



MINUTES

FRASER COAST MARY TO BAY RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 77 TAVISTOCK STREET
22 JUNE, 2023 COMMENCING AT 4.00PM

PRESENT:

- Cr Phil Truscott (Acting Chair)
- Cr David Lewis – via TEAMS
- Tracey Genrich, Manager Community Development & Engagement FCRC
- Davendra Naidu – Director Infrastructure Services FCRC
- Martin Simons – General Manager FCTE – via TEAMS
- Mike Allsop (on behalf of Max Voigt) – Fraser Coast Bugs Representative
- John Williams – Fraser Coast Wildlife Preservation Society Representative
- Alan Whyborn – community representative

APOLOGIES

- Craig England – Manager (Rail Corridor Management) Department of Transport & Main Roads
- Steve Case – Fraser Coast Cycling Representative
- Andy Riley – community representative
- Ken Diehm – Chief Executive Officer FCRC (Guest apology)
- Gerard Carlyon – Director Development & Community FCRC (Guest Apology)
- Keith Parsons – Director Organisational Services FCRC (Guest apology)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Nil

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country

Phil welcomed all attendees and delivered an Acknowledgement to Country on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

2. Apologies

A full list of apologies is listed above.

3. Previous Meeting – Action List

The Committee reviewed the Action List of items from previous meetings. During discussion within the meeting 2 additional items were noted as actioned. An updated version of the Action List is attached to these Minutes.

4. Agenda Items

1. Member Resignation – Kelly Adams

Tracey advised the Committee members that Kelly Adams had submitted a letter of resignation advising that due to new work circumstances she is unable to continue as a member of the Advisory Committee.

The Committee confirmed that it would support filling this vacant position with another equestrian focussed member and requested that Tracey review previous nomination and source another member as soon as practical.

Action – Tracey Genrich to review previous nominations for Advisory Committee membership and source a new equestrian based member as soon as practical.

2. Discussion – Progression of Rail Trail Gap near Aldershot

The Committee discussed several constraints in the Aldershot sections of the rail trail project noting several including tenure issues with several parts of the old rail corridor now being in private ownership and/or under lease and also a crossing point over Saltwater Creek.

Following the discussion the Committee confirmed that it requests Council to consider moving forward with negotiation and resolution of the tenure issues within the Aldershot sections of the rail trail.

Action – Tracey Genrich to advise Council that the Rail Trail Advisory Committee requests Council to consider moving forward with negotiation and resolution of tenure issues within the Aldershot sections of the rail trail.

3. Maryborough/Hervey Bay Road Crossing – Nikenbah

Due to the inability of Craig England or David Gleadow to attend the meeting the Committee agreed that this item should be held over until the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Action – Tracey Genrich to include this item on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

4. Update on the Planning for the Open Day Event – 26 August, 2023

Mike Allsop gave the Committee an update on progress of the planning for the opening of the 11klm section of the trail from Takura to Churchill Mines Road.

Action - Mike Allsop to resend invitation email to Martin Simons of Fraser Coast Tourism & Events.

5. Provide an update on additional funding of \$5,160 to make up funding gap covering shortfall of the FCRC Community Grants fund awarded to FCBUG on 23 April, 2023 for carrying out surface works

Mike Allsop confirmed that this matter has now been resolved with FCBUG sending an invoice for the amount to the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Action – Tracey Genrich to mark this item “Actioned” on the Previous Meeting Action List.

6. Update on Progress of current Works for Queensland Project – Walker Street end of Rail Trail

Davendra Naidu confirmed that the progress was in its final stages with gully grates to be done. Some sections of the trail surface had been sealed in the vicinity of the Cemetery due to drainage within the area.

Davendra also confirmed that as the works were funded through the State Government’s Works for Queensland program information will be sought about whether an official opening for these works will be held.

Mike Allsop advised that he had received some very positive feedback from FCBUG members who had been out to this section of the trail.

Davendra encouraged members of the Advisory Committee to visit the section of the trail and advised that he would circulate some images of the works that had been undertaken.

Action – Davendra Naidu to circulate images of the works to Advisory Committee members.

7. Signage Working Group Progress

Tracey Genrich advised that a meeting held of the Signage Working Group had been held on 13 June, 2023 with Mike Allsop, John Williams, Andy Riley and Tracey Genrich in attendance.

