

## Press Release

### **MBUG applauds the allocation of Community Infrastructure Program funds to the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail**

April 28, 2009

The Mitchell Bicycle Users Group was thrilled today to receive notification of the allocation of \$13 million towards the completion of the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail as part of the Federal Government's \$800 million Community Infrastructure Program.

This allocation of funding is the largest to be made in the State of Victoria and reflects the value that both the State and Federal Government place on the development of the tourism potential in this region.

Now close to a reality, the rail trail will start at Tallarook, before heading off to Yea via Trawool and after just over 130km arriving at Mansfield, crossing three Shires as it does so.

"With a large length of this trail running along the Goulburn River, this trail has the potential to become one of the busiest Rail Trails in the state", said MBUG President, Greg Jones, "especially considering that it will be one of the closest Rail Trails to Melbourne. The effect will be to boost tourism in a region that was severely affected by the recent fires and to provide additional recreational and open space facilities for the residents of the Shires involved."

The Mitchell Bicycle Users Group has long been involved in the development of the Rail Trail and has pledged its support to the Rail Trail by being an inaugural member of the Friends of the Rail Trail group. MBUG will continue to be actively involved in the management and upkeep of the Trail once it is completed.

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MBUG is a Bicycle Users Group located in the Mitchell Shire (Seymour, Tallarook, Broadford, Kilmore, Pyalong, Tooborac, Wandong, Heathcote Junction, Wallan and Beveridge).

The aims of the group are to promote cycling throughout the shire through regular organized non-competitive rides and to work with the shire to improve facilities for cyclists and provide a social outlet for cyclists.