

Wheatbelt Way Rail Trail Project – Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Date: 7 August 2025

Time: 10:05 AM

Location: Shire of Trayning Council Chambers

Attendees:

- David Nayda, Shire of Nungarin CEO
- Cr Gary Coumbe, Shire of Nungarin
- Peter Naylor, Shire of Trayning CEO
- Cr Christy Petchell, Shire of Wyalkatchem
- Ian McCabe, Shire of Wyalkatchem CEO
- Linda Vernon, NEWTRAVEL

Apologies:

- Cr Dale Naughton, Shire of Trayning
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Welcome & Introductions

Christy welcomed and thanked everyone for attendance. As there was no formal meeting agenda asked David to provide an overview to date and an introduction of Dylan Copeland.

Key Discussion Points & Actions:

1. Process and Experience

- Ian queried and clarified the processes to date.
- An outline of Dylan's skill set and relevant experience was provided to the meeting including his successful project management of NRM projects and the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network Shire projects.
- After the last Steering Group meeting Dylan was approached to his interest and availability to work with us and an initial meeting was held last week between Dylan, David and Linda to review the project, answer questions and seek clarification.

2. Interim Project Manager

- Dylan advised that he was willing to step into the role of Interim Project Manager for a period 6-8weeks to review project milestones, budget and re-commence stakeholder engagement (i.e. Arc Infrastructure) to ensure that it is feasible to recommence implementing the project, successfully with permissions and within the timeframe.
- Dylan advised that his engagement rate was \$100/hour (inclusive of travel time) + GST, Travel: \$1.00/km, estimated hours: 30 hours over 6-8 weeks

3. Budget, Activities and Resourcing

- Discussion held on budget queries, including in-kind commitments.
- Clarification that for the time being that all financial management will remain with the Shire of Wyalkatchem until DoT provide advice indicating otherwise.

- Dylan advised that he intended to ride some or all of the proposed trail over the next 8 weeks.
- Discussion held about the Shire of Merredin's possible involvement (possibly later down the track) and the importance of this.
- Discussion held around the potential of cycle tourism across the Wheatbelt Way.

Motion:

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Appoint Dylan Copeland as Interim Project Manager for the duration of up to 8 weeks at the rate of \$100/hr (ex GST, incl. travel time), travel reimbursement: \$1.00/km for the activities of revising the project milestones, reviewing the project budget and arranging a stakeholder meeting.

Moved: Cr Gary Coumbe Seconded: Peter Naylor

Action: Ian to advise Department of Transport (DoT) of Dylan's appointment.

4. Decision Making

Group agreed decisions can be made between meetings if required via email or online meeting.

Other Discussions

- ARC Infrastructure: Initial two sections have informal approval.
- Possible MOU: Considered "baby steps" at this stage.
- Indigenous engagement: General discussion held on engagement with both Ballardong and Njaki Njaki
- Storytelling on the Trail: Agreed to reflect both European and Indigenous histories.

5. Next Meeting

Discussion held that the next meeting could possibly be held either before or after the proposed Stakeholder meeting in September. Early to mid-September was preferred for the Stakeholder meeting.

Meeting Close

Time: 10.56 AM