



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Friday 11 March 2016**

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Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh has welcomed the State Government's in principle agreement to access the non-operational rail corridor between Burnie and Wynyard to develop a coastal pathway.

As part of the in-principle agreement the Crown will retain ownership of the rail corridor with both Burnie City and Waratah-Wynyard Councils responsible for construction and ongoing maintenance of the pathway.

The agreement also stipulates that the rail corridor would cease to be available for the pathway if it is required for rail into the future.

"This decision means that Council can now work with Burnie City Council on a funding application for the development and operation of a coastal pathway on the rail corridor," Mayor Walsh said.

"I thank the State Government for taking this sensible approach, which takes into account any future need for the pathway to return to its original use."

Mayor Walsh said Burnie, Somerset and Wynyard communities had expressed a desire for the pathway to be developed on the rail corridor on a number of occasions.

"The use of the corridor for the coastal pathway will help to address safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike," Mayor Walsh said.

“It will also mean our communities will be offering one of the best shared pathways in the state with some magnificent scenery along the way.”

Mayor Walsh said Council would now be working with the Burnie City Council on a funding application as part of the Federal Government’s Stronger Regions Fund to help pay for the project.

“There is no doubt that there will be a number of costs involved with this project, but with the two Councils working together we stand a better chance of attracting external funding for the project,” Mayor Walsh said.

“This is one of the many opportunities we continue to develop in addition to projects such as the Sustainable Murchison Community Plan, which is all about giving our communities a stronger voice on regional priorities such as this.”

*Further media enquiries may be directed to:-*

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**Authorised for general media distribution by Michael Stretton, General Manager,  
Waratah-Wynyard Council on Friday 11 March 2016**

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