

## Official Rail Trail Opening

The Black Spur section of the Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT) will be officially opened on Friday 4 March by Harriet Shing MP, Member for Eastern Victoria.

The Black Spur section was the missing 2.6 kilometre link between Koonwarra and Minns Road, Meeniyan. Having it complete creates a seamless 69 kilometre trail between Leongatha and Port Welshpool.

The State Government through its Putting Locals First Program provided a total grant of \$1m towards the GSRT Black Spur Stages 1 and 2 project. The total project cost was approximately \$1.8m with \$1.4m being expended towards the Black Spur section of the trail. The remaining funds will be for other developments of the GSRT including associated infrastructure, information bay, picnic area, additional trail works, and marketing which is due to be completed by 30 June 2016.

The scope of Stages 1 and 2 included the reconstruction/construction of three bridges and connecting trail works, specifically:

- Demolition and reconstruction of the 50 metre bridge one, which spans Black Spur Creek
- Partial demolition and reconstruction of the 152 metre bridge two, which spans Black Spur Creek
- Construction of a 130 metre connecting trail between these two bridges
- Construction of a picnic area and viewing location at the end of bridge two
- Construction of a 170 metre connecting trail between bridge two and bridge three
- Reconstruction of the 146 metre bridge three, which spans the Tarwin River
- Construction of the final 800 metre trail linkage.

The opening will commence at 3.00pm at Koonwarra Recreation Reserve, Buckingham & Fowlers Road, Koonwarra.

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