

Harcourt Mountain Bike Park

Project Update

June 2017

Situated on a former pine plantation next to Mount Alexander Regional Park, the Harcourt mountain bike park will provide around 34 kilometres of dedicated trails with magnificent views, alongside a natural forest setting. When its fully operational, the park site will be enhanced with more native plantings and reduction in weeds.

The park is expected to inject substantial funds into the local economy, attracting thousands of visitors each year. This will provide opportunities for existing and new local businesses to thrive, generating local jobs.

Built to International Mountain Bicycling Association standards, the park will be consistent with future development plans for the Harcourt area.

In a spin over funding – in a good way

The Victorian Government has committed a total \$1.99 million to fund the Harcourt mountain bike park.



Minister for Regional Development, Jaala Pulford, was joined by Member for Bendigo West, Marea Edwards under the stunning canopy of the Oaks Forest for the funding announcement last month.

Minister Pulford said the project is expected to stimulate private sector investment in bike related services and the hospitality sector. “As visitation to the area increases along with demand for accommodation, new businesses will be established in the area to service the growing market.”

The extra \$990,000 and the initial \$1 million commitment is from Regional Development Victoria’s *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund*.

Annual visitor spending is expected to reach \$2.4 million in 2018 and up to \$9.8 million after five years.



Adjoining landholders and locals at the announcement



Minister Pulford with media and Marea Edwards MP

War declared on woody weeds

The north section of Picnic Gully Road is soon to become a battlefield! DELWP, Landcare and residents have joined forces to remove woody weeds and revegetate the area. The Harcourt North Landcare Group was successful in receiving a grant from DELWP and you can expect to see woody weed removal commencing soon in preparation for planting of 2,000 native plants in September.

How's the planning permit tracking?

Two submissions have been received about the planning permit application. DELWP will meet with the submitters to resolve any issues before the application is put to the Mount Alexander Shire Council meeting on 18 July. The submissions are now part of the public process and can be inspected at the council offices in Castlemaine.

DELWP has submitted an environment effects referral to the Minister for Planning to decide if an Environment Effects Statement is required. We are also working with the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation to finalise a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

In other news ...

- Plans are progressing for the **off-road path** from the Harcourt township to the site
- **Weed control** targeting blackberry and gorse has been completed
- Maintenance work underway on main emergency access track including mulching and tidying the trail head at the top of Picnic Gully Road
- Mount Alexander Shire Council is following up with VicRoads to ensure **Market Street** is reduced to **80 kilometres per hour** including a considerable distance along Reservoir Road. Currently there are painted 80 kph signs on the bitumen in preparation for approval and sign installation. This process will take some time but will occur prior to the bike park opening.
- **Dirt Art** has had a tremendous response from locals wanting to join their **construction team** which is great for local employment.
- Dirt Art is seeking a **house to rent** during the construction period, please contact Simon or Luke on 1300 TRAILS (1300 872 457) or info@dirtart.com.au if you know of any **opportunities**

Timeline

July 2017	Aug – early 2018
Planning approvals finalised	Construction underway and completed
Construction begins, weather permitting	

“Hello Russell”

Join Russell Manning our Project Manager at the Harcourt ANA Hall on **Wednesday 5th July and 12 July between 1pm-4 pm** to find out more about the project. You can also register your interest at harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au, call 136 186 or check progress on delwp.vic.gov.au/harcourt-mbp