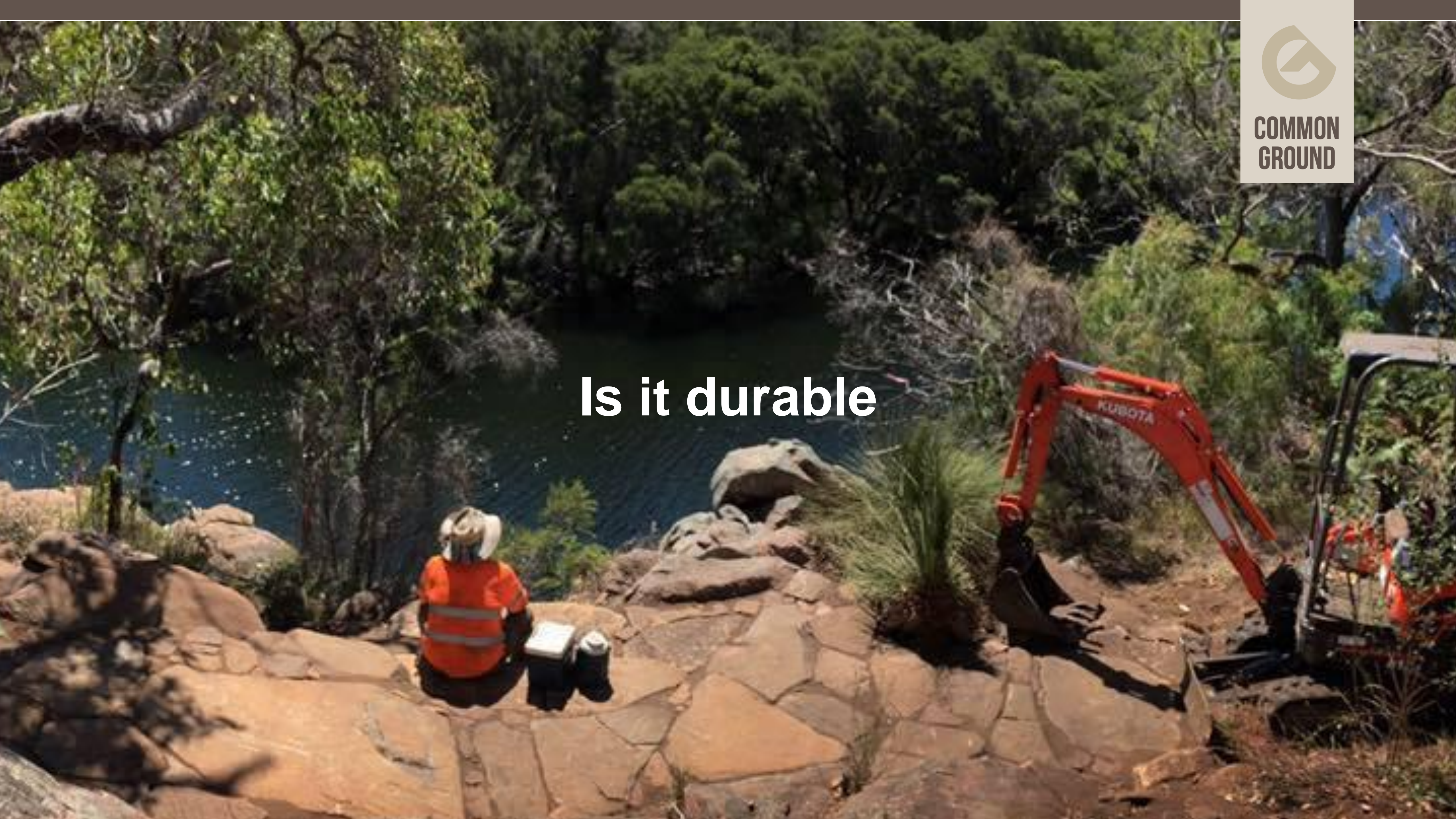
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Is it multi functional



