

Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club

Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club Inc.
PO Box 5155, East Lismore, NSW 2480
northernriversbushwalkersclub.org.au



Monday 12th January 2015

Marie Lawton,
Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc.
enquiries@northernriversrailtrail.org.au

Re: Community support for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail pilot projects

Dear Marie,

I write as the President of the Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club, and on behalf of the club. As you know, the Club supports the work of the Northern Rivers Trail Trail Inc., and with this letter offers our continuing support for the work of Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc.

With its interests in outdoor pursuits, and especially our interest in promoting and supporting walking and recreational cycling in the region, the Club is delighted to hear the recent good news that the NSW Government will be funding up to \$50 million for rail trail pilot projects, which we understand will support the development of sections of the proposed long-distance rail trail in the Northern Rivers.

The development of a long-distance rail trail in our region will certainly help provide more outlets for recreational walking and cycling in the region. It will provide our club with yet more opportunities to engage the northern rivers community in healthy outdoor activities. We are especially interested in the opportunities for walkers to be able to visit areas of our countryside that may have been previously limited due to private access issues.

The club now has around 200 members, and continues to grow. It engages new walkers and cyclists on a regular basis, and we feel we both make a significant contribution to community affairs in the Northern Rivers, and represent the broader community of the region.

The club is also encouraged by this development, in that we recognise the potential boost to regional tourism, along with growth in allied businesses. Importantly, we envisage the rail trail as a catalyst for expanding tourism interest in the Northern Rivers beyond the current points of concentration, such as Byron Bay. We also encourage any tourism development that supports healthy outdoors activity. This is, in our view, a most healthy move for the region.

I note in the press releases that expressions of interest are now open for local councils, businesses and community groups to boost their tourism economies and create rail trails along sections of the disused Casino to Murwillumbah and Rosewood to Tumbarumba rail corridors. I also note that there is a short period for expressions of interest to be developed and submitted (closing, Tuesday 31 March 2015).

While the club will not be submitting an expression of interest, it fully supports any submissions that Northern Rivers Rail Trail Inc. may be considering to either submit itself or as support on behalf of the community.

Please feel free to get in touch if you think there is anything that the Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club can do to assist.

Once again, congratulations on this wonderful success.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Boyd', written in a cursive style.

Bill Boyd,
President, Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club Inc.
presidentnrbc@gmail.com.au