

Council Policy Name: Rails to Trails

Responsible Directorate: Engineering and Works Services

Version: Adopted

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to outline Council’s commitment to the retention and management of land which previously formed part of the historical state wide railway network for recreational trail purposes.

**2. SCOPE**

2.1. This Policy is applicable to the use of land that previously formed government railways within the district, referred to collectively as Rails to Trails.

**3. DEFINITIONS**

Term	Meaning
Policy	this City of Busselton Council Policy entitled “Rails to Trails”
Rails to Trails	Land that formerly formed part of the government railway network in the district being part of the lines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boyanup to Busselton</li> <li>• Busselton to Flinders Bay</li> <li>• Wonnerup to Nannup</li> </ul>

**4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

4.1. This Policy links to Key Goal Area 3 – Environment, Key Goal Area 4 – Economy, and Key Goal Area 5 – Transport, of the City’s Strategic Community Plan 2017 and specifically the following Community Objective/s:

- a. 3.2: Natural areas and habitats are cared for and enhanced for the enjoyment of current and future generations;
- b. 4.3: Events and unique tourism experiences that attract visitors and investment; and
- c. 5.3: Cycleways that connect our communities and provide alternative transport choices.

**5. POLICY STATEMENT**

5.1. Council recognises the significance of Rails to Trails as a strategic transport corridor, for recreation and for its heritage and environmental values.

5.2. It is the position of the Council that Rails to Trails should, with the exception of land required for public works that are of benefit to the community, be:

- a. retained as Crown land and managed for the primary purpose of ‘recreation trail’;
- b. kept as a contiguous transport corridor;
- c. be promoted, developed and managed as a walk-cycle recreation trail suitable for hiking and for riding of bicycles designed for trails;

- d. designed to retain its heritage characteristics and character, particularly with respect to the design of structures such as bridges, crossings and formations;
  - e. made suitable for expected traffic and usage, particularly where the trail passes through built up and residential areas; and
  - f. integrated with other recreational and heritage trails within the district and the broader region.
- 5.3. Where the Council determines that the City is capable of managing sections of the Rails to Trails that are Crown Reserve, the City may advise the Minister of Lands that the City would be willing to accept a management order over those sections of Crown Reserve.
- 5.4. The City will work cooperatively with neighbouring local governments, landowners and government agencies towards achieving a quality regional trails scheme and will seek funding for ongoing advancement of the Rails to Trails as available and appropriate

**6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION**

6.1. XX

**7. REVIEW DETAILS**

<b>Review Frequency</b>		3 yearly		
<b>Council Adoption</b>	<b>DATE</b>	12 September 2018	<b>Resolution #</b>	C1809/184
<b>Previous Adoption</b>	<b>DATE</b>	13 April 2016	<b>Resolution #</b>	C1604/077