

Question on Notice

No. 382

Asked on 8 March 2007

Mr WENDT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure (Ms BLIGH) –

QUESTION:

Will she outline the details of the proposed 140km Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (part of the government's outdoor recreation strategy) which will go through my electorate of Ipswich West?

ANSWER:

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is part of the Government's Outdoor Recreation Strategy and will provide a 140km recreation trail for walking, cycling and horse riding. The trail follows the old Brisbane Valley railway line along the western side of the Brisbane River, travelling through attractive rural river valley landscapes, farming country, native and plantation forests, and rural residential and country towns. With regular electric City Train services to Wulkuraka and bus services as far north as Toogoolawah, the trail will be easily accessible for potential users including rural residents, urban visitors and travelling tourists.

The Government has committed \$3.6 million towards the development of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail as part of a total \$8.8 million regional recreation trails development program over five years which also includes \$2.4 million for the Boonah to Ipswich recreation trail and \$0.5 million for the Maroochy River Canoe Trail.

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail will build on the existing and well-used 9km Fernvale-Lowood section, managed by Esk Shire, and the 23km Linville-Blackbutt section managed by Nanango Shire. This new regional recreation trail will also provide opportunities for future recreation links to the Bicentennial National Trail.

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail will provide recreation, social and health benefits to a wide range of users including families, bicycle tourists, mountain bike riders, cultural heritage enthusiasts, horse riders, walkers and, where possible, users of mobility vehicles. It will provide opportunities for outdoor education programs covering history, geography, economics and physical education. The provision of support services such as refreshments, meals, accommodation and group transport will bring focussed economic benefits to rural communities along the proposed trail route.

Development of these three new regional recreation trails will help achieve South East Queensland Regional Plan outcomes including providing a range of outdoor recreation opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the community, enhancing the liveability of the region and providing a high quality and accessible regional open space network while supporting the planned population growth in the Western Corridor.