

Ms Natasha Exel
Inquiry Secretary
Legislative Council

To the Honourable Members of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE 'B'
NORTH-EAST RAILWAY CORRIDOR INQUIRY.

We the undersigned urge the Committee to support the implementation of a rail trail from Lilydale to Scottsdale.

We are residents of Lilydale, a retired School teacher and a Nurse close to retirement, interested in remaining physically active while, at the same time, enjoying our beautiful countryside.

Recently, on road trip on mainland Australia travelling through Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales we were amazed at the number of small country towns where disused railway lines had been converted to rail trails. This was much to our delight as it enabled us to enjoy running and walking in the environs of the town - away from roads and highways. We were pleased because this made it easy for us to remain physically active during our trip as well as enhancing our experience of towns with their nearby countryside. We were also impressed with the number of other people making use of the trails.

As residents of Lilydale we would very much enjoy access to the disused Northeast Railway Line. At present our walking, cycling and running is restricted to local roads which are narrow and not conducive to safe pedestrian and cycling activity. Cars often need to slow to pass us. This becomes even more problematic and dangerous at dusk - an ideal time to be out and about. Other residents are often out and about on these roads. We therefore urge the Committee to consider that the implementation of a rail trail from Lilydale to Scottsdale will improve the amenity of Lilydale as a place to be enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

We note that the experience of a rail trail through our region could be enhanced with side trips to adjacent wineries in a similar way to the Riesling Trail in the Clare Valley in South Australia.

We note that the township of Lilydale has an increasing number of businesses geared to catering for people passing through. We would argue that a rail trail, rather than a resurrected railway line, is more likely to ensure and maintain a reliable increase in the number of visitors passing through our region.

We understand that the legislation under consideration, to establishing the rail trail from Lilydale to Scottsdale while resurrecting the train line from Launceston to Lilydale, is a compromise between competing interests. We would however, respectfully urge the Legislative Council to support this proposal rather than any competing proposals which would further remove local rail trail access from the residents and visitors of Lilydale.

Signed

Dianne Estelle Morgan

Peter William Morgan



18 October 2018