



BOYNE BURNETT INLAND RAIL TRAIL

The Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail (BBIRT) is a unique recreational and visitor economic opportunity spanning across two regional council areas in Central Queensland. BBIRT is designed to attract active families, avid hikers, rail trail and adventure enthusiasts to experience the scenic landscapes and historic rail heritage of the Gladstone and North Burnett regions.

On behalf of the Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail Incorporated (BBIRT Inc), Gladstone Regional Council (Council) is advocating for funding of

\$21 million

to develop three distinct sections of the rail corridor between the hinterland townships of Calliope and Gayndah.

Once complete, the combined rail trails will span some **270 kilometres** and will be the longest rail trail in Australia.

Why the project is important

Since 2018, Council has supported the BBIRT Inc.'s vision to establish and promote the BBIRT as a one-of-a-kind rail trail destination as part of the Queensland Inland Rail Trail Network.

This strategic project aligns to the objectives of Council's Visitor Economy Strategy to develop unique visitor experiences appealing to domestic travellers to generate greater overnight visitor expenditure.

The rail trail is envisaged to benefit from the emerging consumer trend in wellness travellers who are health, fitness, outdoor and nature based experience seekers. Development of the rail trail will generate appeal to this growth market specifically looking for cycling, hiking, walking and camping experiences.

The 2019 BBIRT Feasibility Study supported this projects potential to add to the Gladstone Region's growing overnight tourism expenditure and is forecast to inject around **\$6.2 million annually** once the full rail trail is operational.



36.28km

Awoonga Lake
Rail Trail



31.2km

Kalpowar Tunnels
Rail Trail



28.8km

Burnett River Bridges
Rail Trail

Community support

In 2019, Council resolved to lead the development of Concept Designs for three rail trail sections known as:

- Awoonga Lake Rail Trail
- Kalpowar Tunnels Rail Trail; and
- Burnett River Bridges Rail Trail.

Extensive community engagement was undertaken in 2021 on the draft Master Plan with over

76 per cent of those surveyed supportive of the continued development of the trail. The engagement also highlighted the potential benefits for the smaller rural townships along the rail corridor.

In light of the strong community interest and support of this project, BBIRT Inc. officially opened the Golembil to Barrimoon section of the Kalpowar Tunnels Rail Trail to the general public on 11 September 2021. This section of the rail trail includes six heritage tunnels located in the Dawes Ranges.

Further support required

With confirmation from BBIRT Inc. the constraints to delivering this project are predominately related to the cost of the trail construction, development of supporting trail amenities and ongoing maintenance.

Council will continue to promote the BBIRT as it is proud to support this community-led initiative.



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