

Management of Great Southern Rail Trail

South Gippsland Shire Council will become the Committee of Management for the Leongatha to Welshpool section of the Great Southern Rail Trail after the current committee's term is complete.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has requested that Council take over the Committee of Management responsibilities as the scale and ongoing management required for the rail trail was beyond the capacity of a volunteer committee.

The new arrangement would cover the current length of the rail trail and any future extensions within the shire boundary if they develop. Consideration would also be made for maintenance of the full extent of the rail trail to Yarram if developed and funded by Wellington Shire Council to ensure consistency in management.

The current Committee of Management will finish its term on 24 September 2020 and Council will need to allocate future funds for the provision of this maintenance. An estimated cost of \$235,750 has been identified for the current section in 2020/21 with a 2.5 per cent annual increase thereafter.

A further \$31,519 would be required in 2021/22 for the Leongatha to Korumburra section, \$113,140 in 2024/25 for Korumburra to Nyora with a similar 2.5 per cent annual increase for both.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Councillor Don Hill provided the following comments:

“Council would like to thank all the volunteers who have to date worked on maintaining this important asset to the Shire.

It is hoped that we can find a way to continue to have the volunteers work with Council in an ongoing capacity in some way to continue to keep this asset up to standard,” said the Mayor.

PR2371 29/03/19