

# Harcourt Mountain Bike Park

Project update, November 2016

Preconstruction work on the development of a world class mountain bike park in Harcourt is progressing, following a number of environmental, cultural and heritage assessments that are required before design and construction can occur.

The objective of the project is to design and construct a mountain bike park to International Mountain Bicycling Association standards, to provide recreation and tourism benefits and bring social and economic benefits to Harcourt and the region.

Situated next to Mount Alexander Regional Park, the mountain bike park will offer up to 34 kilometres of dedicated mountain bike trails and magnificent views alongside a natural forest setting.

Goldfields Tourism Incorporated undertook an initial investigation into the development of the park and established a community steering committee. The committee included the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group, Harcourt Landcare Group and Harcourt Progress Association. The committee also carried out a feasibility study and developed a master plan for the park design.

Within five years of completion it is estimated that the project will inject \$9.8 million into the local economy, attract 100,000 visitors each year and create 58 jobs.

An aim of the project is to establish the bike park without compromising regional parks and vulnerable ecosystems.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has completed the following investigations and assessments:

- Historic Heritage Significance
- Botanical Investigation for Threatened Species
- Preliminary Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Bushfire Management Statement
- Land Capability Assessment
- Habitat Hectare Assessment

As a result of the previous investigations a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is being developed and targeted threatened species surveys (nationally listed species) are also being carried out.

Development of a tender for design and construction of the bike park is also underway with the tender process expected to begin by the end of the year.

## Get involved

DELWP is also finalising opportunities for community and stakeholder engagement so that the design of the park reflects the needs and interests of the greater community.

Community members are encouraged to register their interest to receive project updates and become involved in future consultation and engagement opportunities.

Register your interest at [harcourtMBP@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:harcourtMBP@delwp.vic.gov.au) or call DELWP on 136 186