The Great Southern Rail Trail Projects include three components:

- Welshpool to Yarram (Wellington Shire Council) extension;
- Leongatha to Korumburra link; and
- West of Korumburra extension.

Since the complete closure of the rail line between Dandenong and Port Albert in 1994 various sections have been developed into a rail trail. At present the Great Southern Rail Trail stretches 71 kilometres from Leongatha to Port Welshpool. The trail is an important contributor to the local and regional economy, attracting a large number of tourists.

The Great Southern Rail Trail Projects will further enhance the economic and community benefits of the Great Southern Rail Trail and claim the title of the longest rail trail in Victoria while raising the profile of the region.

A number of benefits will be experienced by the South Gippsland community including:

- Increased attraction of tourist expenditure
- Extended visits and overnight stays
- Increased employment opportunities in tourism-related and other industries
- Establishment of new sources of revenue for businesses and towns
- Enhanced recreational options
- Improved health and wellbeing through increased physical activity

The Great Southern Rail Trail Projects will enhance tourism opportunities in South Gippsland.
Our Request

Victorian and Australian Government funding will be required for the Great Southern Rail Trail Projects to commence works to complete the extension.

Funding will be sought once necessary planning has been undertaken. It is anticipated the projects will be shovel ready by late 2018.

Impacts

The realisation of the Great Southern Rail Trail Projects will provide a positive impact to the region with economic development and employment opportunities through increased tourism.

The trail will play an important role in building the region’s tourism profile, in particular nature based activities. It will develop an exciting link from the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne straight through the heart of South Gippsland, drawing users from interstate and internationally. Once complete the trail will create a significant walking/cycling network that allows access to South Gippsland’s natural beauty and act as a conduit for the food and wine experiences along the trail.

The trail extensions will provide an alternative transport option for some residents who would be able to access shops, schools and town centres.