

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **A pathway to connect Latrobe and Wynyard**

The Cradle Coast Authority has secured \$29,700 from the State Government's Trails and Bikeways Program at Sport and Recreation Tasmania to prepare a master plan for a recreational pathway between Latrobe and Wynyard.

Known as the North West Coastal Pathway, the path's plan will include alternative routes and cost estimates, plus consider existing pathways, transport plans, environmental management and the logistics of different scenarios. The plan for the North West Coastal Pathway will be ready by the end of August 2010 and will act as a practical guide for the participating municipalities in construction planning and preparation of funding applications.

The North West Coastal Pathway plan will propose how to best connect the coastal towns between Latrobe and Wynyard with a continuous recreational walking/cycling path. The future construction of a North West Coastal Pathway has the potential to improve community connectivity, support healthy lifestyles, open tourism opportunities and provide alternative transport for the region. The community's positive reactions to pathway sections in Wynyard, Burnie, and between Ulverstone and Turners Beach reinforce the benefits of connecting these paths to create a regional experience.

Incoming Sport and Recreation Minister, David O'Byrne, said the State Government was pleased to support the project which will bring many recreational, lifestyle, health and tourism benefits to the North West Coast.

Minister for the new portfolio of Sustainable Transport, Nick McKim, said he was also excited about the project and the associated benefits such a pathway could bring by providing safe and enjoyable alternative transport options that connect the population centres along the North West Coast.

A project team chaired by Safer Roads for Cyclists Tasmania member, Keith Price, is now gathering information to support the plan. Other team members include representatives of local councils, the Cradle Coast Authority, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources, and Sport and Recreation Tasmania. The plan will be developed in close consultation with participating councils of Waratah-Wynyard, Burnie, Central Coast, Devonport and Latrobe who have each also contributed up to \$4000 in funds to the project. Wide consultation is also planned with government, interest groups, community groups and land managers.

Further information on the North West Coastal Pathway can be obtained from the Cradle Coast Authority web site: [www.cradlecoast.com/latest\\_news.html](http://www.cradlecoast.com/latest_news.html)

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