

Council Policy

Council Policy Name: Rail-Trails (including the Wadandi Track)

Responsible Directorate: Infrastructure and Environment

Version **Adopted**

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to:

- a. recognise the historical significance of the former government and private railway networks of the region;
- b. recognise the benefits attainable from a network of rail-trails throughout the region; and
- c. outlines the Council's commitment to the retention of the Crown land of the former government railways for rail-trail and recreational purposes.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This Policy applies to the former government railways (including the alignment of the Wadandi Track) and the historic private railways within the district.

3. DEFINITIONS

| Term | Meaning |
|----------------------------|--|
| Policy | this City of Busselton Council policy titled "Rail-Trails (including the Wadandi Track)" |
| Former Government Railways | the corridors of Crown land that formed the Western Australian Government Railways throughout the region, specifically the Boyanup to Busselton, Busselton to Flinders Bay and the Wonnerup to Nannup branch lines. |
| Historic Private Railways | the historical rail lines that were associated with the timber industry and where they may connect to a rail-trail of the former government railways, specifically the Wonnerup to Yoganup ("Ballaarat") railway and the line that extended from the Quindalup foreshore (near the site of the sea rescue building). |
| Rail-trails | networks of pathways built on disused or abandoned railway corridors used for walking, cycling and other recreational activities. |

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

| Strategic Outcome | Objective |
|-------------------|---|
| Lifestyle | 1. Plan and deliver sport and recreation facilities to support healthy and active lifestyles. 3. Facilitate access to inclusive services, places and spaces to support community members to connect and thrive at every stage of life. |
| Environment | 6. Care for and enhance our natural areas and habitats. |
| Place | 10. Provide well maintained public facilities, open space, parks and playgrounds. 11. Provide safe roads and transport networks. |
| Opportunity | 13. Be a destination of choice for unique tourism experiences and events. |

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1. The Council recognises:

- a. the historical significance of the former government and private railways throughout the region;

- b. the recreational, heritage, social, environmental, transportation and economic benefits that a network of rail-trails would bring to the region; and
 - c. the extent of the land of the former government railways that remains as Crown land, and the value of the land to the community.
- 5.2. It is the position of the Council that:
- a. the Crown land of the former government railways is retained as Crown land, as a contiguous corridor for non-motorised transport;
 - b. the land is promoted, developed and managed primarily for rail-trail and recreational purposes, cognisant of the heritage and environmental values of the land;
 - c. the City works collaboratively with the community, neighbouring local governments, government agencies, landowners and developers towards achieving a regional rail-trail network of high quality standard;
 - d. the City will seek funding for the ongoing advancement of Rail-Trails as appropriate with available funding;
 - e. the rail-trails integrate with other recreational and heritage trails within the district and the broader region; and
 - f. within the district, the Busselton Jetty precinct forms the primary head of the rail-trails.
- 5.3. With respect to the rail-trail network, it is the position of the Council that, where practicable:
- a. the trails are constructed on the alignment of the original railway formation;
 - b. where this is not possible, the trails are constructed within the reserve of the former government railway or, where that is not possible, as close to the reserve as practicable;
 - c. the trails are made suitable for walking, cycling and compatible activities;
 - d. the character of the railway formation mound is retained;
 - e. the heritage characteristics of the heritage railway structures such as bridges, water crossings and formations are retained;
 - f. the locations of former sidings are recognised along the rail-trails;
 - g. at various stages, the trail allows for access by broad sections of the community;
 - h. the trails provide for a range of interests and experiences including recreation, heritage, environmental and adventure; and
 - i. the landscape of the reserve land be retained and enhanced so that it is in keeping with the natural environment.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION

- 6.1. Council decision [C2412/365](#)

7. REVIEW DETAILS

| Review Frequency | | 3 yearly | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Council Adoption | DATE | 12 February 2025 | Resolution # | C2502/29 |
| Previous Adoption | DATE | 12 September 2018 | Resolution # | C1809/184 |
| Previous Adoption | DATE | 13 April 2016 | Resolution # | C1604/077 |