



## ADELAIDE HILLS RAIL TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

This Feasibility Study was commissioned by the Adelaide Hills Council to examine current land utilisation along the former railway corridor between Oakbank and Mt Pleasant - a railway which had been decommissioned for about 40 years - and to identify options for its future.

A number of potential uses for the corridor were evaluated during the preparation of this Feasibility Study. The three main options considered were:

1. Do nothing (retain as is)
2. Sell land to neighbours
3. Convert to recreational trail

Each would appear to produce 'better' outcomes for a different section of the 'community of interest' spreading outwards from the corridor. The task of this study was to attempt to balance all factors and arrive at recommendations which would produce the greatest positive benefits for the broadest cross-section of the community.

From a trail perspective, the former railway corridor is very attractive:

- it is situated in close proximity to almost a million people in Adelaide, and is easily accessible by car;
- the corridor is set in a highly scenic landscape, full of variety and interest;
- the corridor passes through 6 delightful (and historic) towns, which are evenly spaced and offer much to satisfy passing trail users;
- the major elements of the railway infrastructure remain (formation, cuttings, embankments and many of the bridges and culverts);
- despite the passage of time, the continuity of the former railway corridor is good – and the occasional discontinuity can readily be resolved;
- the full corridor provides for an excellent length ride (horse / mountain bike) of some 32 km and offers great flexibility of use options.

Extensive field work and consultation with the many landowners was necessary to arrive at a conclusion.

Following due consideration of all options for the former railway corridor, and taking into account the views of *all* stakeholders consulted, the Study recommended that the railway corridor be the subject of a rail-trail conversion, *subject to a number of conditions being met*, including

- The preparation of a community-driven Corridor Management Plan *before construction*, including a comprehensive maintenance program for the trail and corridor;
- A Management Committee for the rail-trail and corridor is to be established, before the trail is constructed.;
- A comprehensive program of one-on-one in the field consultation with affected landowners.



ADELAIDE HILLS  
COUNCIL



*The Burford Hill Bridge has – not surprisingly – recently been proposed for heritage listing. It is one of the classic 'artefacts' of the rail line.*