

Ms Natasha Exel
Inquiry Secretary
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Hobart.

North East Recreation Trail Inquiry

I wish to make the following submission in support of the North East Recreation Trail.

I base my support on personal experience of riding on a number of rail trails in Hokkaido, Japan. On these rides, I had numerous discussions with local residents and business operators, all supported the establishment of the rail trail and the subsequent benefits derived from the trails. These benefits included an increase in businesses established to cater for tourist accommodation, cafes and cycle support services and the consequential increase in local employment, not only in the new businesses but established businesses.

In particular, I support the North East Recreation trail by highlighting the following:

- The initial and on-going costs to establish and maintain are lower than that of a tourist railway.
- That the proposal is for a Recreation trail rather than just a bike path which would be available to all the community.
- Opportunities for development of accommodation, support and refreshment facilities along the entire corridor as opposed to the limited stopping points of a train.

I also would like to draw the attention of the Inquiry to the following report:

Hga Haerenga NZ Cycle Trail Evaluation Report 2016, published by the NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Although this report covers all 22 trails in NZ but it provides substantial support for the establishment of individuals rail trails. In particular, I wish to quote the following:

“There was anecdotal evidence from case study participants that the cycle trails have contributed to the following social benefits for local communities:
Increased use of the trails by local communities to bond, socialise or raise funds for community purposes
Increased road safety for the community
Increased sense of pride, belonging and place
Increased volunteerism in different aspects of trail management and operation.” (p30)

Thank you for your time in reading this submission,

Ray Brien
Secretary
Tasmanian Veterans Cycling Council