

19/2/15

Marie Lawton
Public Liaison/Treasurer
Northern Rivers Rail Trail assoc.

Re: Support for Rail Trail

Dear Marie

EnvITE Environment is in total support of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT).

The concept opens up a number of opportunities for the Northern Rivers region in general, particularly in the tourist industry sector. However we also feel that the trail has other spin offs for the environmental industry and associated industries such as landscaping and horticultural.

The trail is a linear section of vegetation corridor that connects the coastal vegetation types with wetlands, lowland rainforest and wet and dry sclerophyll vegetation communities. Some of these communities are federally listed as Threatened Ecological Communities under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. There is a great opportunity to enhance the existing vegetation along the trail by using bush regeneration techniques either by systematic removal of weed species or replanting of open areas with suitable endemic species. With the addition of placing educational signage the trail would give users an insight into the local natural history of the region. One would also expect that sections of the trail will require amenity plantings and soft landscaping additions for the comfort of the users.

EnvITE is one of many bush regeneration contractors that work in the local area. At present we employ 50 staff in our environmental section. The above example would also require plants that would need to be obtained from local nurseries and landscapers to carry out the light construction activities.

The trail would also attract interest from Green Army participation. This is a federal government program aimed at 17 to 24 year olds to develop skills and interest in environmental work. At present EnvITE Environment have 10 such approved Green Army projects operating including one working on the East Gippsland Rail Trail.



56 Carrington Street (PO Box 1124) LISMORE NSW 2480
P 02 6627 2800 F 02 6627 2899 E environment@envite.org.au www.envite.org.au

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The trail would more than likely attract interest from local community groups such as Landcare, bird watching groups and other conservation minded groups. This in turn would have a positive effect in that it connects the local community with what is otherwise a locked up area. Such groups would only enhance the ability to value add to the trail with community participation.

If you require further information don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Mike Delaney

Manager EnviTE Environment



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