

Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail



OCTOBER 2019

Progress Report

Author: Mark McLachlan



BBIRT is Moving Ahead

Two major milestones.

Almost two years ago, Councilor Desley O'Grady and others started working towards preserving and developing the rail corridor between Calliope and Gayndah.

Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail Inc was formed as a result and decided to work towards developing the corridor as a Rail Trail, for bushwalkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Access Licence

We received our access licence from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. It is fairly limited at present but will allow us to start work doing such things as protecting bridges from fire. Local community groups will be able to work towards developing the siding areas along the corridor between Taragoola and Many Peaks, and Kalpower to Monto.

Our sister organisation, Gayndah Heritage Railway Rail Trail also has an access licence and has been doing great work on the southern end of the corridor

The corridor between Many Peaks and Kalpower will be added to the licence once the line is removed from this section and QR hands its lease back to DTMR.

DTMR has also advised that landholders adjoining the corridor can apply for licences to graze the corridor. This can be best done by contacting BBIRT [through our website](#).

Design & Development Planning

The second milestone is Gladstone Regional Council has commenced work on developing a Design and Development plan for three sections of the corridor identified in the [Feasibility Study](#).

It was far sighted of Council to [take this on as a project](#), and they deserve great kudos for doing so. In time this project will drive economic growth across the region. North Burnett Regional Council [has also been supportive](#).

Only Council can apply for funding from the State to enable the necessary planning which needs to be done.

We also owe a vote of thanks to the State Government for making funding available to retain fifty-one bridges, the line and hogback sleepers in tunnel six in the south of the Boyne Valley, and the opportunity for Council to apply for further funds to support getting the design work done.

Always Learning

On a recent trip to Nanango with Desley O,Grady to attend the [opening of a new link](#) section between the Brisbane Valley and South Burnett Rail Trails , we learnt several things: --

The State Government Opposition is fully supportive of Rail Trail development (This opening was in the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington who performed the opening ceremony.)

Small towns such as Moore and Blackbutt have experienced considerable economic growth from the Trail through their towns.

The growth in usage of the Brisbane Valley Trail has been so great that all competition bike rides along the corridor have had to be discontinued.

A new business in the area is thriving bussing cyclists to and from, & up & down Rail Trails. They use a specially designed trailer which carries bikes and e-bikes. Their clients are mainly national and international visitors. Up to forty percent of riders use e-bikes.

Visit boyneburnettinlandrailtrail.org.au to learn more and stay up to date with us.



