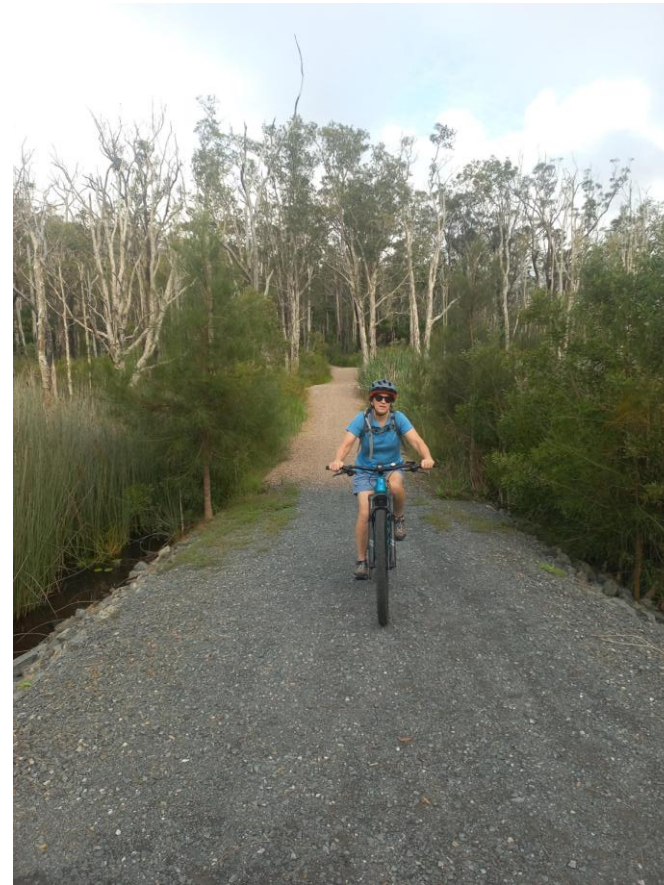




Town to Googik Trail

Distance

3.67 km

Elev Gain

17 m

Achievements



Town to Googik Link Trail

A proposal by Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie



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



Town to Googik Link Trail

A proposal by Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie



The opportunity

- The Googik Track runs around 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
- National Parks Draft Lake Innes Plan of Management (Feb 2026) proposes extending it to Lake Cathie - making it approximately 18 km long
- This proposal received significant community support with NPWS receiving more than 300 submissions supporting 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 Link 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 Link Trail Proposal

A track from Port CBD to The Ruins and Lake Cathie

Town to Googik Trail

Distance

3.67 km

Elev Gain

17 m

Achievements



2



- 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 Link Trail Proposal

The Vision – Town to Googik Link Trail

- We propose council invest in formalising and upgrading the paths from Little Shack to the entrance to Lake Road (3.67 km) to create a new Town to Googik Link Trail.
- The trail would follow existing shared path along the waterfront, through Kooloonbung Creek Nature Reserve and beside Ocean Drive to the start of the Googik Track on Lake Road.
- Most of the hard work has already been done. Most of this 3.7 km proposed trail is already shared path or quiet cul- de- sacs that could be readily converted into quiet streets.
- In fact, less the 320 m of footpath would need to be upgraded to a shared path in order to make this happen.#
- In addition to converting these small section of footpath into shared path, wayfinding signage and street marking would also be required so people can find their way and two sections of designated quiet street would need to be put in place.#
- 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 would be a major tourism drawcard for the region and enhance the liveability of our community.

Note: Most of the works required to develop the proposed trail are detailed in the 2025 Walking and Cycling Plan.

Town to Googik Link Trail Proposal

So how much shared path is required?

Town to Googik Trail

Distance

3.67 km

Elev Gain

17 m

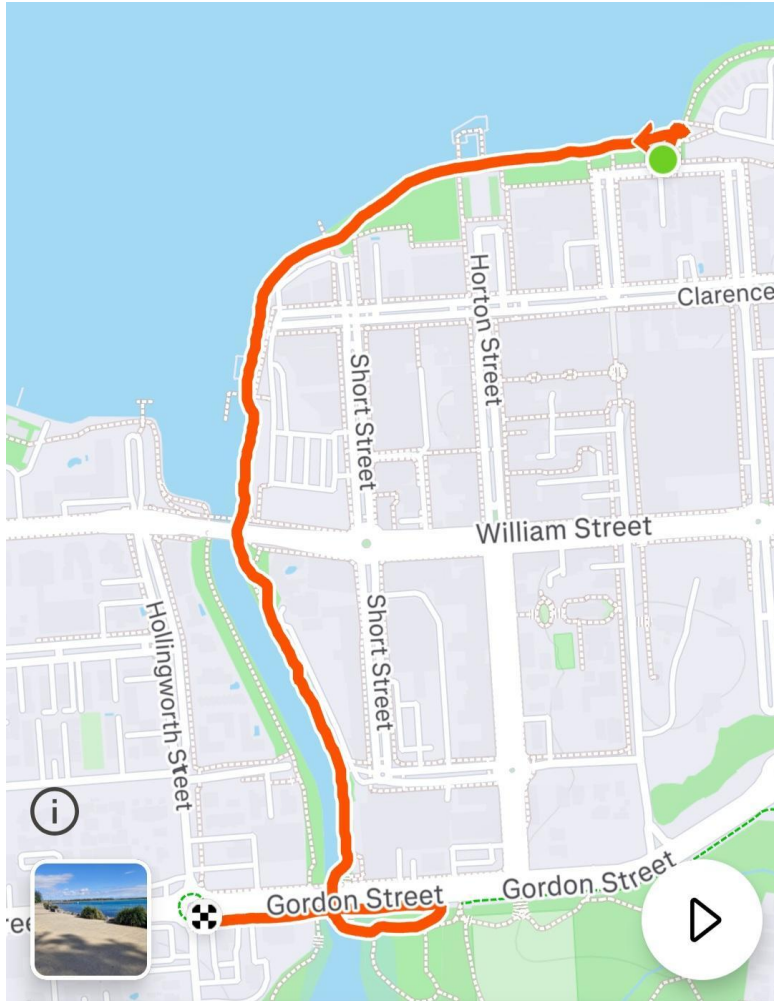
Achievements



A) Not much

- Of the 3.67 km of path – only approx 320 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

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

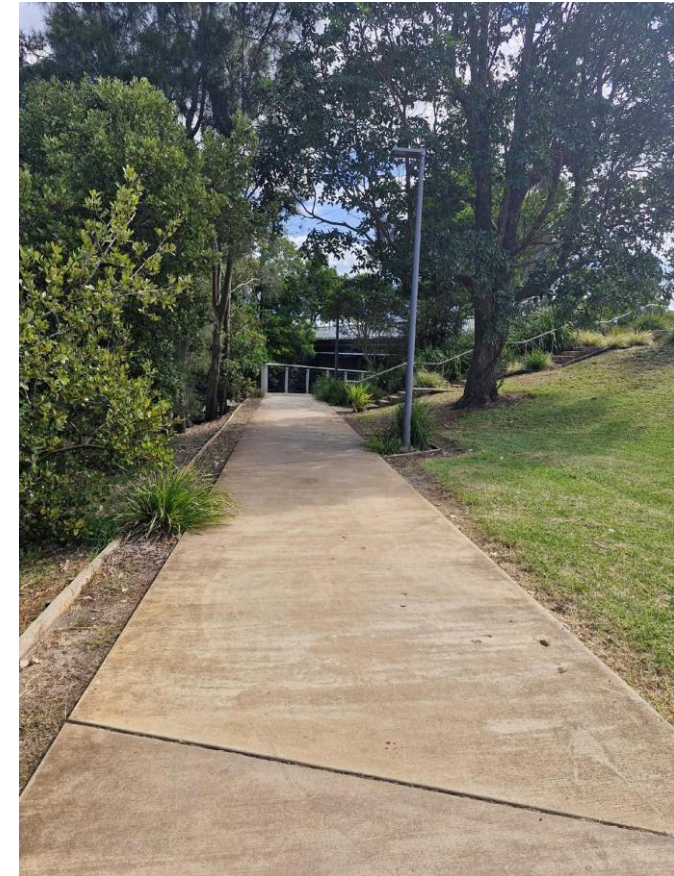
- Existing shared path extends from the Little Shack to Kooloonbung Creek via Williams St and Gordon St underpasses (1.5 km)
- Within Kooloonbung Creek – shared path – becomes footpath (approx. 40 m) – then reverts to shared path
- The path along Gordon Street - mostly footpath - would require upgrading (approx. 170 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 Koooloongbung 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



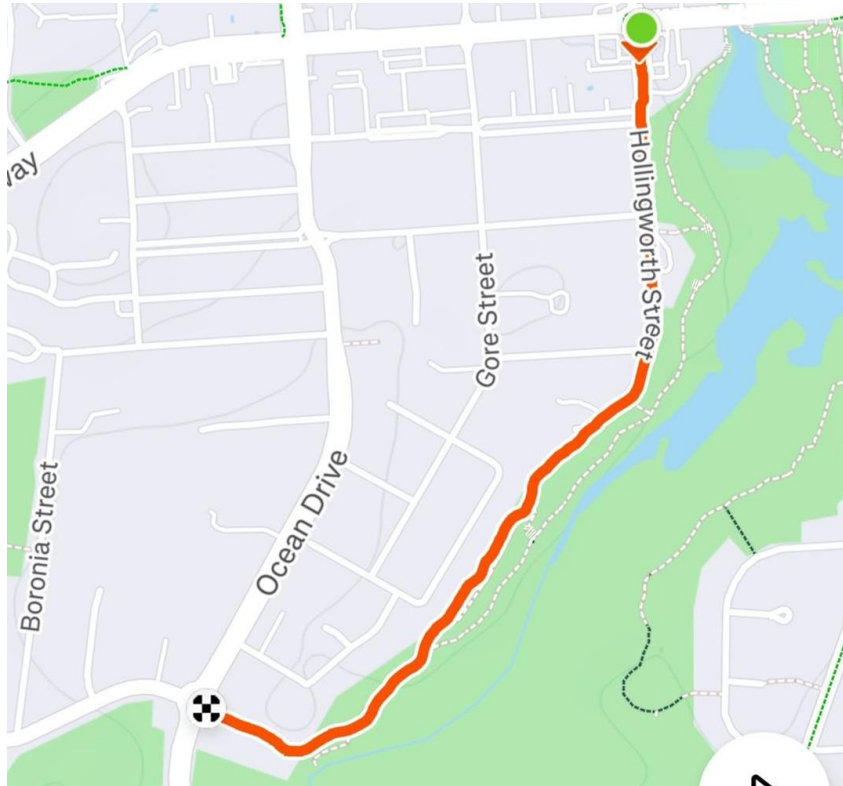
The option to combine an off ramp with a protected cycleway near the bridge – would reduce the required length of shared path by about 100 m.



