



MEDIA RELEASE

DEE RYALL MP
MEMBER FOR MITCHAM

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, 31/03/2011

29/03/2011

RYALL RE-AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR \$5 MILLION BIKE RAIL TRAIL

Member for Mitcham District, Dee Ryall, has re-affirmed her support for the State Government's \$5 million funding of the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail by accepting a 4,000 signature petition.

The petition, organised by David Hall, Whitehorse Cyclist Advocate, will be presented to parliament next week by Ms Ryall.

Speaking at a Whitehorse Cyclists bike ride and petition hand-over in Box Hill this morning, Ms Ryall said the Baillieu Government's election commitment to deliver the project was "about creating a safe and enjoyable place, for families with young children and others, to enjoy riding their bikes."

"I was pleased to be present when the Minister for Sport and Recreation made the funding announcement during the election campaign," Ms Ryall said.

"With many Victorians now choosing cycling as a form of commuter travel, as well as for recreation, the Victorian Government remains committed to providing better cycling paths and facilities.

"The trail will traverse the length of my electorate and is an important project for the local community

"It will be great not only for commuting, physical activity and recreation, but also for the hundreds of kids who will be able to ride their bikes to and from school more easily and safely."

David Hall echoed Ms Ryall's comments, adding that the trail would make good use of empty railway reserves; such as the land east of Bank Street, Box Hill; which he said should have been made a pathway as part of the Middleborough Road grade separation.

"This petition is in favour of the shared path along the railway line between Box Hill and Ringwood and shows that residents in the east want the existing 250 metres behind Box Hill Town Hall extended," Mr Hall said.

"Currently there is no safe direct East-to-West Cycling path through Central Whitehorse. This means that those wishing to head east from here in Box Hill have to risk life and limb on either busy Canterbury Road or Maroondah Highway."

The Rail Trail will form the east-west arterial route for a network of bike paths within the Cities of Whitehorse and Maroondah and will run within 1km of 20 schools and colleges.

"This has been a project that has been on the table since plans were drawn up in 1995. It is great to see that the new State Government and the Member for Mitcham, Ms Ryall, are fully in support of this trail that will help promote sustainable transport and healthy living," Mr Hall said.

/ends

Media Contact:

Dee Ryall

(03) 9878 4113