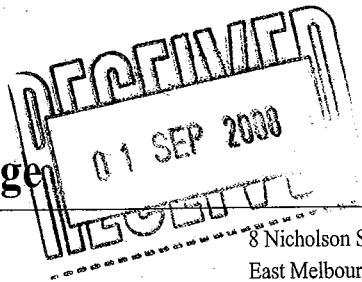




Minister for  
Environment and Climate Change



Gavin Jennings MLC

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Our Ref: ADQ000373

31 JUL 2008

Ms Fiona Richardson MP  
Member for Northcote  
329 High Street  
NORTHCOTE VIC 3070

  
Dear Ms Richardson

**YARRA TRAIL - DAREBIN LINK**

I refer to your adjournment debate question, raised on 26 June 2008.

Parks Victoria is committed to delivering the connection of the Darebin Creek Trail to the Main Yarra Trail; this is currently the State Government's highest priority shared trail project as highlighted in Linking People and Spaces (2002).

The State Government has committed \$2 million dollars to the project, and Parks Victoria has taken the lead on progressing the planning.

Parks Victoria has referred the matter to VCAT and has requested that VCAT hear the three separate permits in one hearing to ensure consistency across the Council boundaries.

I understand and appreciate the importance of this project to your local community, and the broader regional users. My office receives updates from the "Community Coalition for the Darebin to Yarra Link Trail", consisting of a broad range of supporters including environmental groups, bicycle user groups and Civic Associations.

Given the importance of this project, not only to the local community, but as a critical link for the northern suburbs to access Melbourne's off road trail network, please be reassured that we are systematically moving forward to progress the completion of this trail as a matter of high priority.

Yours sincerely

  
GAVIN JENNINGS MLC  
Minister for Environment and Climate Change