



Town to Googik Trail

Distance

3.67 km

Elev Gain

17 m

Achievements



Town to Googik Trail

A proposal by Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie



Imagine if we could make a track from town to Lake Cathie



Town to Googik Trail

A proposal by Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie



The opportunity

- The Googik Track currently runs approx 6.5 km from Lake Road to the Ruins Gate and Ruins Way having been extended beyond its original 4.2 km to Crestwood Drive in mid 2025
- The Draft Lake Innes Plan of Management (Feb 2026) proposed extending it to Lake Cathie - making it approximately 20 km long
- This proposal received significant community support with NPWS receiving more than 300 positive submissions to the plan.
- A relatively small investment is needed to link existing shared paths from the CBD to the Googik Track to create a Town to Googik Trail



Town to Googik Trail Proposal



Proposed extension of the Googik Track to Lake Cathie



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Lake Innes Nature Reserve, Innes Ruins Historic Site and Lake Innes State Conservation Area

Draft plan of management



environment.nsw.gov.au

Lake Innes Nature Reserve, Innes Ruins Historic Site and Lake Innes State Conservation Area draft plan of management



Figure 3 Innes Ruins Historic Site

Town to Googik Trail Proposal



A track from Port CBD to The Ruins and Lake Cathie

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Achievements



- By formalising this 3.7 km track linking the caravan park to the Googik Track visitors will be able to ride (or walk) the entire 10 + km to the Ruins Gates (or 20 km return) mostly through lush forest
- If NPWS Draft Plan to extend the Googik Track to Lake Cathie is endorsed and funded – this will be a further 12 km making a total of 22 km (44 km return)
- This has the potential to put Port Macquarie on the cycling and adventure tourism map.

Town to Googik Trail Proposal



The Vision – Town to Googik Trail

- We propose council invest in formalising and upgrading the paths from Little Shack to the entrance to Lake Road (3.67 km).
- This is an existing safe route used by local bike riders – and would require upgrades from footpath to shared path for only approx 310 m of the 3670 m length
- Creating the Town to Googik Trail would require – some small upgrades of footpath to shared path, creating two sections of designated quiet street and introducing wayfinding signage along the length.
- If completed – this trail would link with the 6.5 km Googik Track to create a scenic 10 km cycling and walking trail.
- In future, it could link with the proposed Googik Track extension to Lake Cathie creating a seamless, safe 22 km forested walking and cycling trail. This Town to Googik Trail would be a major tourism drawcard for the region and enhance the liveability of our community.

Town to Googik Trail Proposal



So how much shared path is required?

Town to Googik Trail

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17 m

Achievements



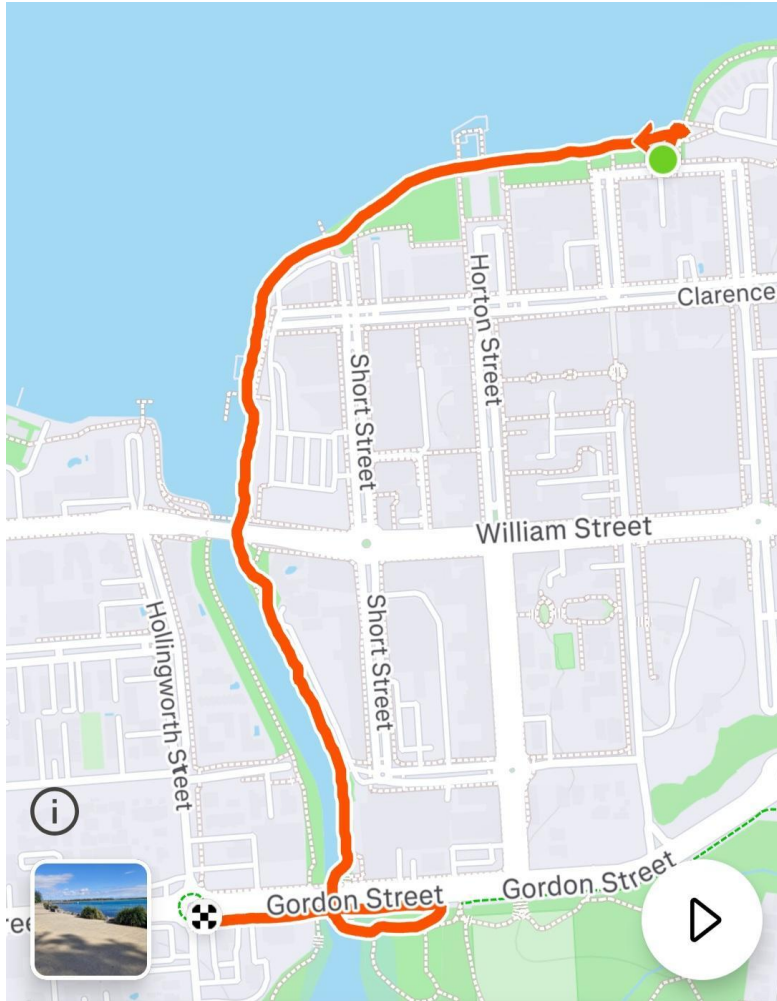
A) Not much

- Of the 3.67 km of path – only approx 310 m requires upgrading from footpath to shared path
- That's just 8%!
- The remaining 92% is done
- It just requires signage to show people the way