Mike Allsop gave an overview of a signage schedule spreadsheet that had been prepared by FCBUG and confirmed that 2 x draft logos had been prepared for consideration by the Advisory Committee – with the logo to be used consistently throughout the signage and marketing elements of the project going forward.

Mike advised that the endorsement of the Advisory Committee of the preferred logo and also the progression of the signage elements specifically relating to the section of the trail to be opened in August, 2023 was critical to allow those signs to be prepared and installed prior to the opening.

A copy of the notes from that meeting and also a signage schedule spreadsheet prepared by FCBUG is attached to these minutes.

Discussion at the meeting in relation to this item included, but was not necessarily limited to, the following points:-

- Martin Simons commented that the logo may need a version as well that would be suitable for out of region marketing by the inclusion of wording to reference the Fraser Coast etc.
- Alan Whyborn commented on the importance of having appropriate signage located at trail heads etc.

The Advisory Committee considered the 2 draft logo options and confirmed the preference for the option which includes the curved rail line element.

The Advisory Committee also gave its endorsement to FCBUG to proceed with the preparation and installation of the signage elements relating to the 11km section to be opened in August, 2023.

Action – Mike Allsop to progress with sourcing and installation of the signage elements relating to the 11km section of the trail to be opened in August, 2023 on behalf of FCBUG.

Action – Tracey Genrich to coordinate further meetings of the Signage Working Group as required.

8. Marketing/Promotion Working Group Progress

Tracey Genrich advised that a meeting held of the Marketing/Promotion Working Group had been held on 19 June, 2023 with Mike Allsop, Tracey Genrich and Council's Manager Marketing & Communications – Scott Whitby in attendance.

A copy of the Meeting Notes are attached to these Minutes.

At the Advisory Committee meeting Martin Simons confirmed that FCTE has funds available for the development of a dedicated Rail Trail page that will sit under the Visit Fraser Coast page. This page will also be linked through Council's website to ensure continuity of information.

FCBUG have committed to providing draft content for the page.

Action – FCBUG to provide content for the Mary to Bay Rail Trail website page to FCTE as soon as practical.

Action – Martin Simons to work with FCBUG to prepare website page.

Action – Tracey Genrich to coordinate further meetings of the Marketing/Promotion Working Group as required.

9. Update on whether the \$20,000 request for additional funding is still in the draft 2023/2024 Budget.

Tracey Genrich advised that the 2023/2024 Budget will be considered and adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 28 June, 2023.

Accordingly an update on the availability of budget funds for the Rail Trail project will be provided to the Advisory Committee at its next Meeting.

Action – Tracey Genrich to include a Budget item in the Agenda for the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

10. Potential Funding Source – Growing Regions Program

Davendra Naidu advised that Council had received a briefing on the Growing Regions funding program from the Federal Government. Fraser Coast Regional Council will be required to commit to a 50% contribution towards the cost of projects submitted for funding.

Tracey Genrich confirmed that the funding process was a 2 stage process consisting of the submission of an Expression of Interest and then if successful Council would be invited to submit a full application as the second stage.

Mike Allsop confirmed that it was FCBUG's recommendation that Council prioritise commitment of capital funds to crossings for Black Swamp Creek and Stockyard Creek.

The Advisory Committee discussed the program and agreed to request that Council consider submitting an application to this funding program for creek crossings between Black Swamp Creek and Stockyard Creek.

Action – Tracey Genrich to advise Council that the Advisory Committee requests Council to consider submitting an Expression of Interest to the Growing Regions Program for creek crossings between Black Swamp Creek and Stockyard Creek.

5. General Business

Alan Whyborn asked if FCBUG group had thought about linking the rail trail to the adjoining State Forest land. General discussion was held on this item.

Alan Whyborn advised that he had recently had friends visiting and had noticed that the section of the rail trail near Koppers Logs was quite slippery. Mike Allsop commented that this particular section of the rail trail is utilised by motorcyclists regularly and they cause damage to the surface. Mike confirmed that maintenance funding from the Department of Transport & Main Roads will be utilised to continue to maintain this area.

John Williams asked if a future bypass from the Bruce Highway across to Maryborough/Hervey Bay Road would have any safety implications for the Rail Trail. Davendra confirmed that Council was currently working with the Department of Transport & Main Roads to develop an Integrated Transport Study. General discussion was held on this item.

Mike Allsop complemented Council on the maintenance that Council workers have been doing on the rail trail section near Piggford Lane.

6. Next Meeting

7 September, 2023 – 4pm

The meeting closed at 5.05pm.