



Gavin Pearce MP

Federal Member for Braddon

Mayor Phil Vickers

West Coast Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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MOUNTAIN BIKE CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE CELEBRATED AT ZEEHAN

With \$2.5 million of Federal funding delivered, the West Coast's ambitious plans to establish a network of mountain bike trails across the region is gaining momentum.

As the project moves on to the next stage, partners of the project meet in Zeehan to inspect progress to date.

Federal Member Gavin Pearce's announcement of the delivery of funding coincided with the finalisation of the Design EOI for phase 2 of the Project, which will design up to 20km of mountain bike trails in the Heemskirk Regional Reserve outside Zeehan.

"This is a visionary project by the West Coast Council and the Federal Government is excited to be on board," Mr Pearce said.

"The timing of this project could not be better. Participation in mountain biking is booming worldwide, and the West Coast offers such a unique experience."

"As we continue to progress out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and tourists start coming back into the state, this project will ensure that the West Coast of Tasmania is on their radar. When added to the raft of experiences the region already has on offer, why wouldn't you spend your time and your tourist dollar immersing yourself in this region?"

"I congratulate the West Coast Council and all their project partners on reaching this milestone and I look forward to watching the project progress."

West Coast Council Mayor Phil Vickers said the construction of these tracks on the West Coast will enhance Tasmania as a destination for mountain bikers.

"We have already fielded enquiries from not only mainland Australia but also North America and Europe specifically about the proposed downhill trails on Mt Owen. The development at Oonah hill and the proposed Heemskirk range value add along with all the magical places you can cycle naturally in our region."

"We are most grateful for the funding assistance provided by both the state and federal governments. We particularly appreciate the support of the Parks and Wildlife Service through this process which have allowed us to develop a great plan and a project that has been able to attract the required funding and support."

The \$2.5 million federal funding will contribute to the construction at least 30kms of MTB trail on Mt Owen in Queenstown; up to 20kms of MTB trails in the Heemskirk Regional Reserve; the development of MTB trail concepts for long distance back-country trail riding in the region; and marketing and branding of all West Coast MTB offerings.

Ends

Media enquiries:

Office of Gavin Pearce - Denise Fletcher 0438 022 726

West Coast Council – Dirk Dowling 0499 055 564