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 1.1 km 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 designated quiet street with bicycle markings is a low-cost way to continue the cycle trail.

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

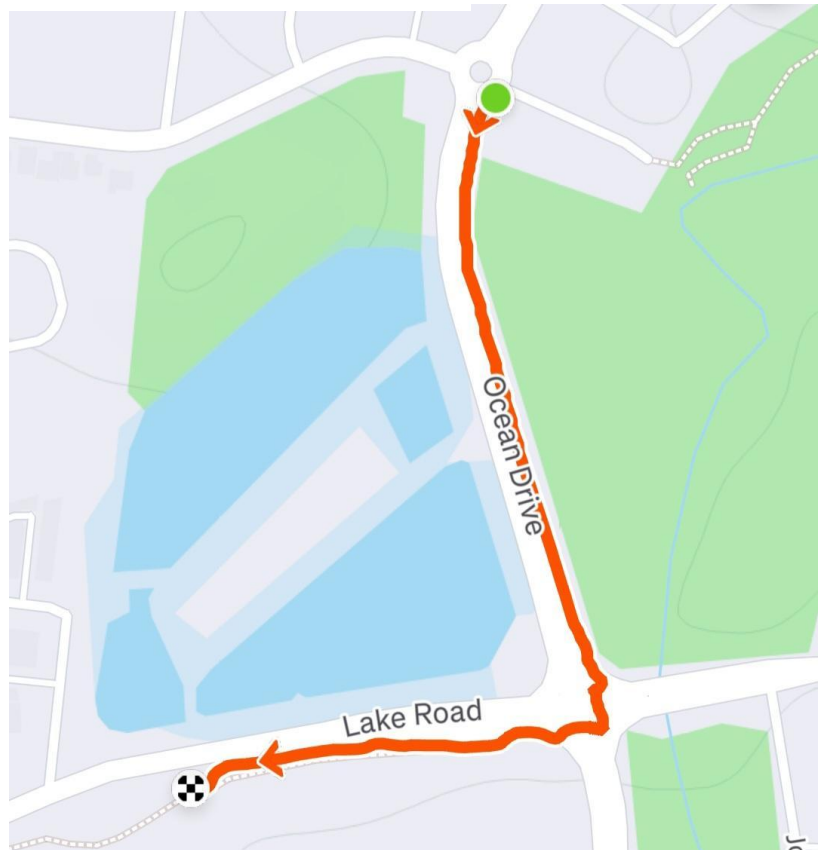


- Kooloonbung Close is already used as a safe route for cyclists to access town via Kooloonbung NR - but there is no signage
- Marking the 110 m of Kooloonbung Close as a quiet street with clearly marked bike image on road surface and wayfinding signage – would complete the section
- This creation of 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
- There is a safe crossing at the pedestrian lights into Lake Road
- Gravel track beside Lake Road needs renewal
- Besides this, only wayfinding signage is required for this section

In summary

- A link track between town and the start of the Googik Track would open up 10 km of walking and cycling trail to tourists and locals alike
- This in itself would be a major positive for tourism and locals alike - as a 20 km return trip is worth staying the extra day try the trail.
- With the proposed extension of the Googik Track to Lake Cathie, this would put Port Macquarie on the cycling tourism map
- We could make it happen with just 320 m of shared path constructed

Let's work together to make this happen

- 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

- We need your help
- We'd like to meet with Council (GM, Infrastructure, Tourism), Robert Dwyer MP and NSW NPWS to discuss further in coming weeks
- With the hope of it being funded under this year's Operation Plan
- Hoping to organise a ride of the proposed track with Councillors, key council staff and Robert Dwyer



Town to Googik Trail Proposal



Who are Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie

- We are a Bicycle User Group for the Port Macquarie Hastings Region. We hold regular rides and advocate for more bike-friendly streets.
- More than 90 members
- Email: info@bbbpmq.net.au
- Facebook [Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie](#) 1.4 K followers
- Go to our [website](http://bbbpmq.net.au/advocacy) bbbpmq.net.au/advocacy to find a copy of this proposal



Town to Googik Trail Proposal

