

Derby, Tasmania

Working forests and world-class mountain biking

World-class mountain biking and forestry successfully coexist, and Derby, a small town in the heart of Tasmania's north east, is an exciting example of this.

The Blue Derby mountain bike trails sit alongside and within public production forests managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania has been involved in the vision for mountain bike trail development in Tasmania since the early 2000s and this direct contribution and ongoing commitment remains.

Why Derby?

Right from the start, Sustainable Timber Tasmania has actively worked alongside local council, tourism operators and the mountain bike community to establish the Derby trail network.

Since Federal, State and Local Government funding committed \$4.6 million for the development of mountain bike trails in North East Tasmania in the early 2010s, Sustainable Timber Tasmania has been involved in the development, design and construction of trails across public production forests.

Derby was a location identified for mountain bike trail development with the knowledge that many areas surrounding potential trail sites were active public production forests and some trails would be developed directly adjacent to possible future harvesting operations.

A shared vision

The significant opportunity to deliver positive outcomes for wood production and tourism in Derby is what makes this story unique.

The process of building the Blue Derby mountain bike trails started in 2015 and Sustainable Timber Tasmania worked alongside Dorset Council and World Trails to pursue the shared vision to design

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the trails in a way that limited impact to wood production and included areas which would be prime for recreational enjoyment.

The ability to deliver and foster both forestry and tourism industry objectives is a true reflection of wood production and world-class mountain biking trails working together, to achieve some great things.

Planning

During the process of identifying areas for mountain bike trails, Sustainable Timber Tasmania's foresters conducted detailed operational planning and site visits of all forest harvesting areas surrounding Derby to determine if there were any locations which could be excluded from harvesting due to lack of commercial viability.

This resulted in the exclusion of several large areas from wood production and enabled the development of the 'Long Shadows', 'Flickity Sticks' and 'Return to Sender' trails, and later the 'Roxanne', 'Black Stump', 'Detonate' and 'Shear Pin' trails which have gained a global reputation as part of the Enduro World Series mountain biking event. Other trails, such as 'Krushka's', have followed future forest harvesting boundaries.

Limited impact

It was always intended that world-class mountain biking and production forestry would work side by side at Derby. In 2016 and 2017 forest harvesting was undertaken adjacent to Derby with limited impact to the mountain bike trails – and from this, wood product for building materials used in Australian homes was obtained.

Derby is a leading example of how tourism and forestry successfully co-exist and can be positively managed within regional areas for the benefit of the communities and the mutual benefit of both industries.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania is proud to be part of Derby's strong future.