

# KRISTY MCBAIN MP

## MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO



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#### MEDIA RELEASE

#### **LABOR TO INVEST IN THE MONARO RAIL TRAIL**

Member for Eden-Monaro Kristy McBain today announced that a Labor Government will kick start the development of the Monaro Rail Trail.

Labor will commit \$1 million to begin works on the recreational cycle trail along the disused rail corridor from Bombala to Queanbeyan, with initial works to focus on the Bombala to Jincumbilly phase of the project.

Once complete, the Rail Trail will stretch over 208km, and will run through Queanbeyan, Michelago, Bredbo, Cooma, Nimmitabel and Bombala.

“The community has been advocating for this project for a long time and I’m so pleased to be able to make this commitment,” Ms McBain said.

“We have seen the enormous economic and social benefits that other rail trails have delivered for regional communities, and I can’t wait to see how the Monaro Rail Trail benefits towns along the trail – from Bombala to Queanbeyan.

“The project will preserve the Monaro’s rich rail heritage and create a unique cycling and tourist experience.

President of MRT Inc, Mr Ken Lister, said the project had widespread support.

“Local community associations, business groups, families and individuals all want the rail trail to proceed,” Mr Lister said.

“Adjoining landholders have also indicated that this is a project for the good of the greater community.

“MRT Inc is grateful to Kristy McBain MHR for not only this terrific financial commitment, but her on-going support for the Monaro Rail Trail.”

This commitment builds on a memorandum of understanding that was signed between the Monaro Rail Trail Inc (MRT), Snowy Monaro Regional Council and the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council earlier this year and a recently completed Trail Development Plan for the first stage of the trail’s development.

This first stage combined with a “precinct” trail currently under development will result in a much-needed boost to Bombala’s local economy and will diversify the region’s economy by introducing a world-class visitor attraction.

A feasibility study, completed in November 2019 and more recently, a business case concluded that the Monaro Rail Trail is an extremely worthwhile project. The reports indicated that this project will boost the local retail and hospitality economy from the top to the bottom of the region, with the total yearly economic gain conservatively estimated to be approximately \$25M, with a benefits to cost ratio for the project exceeding 4:1.

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