



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

Booval Professional Centre  
125 Brisbane Rd BOOVAL

PO Box 98  
BOOVAL Q 4304

Ph: 3202 3452  
Fax: 3202 4778

Email:  
ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

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#### **Ipswich the hub for new recreational trails to Boonah and Blackbutt**

Ipswich will be the hub for two important new recreational trails to be established in South East Queensland Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan, Member for Bundamba Jo-Ann Miller and Member for Ipswich West Wayne Wendt said today.

The two new trails - a multi-user recreation trail linking Boonah to Ipswich and the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail from Ipswich to Blackbutt - will be funded as part of an \$8.8 million State Government funding package for three new trails.

The third trail - a recreation canoe trail - will be built along a 28 kilometre stretch of the scenic Maroochy River.

Ms Nolan said the funding would help develop the 76 kilometre Boonah to Ipswich Trail and provide important recreational opportunities for the current and future residents of the Western Corridor and the planned developments in Ripley Valley.

“The Boonah to Ipswich Trail will provide recreational links to an extensive, rugged and scenic area where more than 10 peaks rise above 330 meters in a landscape dominated by native vegetation.

“I am a keen mountain bike rider and runner and will relish the opportunity to use these recreational trails.

“I have taken a strong interest in the development of the trails and have been actively involved in the planning process.

“It will traverse wooded hills and farmlands, catering for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders.”

Ms Miller said this proposed recreation trail would have multiple access points from quiet rural roads, making it ideal for the development of accommodation facilities such as bed and breakfasts, farmstays or private camping spots to support the trail users.

“The new trail runs through the Bundamba electorate and will provide important new recreational opportunities for people in the area,” Ms Miller said.

Mr Wendt said the 140 kilometre Brisbane Valley Rail Trail would wind its way north from Ipswich through Fernvale, Lowood, Esk, Toogoolawah onto the Blackbutt and traverse past some spectacular scenery and important agricultural landscapes.

“This trail will offer high recreational rewards to a number of recreational user groups, including families, bicycle tourists, mountain bike riders, historical enthusiasts, horse riders, walkers and for users of mobility vehicles,” Mr Wendt said.

“The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail will deliver recreation, social and health benefits to urban users across the region as well as for the adjacent rural and rural residential communities.

“The trail will build on the existing 9 kilometre long Fernvale to Lowood Rail Trail, managed by Esk Shire and the 23 kilometre long Linville to Blackbutt Rail Trail, managed by Nanango Shire.,” Mr Wendt said.

Mr Wendt said the new trails meant Government was delivering on key components of the Queensland Government’s election commitments.

The State Government’s financial support for the trails builds on the efforts of individual local governments, the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and the Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee.