

Council Policy

Council Policy Name: Rails to Trails

Responsible Directorate: Engineering and Works Services

Version: Adopted

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to outline Council's commitment to the retention and management of land which previously formed part of the historical state wide railway network for recreational trail purposes.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This Policy is applicable to the use of land that previously formed government railways within the district, referred to collectively as Rails to Trails.

3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
Policy	this City of Busselton Council policy titled "Rails to Trails"
Rails to Trails	land that formerly formed part of the government railway network in the district being part of the lines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boyanup to Busselton • Busselton to Flinders Bay • Wonnerup to Nannup

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 4.1. This Policy links to Strategic Theme 1. ENVIRONMENT - An environment that is valued, conserved and able to be enjoyed by current and future generations, of the City's Strategic Community Plan June 2021 and specifically the following Strategic Priority:
- a. 1.1: Ensure protection and enhancement of environmental values is a central consideration in land use planning.
- 4.2. This Policy links to Strategic Theme 2. LIFESTYLE - A place that is relaxed, safe and friendly with services and facilities that support healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, of the City's Strategic Community Plan June 2021 and specifically the following Strategic Priority:
- a. 2.9: Provide accessible and connective pathways and cycleways.
- 4.3. This Policy links to Strategic Theme 3. OPPORTUNITY - A vibrant City with diverse opportunities and a prosperous economy, of the City's Strategic Community Plan June 2021 and specifically the following Strategic Priority:
- a. 3.3: Continue to promote the District as the destination of choice for events and unique tourism experiences.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

- 5.1. Council recognises the significance of Rails to Trails as a strategic transport corridor, for recreation and for its heritage and environmental values.
- 5.2. It is the position of the Council that Rails to Trails should, with the exception of land required for public works that are of benefit to the community, be:
- retained as Crown land and managed for the primary purpose of 'recreation trail';
 - kept as a contiguous transport corridor;
 - be promoted, developed and managed as a walk-cycle recreation trail suitable for hiking and for riding of bicycles designed for trails;
 - designed to retain its heritage characteristics and character, particularly with respect to the design of structures such as bridges, crossings and formations;
 - made suitable for expected traffic and usage, particularly where the trail passes through built up and residential areas; and
 - integrated with other recreational and heritage trails within the district and the broader region.
- 5.3. Where the Council determines that the City is capable of managing sections of the Rails to Trails that are Crown Reserve, the City may advise the Minister of Lands that the City would be willing to accept a management order over those sections of Crown Reserve.
- 5.4. The City will work cooperatively with neighbouring local governments, landowners and government agencies towards achieving a quality regional trails scheme and will seek funding for ongoing advancement of the Rails to Trails as available and appropriate.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION

- 6.1. Nil

7. REVIEW DETAILS

Review Frequency		3 yearly		
Council Adoption	DATE	12 September 2018	Resolution #	C1809/184
Previous Adoption	DATE	13 April 2016	Resolution #	C1604/077