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Is it durable





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Does it fit the user



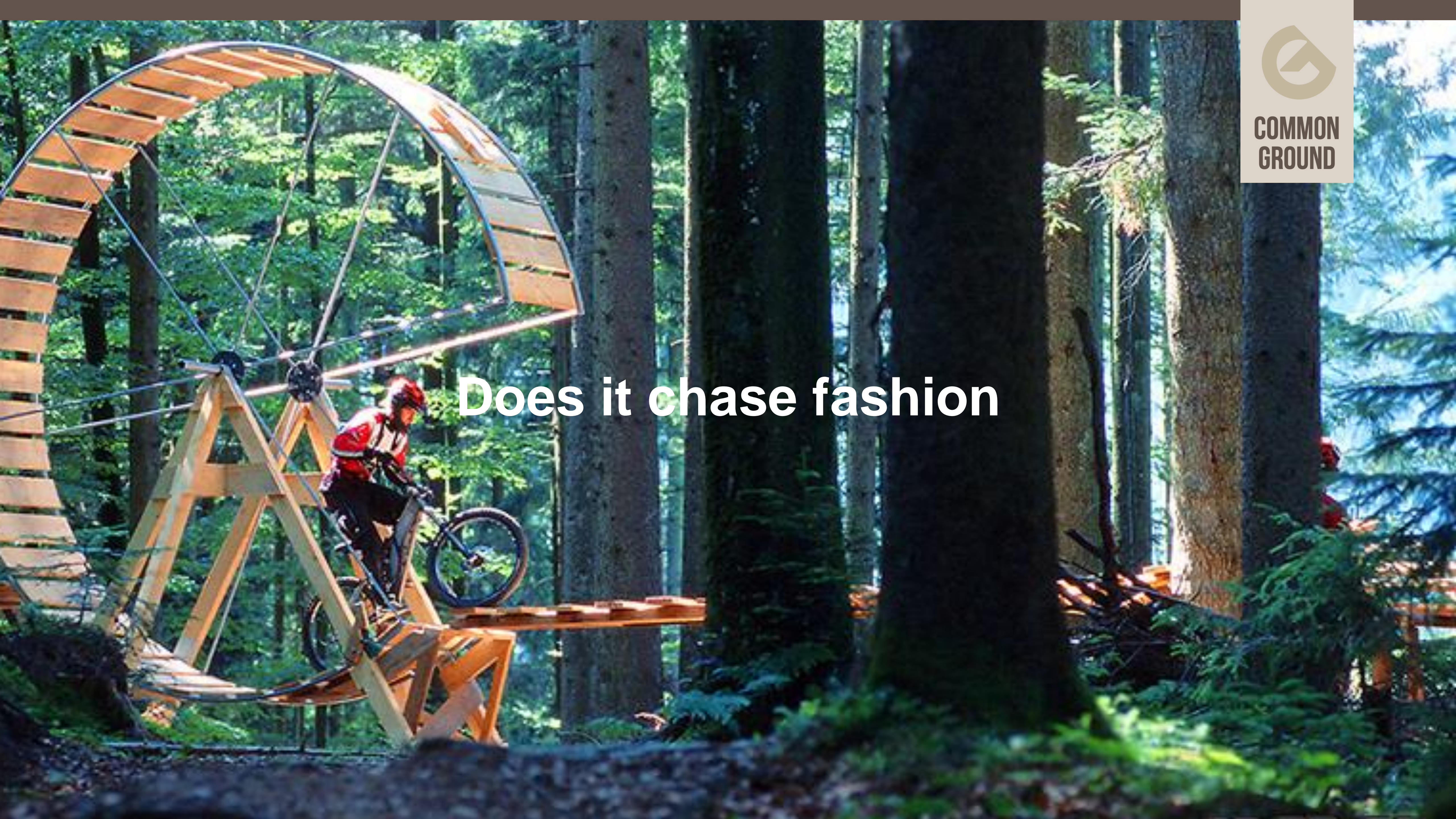
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Is it simple



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Is it Beautiful



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Does it chase fashion



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Does it cause unnecessary harm



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Is it well governed





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Does it have strong sense of place



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Current Social Licence

WALKING AND WALK TRAILS = SOCIALLY ACCEPTED

MOUNTAIN BIKING & TRAILS = GAINING ACCEPTANCE

WHY? TIME & PERCEPTION



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MOUNTAIN BIKER



What my friends
think I do.



What my mom thinks
I do.



What ecologists think
I do.



What my bike shop
thinks I do.



What I think I do.



What I really do.



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WHAT ARE MOUNTAIN BIKERS SEEKING

- + Great Sustainable Trails
- + Awesome Landscapes
- + Remote Locations
- + Connection With Nature
- + Solitude
- + Fun!

Same as walkers/hikers/trampers



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WHY GET MTBers IN LANDSCAPES?

- + Legal trails can reduce environmental impact (Sustainable, Sanctioned Trails)
- + Well planned trails protect areas of importance
- + Social - connected communities and individuals
- + Can bring big economic benefits
- + Create environmental stewards
- + Create protection over areas

Specific Local Examples - Good and Bad

- + Waste Removal
- + Passive Surveillance
- + Fire lines / breaks
- + Closure of unsustainable access & trails
- + Protection of Areas (Pines & Dwellingup)

THIS ONLY WORKS IF A PROPER PLANNING PROCESS IS FOLLOW



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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MOUNTAIN BIKE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

CONSULTATION DRAFT

Development Process

1. Proposal
2. Framework
3. Site Assessments
4. Concept Planning
5. Corridor Evaluation
6. Detailed Design
7. Construction
8. Management

THE FUTURE

- + Large shift of people going outdoors again (Covid, Instagram, Unstructured Sports)
- + If we are to stop global warming we need to connect more people with nature
- + Mountain Bike trails continue to significantly inform how other trails are developed (contour trails & processes)
- + Embrace different activities, in a sustainable manner, in our natural spaces
- + Creation of a new army of environmental stewards, with baggier clothes

“Some areas have very high values and require them to be locked up so to speak, but a general lock it up mentality can be counter productive to an areas conservation as people don't value it”



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