

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



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FORREST MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL UPGRADES COMPLETE

Major works on the Forrest Mountain Bike Revitalisation Project are complete, giving the Otways region a world class trails network that will support tourism, jobs and local businesses.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos announced the project was made possible by a \$2.1 million investment by the Allan Labor Government and \$250,000 from Colac Otway Shire Council.

The completion of these works makes the Forrest trail network one of Australia's top mountain biking destinations, now boasting over 70 kilometers of tracks across 26 trails now open to visitors.

Comprising of Victoria's best beginner and intermediate experiences, the new trails will be a challenge for riders of all abilities.

The project also included construction of a new asphalt pump track, a skills park and two jump lines catering for both advanced and novice mountain bike riders.

The pump track, located near the upgraded trail head, is already a huge attraction for riders visiting the area.

A smaller second pump track, suitable for young children and adaptive riders, has also been upgraded.

It is anticipated the new trails will attract up to 50,000 visitors a year, while supporting local jobs and providing a boost for businesses in the region.

For information on the project visit exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au/activities/forrest-mountain-bike-trails.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

"This project is a significant investment in the future of the Otways region and will enhance Forrest's reputation as Australia's premier nature-based tourism and mountain-biking destination."

"The local community and club have been central to the planning and roll out of this project. I want to thank everyone involved for their dedication and passion. It's an amazing project that will have lasting positive impacts."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"This project will not only put Forrest on the map as a leading mountain bike destination, but it will encourage more visitors to the Otways region than ever before – providing a boost to local jobs and businesses."

Quotes attributable to Colac Otway Shire Council Mayor Chris Potter

"This is a fantastic milestone for Forrest and a great reward for the patience shown by the community and riders while trail construction was underway. This project is a great example of what can be achieved when agencies, community, and local government work together and I thank everyone for seeing the vision and working together to achieve this outcome."

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