



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Wednesday, 18 August, 2010

NEW TRAIL BRIDGE TO MAKE MELBOURNE EVEN MORE LIVEABLE

Cyclists and pedestrians will benefit from the construction of a new \$4.1 million bridge over the Yarra River at Gipps Street in Abbotsford, Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings said today.

Joining Member for Richmond Richard Wynne to announce the completion funds of \$2.8 million, Mr Jennings said people would no longer need to climb the steep steps at Gipps Street to cross via the existing bridge which connects to the Capital City Trail on Dickinson Reserve.

“Melbourne has a world-class network of bicycle and walking trails which is why the Brumby Labor Government is taking action to help people more easily use and enjoy these already high quality community assets,” Mr Jennings said.

“The steep steps are a major impediment to cyclists, prams, and anyone with restricted mobility. This new bridge will greatly enhance the accessibility and enjoyment of the Capital City Trail.

“The bridge will be an alternative to the existing bridge and cross the river just to the south of the Abbotsford Convent.

“Melbourne’s extensive network of shared trails creates fantastic recreational opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians and contributes to our status as one of the world’s most liveable cities.

“Today’s funding announcement will allow for detailed design and construction of the bridge and is in addition to more than \$1.2 million already committed to the planning and consultation.”

Mr Jennings said the new bridge would be located to the north of the existing bridge and local communities would be consulted on how the bridge will look.

“The structural elements of the bridge will be determined by engineering requirements but the community will have a say on the aesthetics of the bridge design,” Mr Jennings said.

He said further planning and design work will be completed over the next twelve months with construction due to commence in the second half of 2011.

Mr Wynne said the new bridge would have many social and economic benefits.

“It is important to provide a trail network that is accessible and inviting. This new bridge across the Yarra River will be more suitable to families, cyclists, and people with a disability,” he said.

“The bridge will create better opportunities for people to visit the Abbotsford Convent and the Collingwood Children’s Farm, which are important community destinations.

“It will also help residents in this built-up area of Melbourne to connect into the extensive parklands across the river at Yarra Bend Park.”

For more information on the Capital Trail and the Abbotsford Bridge project visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.

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