

Healthy by Design

CASE STUDY

Baw Baw Shire Council Drouin and Warragul Recreational Walking/Cycling Link



The Two Towns Trail project is an example of community interest informing, and over a long period, providing direction to the planning process. The project itself involves a significant number of partners that include the Active Communities Network, Baw Baw Shire Council, community and service clubs and groups, State level organisations and departments, as well as local residents and businesses.

The aim of these groups has initially been to identify and document the alternatives for a shared trail between Drouin and Warragul and to develop the findings into a project proposal. The evaluation process has used principles found in the 'Healthy By Design' resource and fits with existing infrastructure to establish selection criteria that include usability, access, links to existing and future infrastructure and public transport, safety and contribution to community unity.

A key innovation of the project is not just the design, but also the process undertaken with Baw Baw Shire council recognising that factors such as municipal planning, social support, community participation and accessibility, all have an impact on the health and wellbeing of the community. The integration of health and urban planning, particularly in

new developments, has led to the creation of environments that allow the community to enjoy improved health and wellbeing.

This approach and strong community support for the project will see ongoing involvement in elements of the project's development, such as art projects, providing appropriate seating areas and tree planting along the trail.

The partnerships and processes that have been established during the period of this project will continue to inform and influence the development of the built environment in Baw Baw Shire, and have positive health outcomes for the whole community.

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