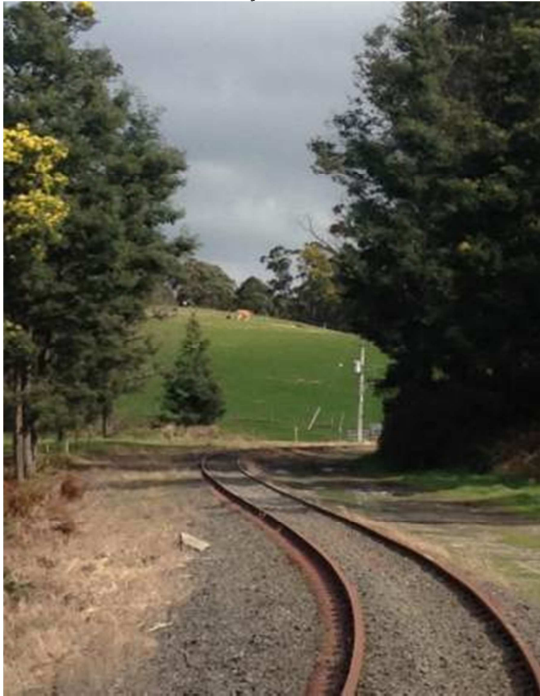


Tasmania North East Rail Trail Funding Announced

Created: 20 May 2015



Typical scenery on the proposed section (Sarah Hirst)

Rail Trails Australia welcomes the Federal Government's commitment to pay \$1.47 million for about half the cost of extending the scenic North East Rail trail 70 kilometre from Scottsdale to Launceston.

The Rotary club of Scottsdale constructed the first section from Tonganah to near Ledgerwood and the Dorset Council has almost finished extending this back to the regional centre of Scottsdale. This 30km section along with the extension back to Launceston will make an approximately 100km long rail trail.

The key to this major development, which will provide Tasmania with its first major rail trail, was the growing community support. The Rotary Club's initial work led to support from rail trail enthusiasts and then the Dorset Council. This led to the formation of the North East Rail Trail Board last year and Northern Tasmania Development proved up the business case and another supporter Bass MP Andrew Nikolic was very pleased to be able to make the funding announcement. "I congratulate the Dorset Council for the work they are doing to progress this exciting project, which will create jobs in the construction phase and provide another boost to tourism in Northern Tasmania," Mr Nikolic said.

A very excited North East Rail Trail Board chair Sarah Hirst said the project would bring the rail trail close to many farm and rural tourism ventures and spur new investment in the region.

It is understood that the Dorset Council will have carriage of the \$3 million project.

For more detail refer to our [rail trail description here](#).

There will also be further information in the Winter edition of [Rail Trail Connections](#).