

Natasha Exel

From: Michael Walsh <michael.walsh@tppl.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 2 November 2018 1:52 PM
To: ner
Subject: NE Rail corridor submission

Hello

The North East Rail Trail project is a fantastic opportunity for Tasmania. Cycling tourism in Derby has been such a great success – why would anyone not want to see that expanded further? The benefits for our local communities in the North East of Tasmania are many:

- Rail trails are a proven economic winner for regional communities around the world
- Rail trails are a safe option for locals and tourists to exercise – as well as to access new and existing businesses
- Rail trails are slow tourism – visitors and tourists immerse themselves in local communities creating a vibrancy and enthusiasm not matched by other forms of tourism
- There has been years of work completed in Tasmania to prove the case for the North East Rail Trail project
- The project is fully costed and fully funded and there is a huge amount of community support for the rail trail

It so disappointing when such a fantastic opportunity for growth and development for our state is frustrated by minority lobby groups who do not want to see change, or embrace new markets for the Tasmanian experience. Some key points to note about the alternative:

- Trains will not provide the same benefits as they don't allow passengers to stay overnight or to disembark at all the businesses/attractions
- The train enthusiast campaign is contrary to years of community based motivation and endeavour that saw the rail trail created East of Scottsdale. They should not be allowed to divert the course set and agreed by North East communities and local, state and federal politicians

We need strong leadership from our politicians and business leaders and in our local communities to take advantage of this once in a generation opportunity to grow brand Tasmania and create opportunities in the North East.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss further with you TCIG's plans for cycling tourism in the North East.

Kind regards

Mike Walsh
Treasurer – TCIG P/L