



Wayne Wendt MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail projects share in \$12,000

Three community groups will share more than \$12,000 in grants for projects associated with the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT).

Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government Paul Lucas said the grants were funded through the BVRT Community Partnership Grants Program.

“This program is offered twice per year, with the most recent round closing in March 2011, and assists organisations and Brisbane Valley communities to undertake activities and projects that support the delivery and operation of the BVRT,” Mr Lucas said.

“This funding program is open to not-for-profit bodies, incorporated community organisations, local councils and tertiary institutions in South East Queensland

“It provides grants of between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to help community groups deliver new rail trail projects such as community events, facilities and environmental works.

“Under the program, applicants can apply for a grant to cover up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs.

“The three successful applicants from this round put forward projects that will contribute to the ongoing success of the BVRT, and help entice more people to the area to enjoy an outing in the countryside,” Mr Lucas said.

The successful applicants are:

- Brisbane Valley Heritage Trails Incorporated (\$3,440) – to research and produce interpretive signage, print postcards and historic photograph books promoting the associated trails of the BVRT.
- Bloomin’ Beautiful Blackbutt Festival Incorporated (\$2,000) – to support and promote the *All Trails Lead to Blackbutt* Sculpture Award. Short and long-term sculptural installations will be located at the Blackbutt trail head and along the length of the BVRT between Benarkin and Blackbutt.
- Blackbutt and District Tourism and Heritage Association Incorporated (\$7,000) – to assist in the relocation of the original Nukku school building from Nanango to Blackbutt, where it will serve as a multi-purpose community building.

Member for Ipswich West Wayne Wendt said the BVRT was part of the State Government's investment in encouraging outdoor recreation and the protection of our environment.

"That's why last month's State Budget included \$2.1 million towards the BVRT and the Boonah to Ipswich trail," Mr Wendt said.

"Through Growth Management Queensland, we are protecting more land for public recreation and delivering sustainable outcomes for Queenslanders.

"Sections of the BVRT took a real hammering during the floods earlier this year, and work is still being done to reopen the damaged sections.

"Currently only the 30 kilometre Moore to Blackbutt section has been reopened to the public, thanks to volunteer efforts.

"100km of the BVRT was closed after the devastating floods in January. After much hard work by the local community and the Somerset Regional and South Burnett Regional Councils nearly 40km is now open for the public to use.

"The way the locals turned out for the clearing-up working bees is real testament to the community spirit in the Brisbane Valley, and it's hoped the section from Esk to Toogoolawah will be reopened by 30 July as part of the celebrations for the Esk Multicultural Festival," he said.

897 runners entered the Rail Trail Fun Run on Sunday 10 July with over 1,000 celebrating the re-opening of the 8.5km of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail between Fernvale and Lowood.

The next section to be open will be the Esk to Toogoolawah section on the 30 July ready for visitors heading to the region for the Esk Multicultural Festival at the Esk Station Grounds on the BVRT at Pipeliner Park.

When completed next year, the 161 kilometre BVRT will run between Wulkuraka and Yarraman and will be one of Australia's longest continuous rail trails.

It retains many of the original rail tunnels and bridges, including the heritage-listed Lockyer Creek and Harlin Bridges and the Yimbin Tunnel.

For maps and more information on the BVRT, visit <http://www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/regional-planning/brisbane-valley-rail-trail.html>, or www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au.

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