

Media Release

Friday 23 July | Media contact: Jacinta Bolling 0417 545 622

Community invited to have their say on Forrest Trailhead upgrade

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) is seeking community input ahead of upgrading a key destination for mountain bike riders at Forrest in the Otway Ranges.

The Forrest Trailhead precinct will be redesigned and have new facilities, as part of a \$2.32 million upgrade and expansion of Forrest's mountain bike trail network.

FFMVic and Colac Otway Shire Council are delivering the works that will see Forrest become a leading mountain biking destination.

FFMVic has released a community survey today, inviting mountain bike riders and the community to help finalise plans for the upgrade of the Forrest Trailhead precinct. More than \$500,000 has been allocated for the upgrade.

Some aspects of the Trailhead precinct upgrade have already been confirmed, such as, that it will include a new mountain bike skills park and that new facilities will be accessible for all-abilities.

The public is invited to have their say on:

- the redesign of the Trailhead precinct
- features to be included in the new skills park
- potential additional facilities such as showers, a bike wash and BBQs
- type of information on new signage

The survey closes on 18 August 2021.

The survey can be accessed at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/upgrading-forrest-mountain-bike-mtb-trailhead>

Situated on the southern edge of Forrest, the Trailhead is a gateway the southern system of Forrest's mountain bike trails.

The upgrade of Forrest's mountain bike trail network is funded by \$250,000 from Colac Otway Shire Council and \$2.07 million from the Victorian Government through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Regional Development Victoria.

Construction of trail upgrades is underway, with works to continue throughout 2021 and 2022.

Quotes attributable to Forest Fire Management Victoria Otway District Manager David Roberts:

"As the Forrest Trailhead precinct is a gateway to the southern trails system, we're aiming to deliver improvements and new facilities that will create an engaging natural environment for visitors and locals."

"We're encouraging everyone to have a say by filling out the survey and providing information that will help shape the final redesign of the precinct."

Quotes attributable to Colac Otway Shire Council Mayor Kate Hanson:

"We're excited about upgrading the Forrest Trailhead and seeing it become a vibrant gateway to the trail network, attracting more visitors to Colac Otway and supporting local business."