

SEQ Regional Recreation Trails Program

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail

Wulkuraka to Yarraman – 161km

Wulkuraka - Fernvale - Lowood - Coominya - Esk
Toogoolawah - Harlin - Moore - Linville - Benarkin
Blackbutt - Yarraman



Another 7.5km of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is now open - south of Yarraman to Harland Park at Cooyar Creek (old Pidna rail station site). This expands on the 8km that was open from Blackbutt to Gilla on 10 September.

The new section of the BVRT was officially opened by Cr Peter Taylor, Mayor Toowoomba Regional Council at Heritage House Yarraman Saturday, October 8.

When completed, the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT) will be a 161 kilometre recreation trail that follows the old railway line providing walkers, touring cyclists and horse riders with an opportunity to experience the history and landscape of the Brisbane Valley.

The BVRT steering Committee, Chaired by Wayne Wendt, MP, invited Toowoomba Regional Council to join the steering committee in 2010.

The Toowoomba Council agreed to a proposal to extend the original BVRT from Nukku to Yarraman in recognition of Yarraman as the original terminus of the Brisbane Valley rail line. It was seen as a logical progression that the historical link should be re-created.

The Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) joined Ipswich City Council, Somerset Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail Steering Committee

The small town of Yarraman between Blackbutt and Nanango sustained significant major damage to homes, businesses, sporting facilities and greenspace areas of the town in the floods of January 2011.

Bringing the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail to the town to assist in the recovery after such devastation was considered very important and will ultimately connect the towns of Blackbutt and Yarraman.

Recreation trails are a valuable tourism attraction and community asset and the BVRT Steering Committee provided full support for the continued work on Active Trails in South East Queensland.

Old Government contributed \$50,000 towards the development and planning of this extension with a contribution of \$20,000 from Toowoomba Regional Council.

100km of the BVRT was closed after the devastating floods in January. After much hard work by the Department of Local Government and Planning, the local community and the Somerset Regional, Toowoomba and South Burnett Regional Councils over 77km is now open for the public to use.

The trail brings many economic and social benefits to the community with Blackbutt businesses finding up to a 20% increase to their business as a result of the rail trail development.

When completed next year, the 161 kilometre BVRT will start at Wulkuraka near Ipswich and end at Yarraman.

The BVRT will be the southern hemispheres longest rail trail.

Next section to re-open will be the Wanora - Fernvale and Lowood - Coominya Sections with final repairs on the trail currently underway.

For more information on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail visit www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au