

Northern Rivers Rail Trail Casino to Bentley section Landholder Update - May 2020

Richmond
Valley
Council



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – REGIONAL NSW



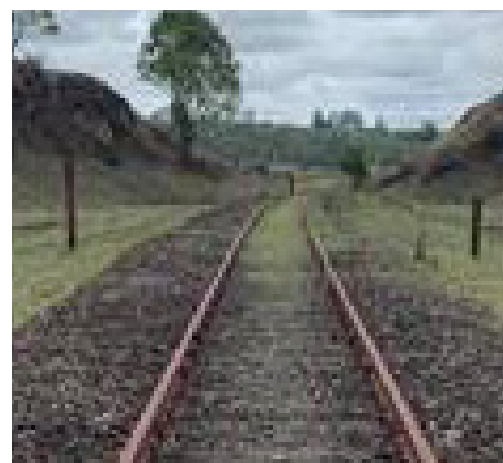
A summary report of the community consultation conducted on Monday 17 February 2020 by Regional NSW has now been completed, and is available at the following link:

<https://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/assets/dpc-nsw-gov-au/files/Updates/Casino-Rail-Trail-Community-Consultation-Report.pdf>

Information answering questions raised during the consultation have also been attached to this update. Council will continue to consult with landholders and keep them updated throughout the project.

UPCOMING WORKS

You may notice some people on the corridor over the next few months. They will be conducting a variety of works necessary for the rail trail project. The works will be conducted within the rail corridor, including above the tunnel, but with no requirement to enter any adjoining properties. Council understands some of the disused land is currently being used to graze cattle, and has asked contractors to take all necessary precautions. If there are any specific issues, relevant landholders will be contracted prior to the work commencing.



Works will include the following:

- **Minor vegetation clearing and access point upgrades** - Council will work along the rail line clearing the tracks. This will be done with a slasher and mulcher. Once the tracks have been cleared, Council will investigate any further clearing that may be required. Access points will also be cleared or upgraded during this process.



- **Spraying** – John Holland will be conducting spraying of noxious weeds in conjunction with the clearing.
- **Old Casino Station inspection** - A thorough inspection has been completed of the Old Casino Station. The report will provide detail on how to best refurbish the building.
- **Biodiversity Assessment** - A biodiversity assessment is currently being prepared by an independent contractor. This will guide the project on how Council deals with any biosecurity issues or concerns.
- **Survey** - Surveying of the rail corridor will begin this month. The survey team will conduct aerial surveying using a drone, and on the ground.
- **Master plan** - Council expects work on the master plan to start towards the end of this month. The master plan will provide a blueprint for the project and a vision for how the rail trail will look when completed.


You may also be interested in looking at the business case for the Casino to Eltham section. A link is on the Council website: <https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/signature-projects/the-northern-rivers-rail-trail/>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the rail trail, please contact Brad Birney 0401 962 997 or Daniel Rowlands 0427 308 783

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – FURTHER INFORMATION

MAINTENANCE COSTS	This is something that will continue to be investigated, with ongoing negotiations between relevant parties. This has partly been addressed in the business case.
FENCING	There will be regulatory requirements around fencing and landholders and other relevant stakeholders will be consulted during design and construction. Council will address all relevant landholder and environmental needs.
TIMBER BRIDGES	Investigations of timber bridges will be done as part of the project. Works on the bridges will be funded from the project budget.
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	There will be an emergency management plan for the rail trail. Emergency access points will be included in the design.



ROAD CROSSINGS	This will be addressed during design. Council already has a large pathway network which addresses many of the same issues as a rail trail.
RAIL CROSSINGS – LIVESTOCK/ MACHINERY	<p>Council is committed to not impacting the current practices of adjacent landholders. All options will be investigated including items like stock culverts - see adjacent picture.</p> 
BIOSECURITY	Council is currently in the process of having a biosecurity assessment prepared. Additionally, the rail trail will have a biosecurity plan, with adjacent landholder and relevant stakeholders consulted as part of this process. There are numerous rail trails in Australia, and all over the world, where many of these issues have already been addressed.
PARKING FACILITIES & AMENITIES	This will be addressed as part of the design and ultimately the construction phase.
WEED MANAGEMENT	The rail trail will be a maintained asset, with weed management improving once the rail trail is constructed.
DUMPING OF RUBBISH	Council will look at a waste management plan for the rail trail. Adequate rubbish facilities will be investigated during the design phase.
ACCESSIBILITY FOR EVERYONE	Apart from motorbikes and cars, Council is entering this project with an open mind and will consider all potential accessibility options.
BATS IN TUNNEL	This will be addressed as part of the biodiversity assessment. The safety of these bats, along with the health and safety of rail trail users, will be considered during the design phase.



PEOPLE CAMPING ALONG TRAIL	The safety for rail trail users and adjacent landholders is a key consideration for Council. These issues will be addressed with design and the operational plan. There are more than 100 rail trails in Australia, so Council can learn from what others have already done.
TRESPASSING	Security of adjacent landholders is extremely important. This will be addressed in the management plan along with design through fencing, planting of flora, educational tools for users etc. Again, Council will consider solutions from the many other rail trails in Australia already constructed and operational.

Some other useful links are:

- Rail Trail Australia submission to Parliament 2013: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/submissions/47656/0090%20Rail%20Trails%20Australia.pdf
- Northern Rivers Rail Trail Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CasinoBentleyRailTrail/>
- Tumbarumba to Rosewood Facebook page (newest rail trail): www.facebook.com/tumbarumbarailtrail/
- Brisbane Valley Rail Trail: www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.com.au/
- Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BrisbaneValleyRailTrail.QLD/
- Rail Trails Australia: www.railtrails.org.au
- USA Studies on Rail Trails: www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/rail-trail-resources/rail-trail-studies/