Town to Googik Trail Proposal



Section 1: Caravan Park to Cnr Gordon Street - Hollingsworth Street



Section 1: Town to Googik Trail

Distance	Elev Gain	Time
1.53 km	7 m	6m 14s

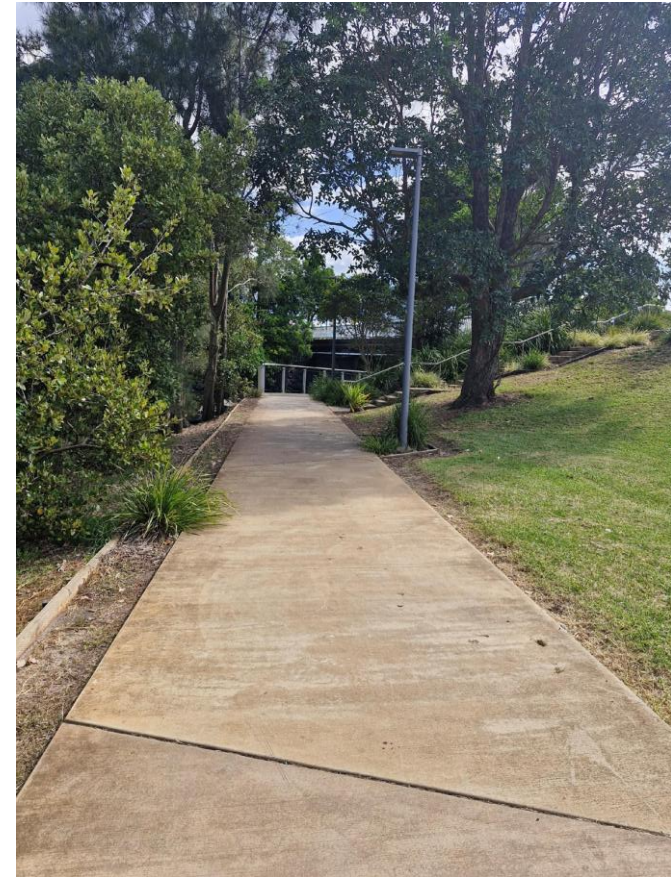
- Existing shared path extends from the Little Shack to Kooloonbung Creek via Williams St and Gordon St underpasses (1.5 km)
- Within Kooloonbung Creek – shared path – becomes footpath (approx. 40 m) – then reverts to shared path
- The path along Gordon Street - mostly footpath - would require upgrading (approx. 200 m)
- There is an option to create a protected cycleway along some of this stretch near the bridge – reducing for around 100 m of shared path

Section 1: start and finish point of shared path component

From the start of the shared path near Little Shack...



to Kooloongbung Nature Reserve it is shared path with no road crossings.



Here 40 m of shared path missing...

