

Andrew Goodacre

1 November 2018

To whom it may concern,

**Submission to Government Administration Committee 'B' Inquiry into
Tasmania's North-East Railway Corridor**

I write to the committee as a resident of Karoola in support of the proposal to create a multi-use recreational along the North-East rail corridor. I believe the health and tourism benefits of the recreational trail are significant, allowing walkers and cyclists access to the historic route and beautiful scenery.

The regeneration of small, rural communities through the creation of tourism projects based around bikes and cycling is evident here in the North-East of Tasmania as well as on the mainland and overseas. The opportunity presented by the recreation trail from Launceston through Lilydale to Scottsdale is a significant one, which will clearly draw Tasmanians and tourists alike, leading to increased financial investment into the area.

Small businesses in the area are desperate for the economic benefits this recreational trail will provide, and additional businesses will spring up and add to the regeneration of the area once the recreational trail goes ahead.

Tasmania does not currently have any long-distance recreational rail trails such as that being proposed for the north-east. This is a real, once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a world-class family-friendly tourist attraction. The same cannot be said for the heritage rail proposal, given that multiple heritage railways already exist in the state.

Having read the reports into the feasibility of using this rail corridor for a heritage railway, I am unconvinced that the heritage rail proposal is actually viable - especially in terms of the necessary health and safety requirements of level crossings. On the contrary, the recreational trail is regarded as viable with potential for significant economic and social benefit to communities. I encourage the committee to base their decision on the future use of the railway corridor on the conclusions reached by these reports.

I am also deeply disappointed at the public statements made by some proponents of the heritage rail project that they are seeking simply to delay the proposed recreational trail until the guarantee of federal funding expires. This approach does not have the common good of the north-east community as a whole in view - rather it is cynical and damaging to the social fabric of the north-east.

My personal preference would be for the original proposal for a recreational trail from Launceston all the way through to Scottsdale to proceed. However, I believe the proposed compromise by the current government to develop the recreational trail from Lilydale through to Scottsdale represents a good step forward, and one which has real potential to end the deadlock and ongoing delays over the use of the rail corridor, and allow the community in the north-east to move forward together.

I urge the committee to show true vision and leadership and to reaffirm it's support this project for the good of the region and the state,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Goodacre', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Andy Goodacre