



## Great Southern Rail Trail – Active Work Site

Obsolete tracks and sleepers along the rail corridor between Leongatha and Nyora are being removed in preparation for the extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail.

Council wishes to advise that although curiosity in the project is understandable, the rail corridor is an active work site and should be avoided. Unfortunately, due to incidents of theft and threats of vandalism, local contractors have needed to extend their work hours to protect the work site.

South Gippsland Shire Council's CEO, Kerryn Ellis is asking people to please keep away from the rail corridor between Leongatha and Nyora while works are progressing.

"We have become aware of people walking along the rail track, getting too close to the works and taking souvenirs.

"We wish to remind people that the rail corridor is a construction site and can only be accessed by authorised personnel. Removal of materials from the track is theft and will be reported to Victoria Police.

"Whilst we appreciate that people are keen for the extension to be complete and be available to walk along, we ask members of the community to please be patient and let our contractors safely complete their works," said Ms. Ellis.

The extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail was a project identified and championed by the previous Council and reaffirmed as a priority project by Council's Administrators.

The removal of the track does not compromise the return of passenger rail if the State Government wished to pursue this. However, there has been no indication that a passenger rail service will be returned to South Gippsland in the foreseeable future.

*For more information on the Great Southern Rail Trail extension project, please contact Council on 03 5662 9200.*

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