Shared path narrows to footpath for approx. 40 m



Then widens to a shared path to Gordon Street

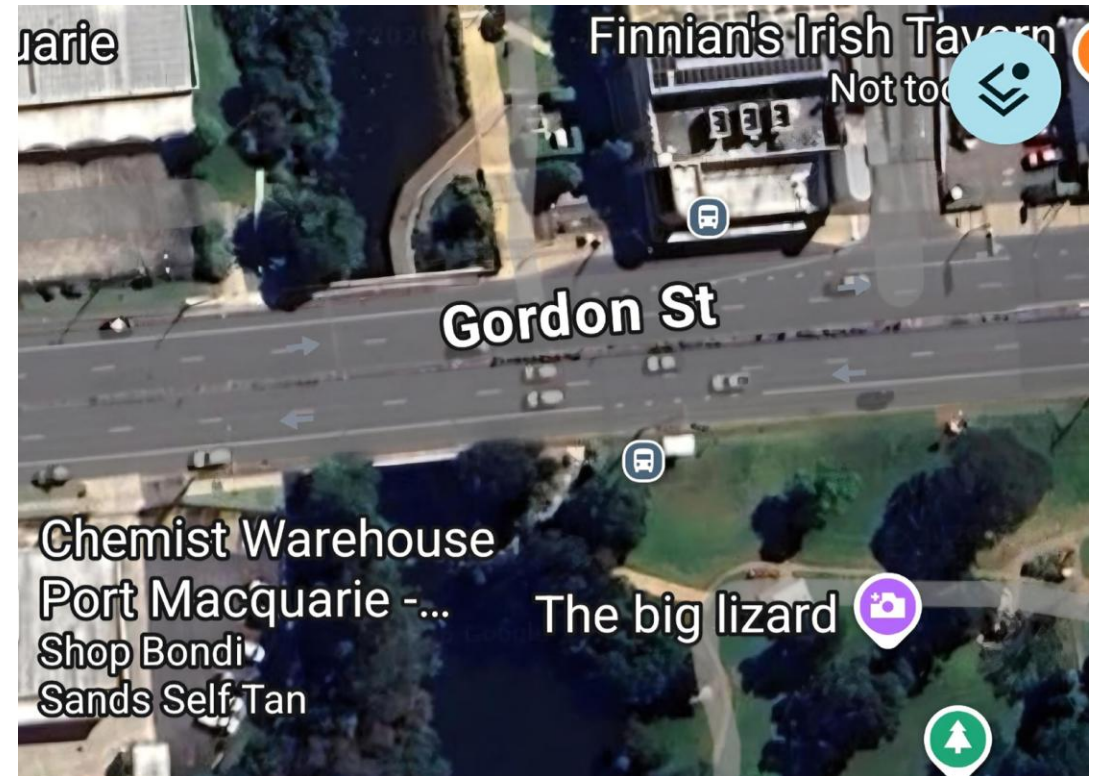


Along Gordon Street

The footpath along Gordon Street could be widened to a shared path



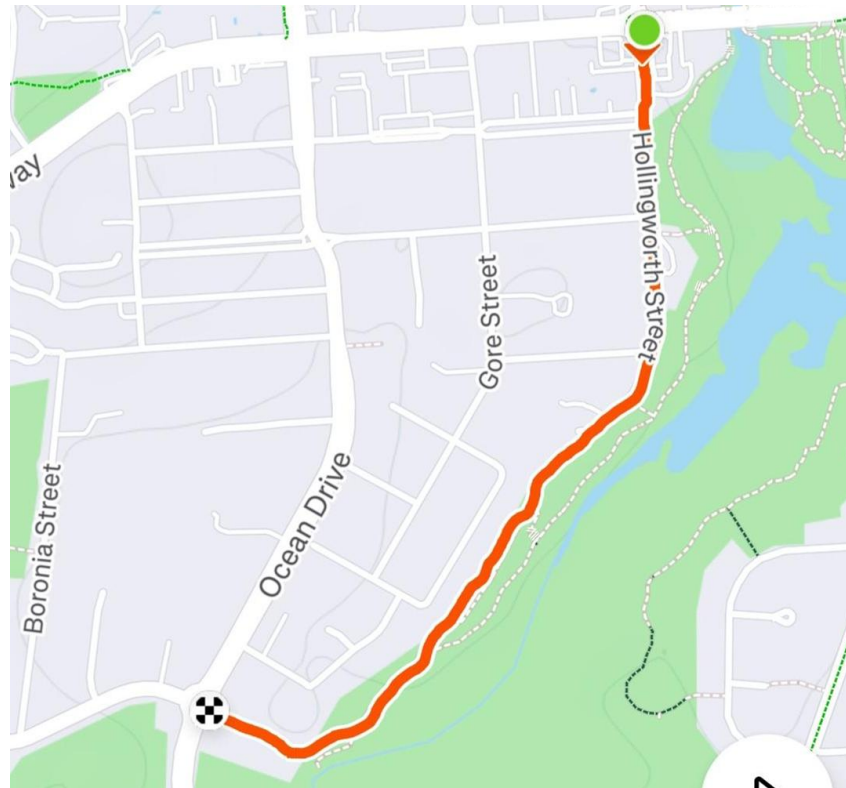
The option to combine an off ramp with a protected cycleway near the bridge – would reduce the required length of shared path by about 100 m.



Section 2: Hollingsworth Street to Ocean Drive via Kooloonbung Creek Shared Path

Section 2: Town to Googik Trail

Distance	Elev Gain	Time
1.32 km	11 m	4m 48s



- Most of this section (approx 1.1km of the 1.32 km) is on either existing shared path two cul de sacs – meaning very little additional infrastructure required
- The first 110 m of Hollingsworth Street is just a narrow footpath and would need to be widened to a shared path
- The creation of a shared path here is included on p. 18 of the 2025 Walking And Cycling Plan (ID PM73)
- Following this there is shared path for approx. 400 m

Section 2: Hollingsworth Street cont.



