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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work underway on the upgrade and expansion of Forrest's Mountain Bike Trail network

Colac Otway Shire Mayor Kate Hanson has welcomed the State Government announcement that work has commenced to upgrade and expand the 'Red Carpet Trail', at the Forrest mountain bike trail network.

Western Victoria MP Gayle Tierney announced the commencement of the upgrade to the trail last week, which is part of the Forrest Mountain Bike Revitalisation Project.

"Council, DELWP, Barwon Water and Parks Victoria have been working closely with the Forrest community and Mountain Bike Club toward this project for the past ten years so we're really pleased work is underway," Cr Hanson said.

"The Red Carpet Trail will be resurfaced and weather-proofed making it accessible all year-round. New jumps, ridges and rollers will also be a part of the upgrade, which will make the trail even more appealing to riders.

"Council is excited that the new and revitalised trails will bring mountain bikers and visitors to Forrest and the wider Colac Otway region, adding to the local nature-based attractions and supporting our tourism and hospitality industry.

"The Forrest Mountain Bike Revitalisation Project is a significant investment toward the future of Colac Otway and will enhance Forrest's reputation as one of Australia's premier mountain-biking destinations.

"The project will have flow-on positive effects to the region, supporting the Great Ocean Road and Otways Hinterlands recovery and growth after the recent difficulties of the last 12 to 18 months.

"The trail revitalisation project is also creating construction and ongoing jobs in the Forrest area and will provide a boost to the local and regional economy," Cr Hanson said.

Forest Fire Management Victoria and Colac Otway Shire Council are delivering the Forrest Mountain Bike Revitalisation project, with works to occur throughout 2021 and 2022.

The project is funded by \$250,000 from Colac Otway Shire Council and \$2.07 million from the Victorian Government through DELWP and Regional Development Victoria.

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