

- a. preserving cultural and historical artefacts, and creating illustrative objects etc.
- b. Provide services and facilities for trail users at appropriate locations along the route.
- c. Provide social activities for group members and the wider community.
- d. Raise funds to support the group's activities.
- e. Advocate bicycle riding as a means of creating healthy communities.

2. Staging

- a. Stage 1 – Create the Wallan to Heathcote section (70 km), thus forming a continuous rail trail from Wallan to Bendigo. At the same time upgrade the Bendigo Bushland Trail.
- b. Stage 2 – Create links to Tallarook, Rushworth and the Melbourne metropolitan trail network.

3. The Plan

- a. Identify key stakeholders; seek support from parliamentary representatives and various organisations and government departments, including the Mitchell Shire, the City of Greater Bendigo, the Metropolitan Planning Authority, Rail Trails Australia and Bicycle Network Victoria.
- b. Engage with the various communities along the route.
- c. Work with the Mitchell Shire, the City of Greater Bendigo, Regional Development Victoria and Mitchell Bicycle Users Group to ensure that the recommendations of the Wallan to Heathcote Rail Trail feasibility are implemented
- d. Identify and implement improvements to the O'Keefe section.

6 The Outcomes

The implementation of this visionary proposal will create an exciting and unique network of trails within regional Victoria.

6.1 The Wandong-Wallan to Bendigo Rail Trail will:

- 6.1.1 Provide 120km of rail trail with public transport at both ends (rail passenger services at Wandong, Wallan and Bendigo). Major freeways will also provide excellent road access. These transport options will be a unique feature of this trail and, together with the magnificent and varied scenery, will be a strong drawcard to potential users from Melbourne, interstate and overseas.
- 6.1.2 Provide a backbone for other trail opportunities within the region e.g.:
 - A direct link to the Bendigo Creek Trail and the Bendigo Bushland Trail
 - A link to the Goldfields Track Victoria (Bendigo – Ballarat).
 - A link to the Murchison to Rushworth Rail Trail (and a future connection to Shepparton) via identified tracks through the Heathcote Graytown National Park,

6.2 The Melbourne Metropolitan trail network link will:

Provide a direct link to the Melbourne metropolitan trail network. This will enable off road walking and cycling all the way from Melbourne to Bendigo.

6.3 The Tallarook link will:



Provide a direct link from Melbourne and Bendigo to one of Australia's longest continuous rail trails, the Great Victorian Rail Trail (Tallarook – Mansfield).

7 The Benefits

7.1 The total network will:

- Provide a sensational recreational and environmental network of trails, attractive to a wide range of users.
- Form a connective transport link with Melbourne and other significant trails in regional Victoria.

7.2 Tourism

The network of trails will:

- Define cycle and walking tourism within Central Victoria.
- Provide a framework for broader cycle and walking related tourist amenities.

7.3 Economic

The network of trails will:

- Provide a substantial economic stimulus to the region, especially to the smaller towns along the way (Pyalong, Tooborac, Heathcote etc.)

7.4 Creating healthy communities.

The network of trails will:

- Create an off road recreational and alternative transport asset that will play a big role in improving the health and wellbeing of the local communities.