- The shared path narrows to a footpath next to this 90 m section of Hollingsworth Street and the start of the Kooloongbung Shared path.
- Marking this cul de sac as a Quiet street – with bicycle markings is a lowcost way to continue the path.

Section 2: Through Kooloonbung Nature Reserve



- There is 610 m of share path through Kooloonbung NR
- This was created through a joint National Parks and PMHC working group
- Once again, only signage is required here
- This goes to Kooloonbung Close

Section 2: Kooloonbung Close

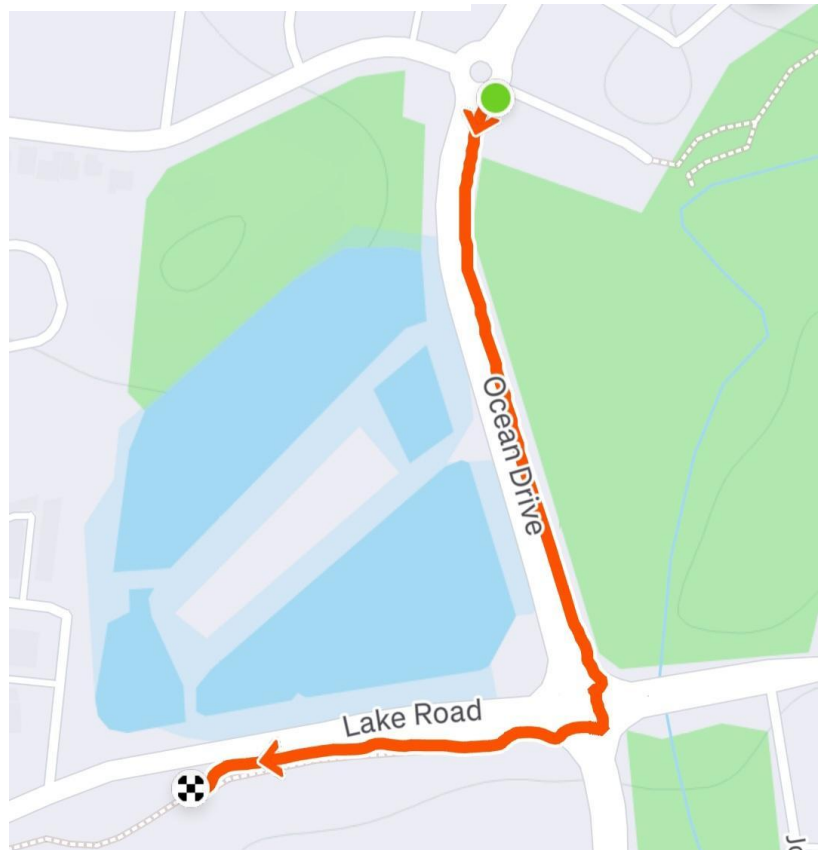


- Kooloonbung Close is already used as a safe route for cyclists to access town via Kooloonbung NR - but there is no signage
- Marking the 110 m of Kooloonbung Close as a quiet street with clearly marked bike image on road surface and wayfinding signage – would complete the section
- This creation of a quiet street here is included on p. 18 of the 2025 Walking and Cycling Plan

Section 3: Kooloonbung Creek NR Shared Path to Ocean Drive lights

Section 3: Town to Googik Trail

Distance	Elev Gain	Time
0.84 km	0 m	3m 53s



Distance – 840 m

- Existing shared path is in good condition
- Crossing at the pedestrian lights – from Ocean Drive
- Gravel track beside Lake Road needs renewal
- Besides this, only wayfinding signage is required for this section

In summary

Let's work together to make this happen

- A link track between town and the start of the Googik – would open up 12 km of trail to tourists and locals alike
- This in itself would be a major tourist drawcard - as a 24 km trip is worth staying the extra day or even visiting the region to try the trail
- With the proposed extension of the Googik Track to Lake Cathie – the trail would be 24 km each way
- We could make it happen with less than 350 m of shared path constructed
- Given this, we believe the benefits to the community and tourism of such a track could well outweigh the costs.
- This would put Port Macquarie on the cycling tourism map
- The cost of upgrading this section of trail, providing wayfinding signage and communications (brochures, maps) is minor – compared to its potential positive impact
- There is overwhelming community support for extending the Googik - as shown by the 300 submissions
- Let's work together to make something for the community
- Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie and happy to assist in the planning and promotion of such a trail.

Town to Googik Trail Proposal



Next steps

Let's get it happening

- We need your help
- We'd like to meet with Council (Robert Fish, Ben Woods) , Robert Dwyer MP and NSW NPWS rep to discuss further in coming weeks
- With the hope of it being funded under the 2026-27 Operation Plan
- Happy to ride the proposed track with Councillors, council employees and local MPs



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