

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Cyclists' shelter rises in the forest**

Cyclists planning to tackle the Great Southern section of the Munda Biddi Trail can look forward to rest and recuperation in an enviable location, with construction of a custom built shelter under way.

The shelter is located in karri forest north of Denmark with construction led by two trail construction staff assisted by a six-strong Department of Corrective Services prisoner work crew.

Once complete, the shelter will boast an undercover sitting area, basic bunks for up to 24 people, and a veranda with views through the forest.

Work on the Munda Biddi Trail extension has continued between Denmark and Walpole since the May opening of the Albany to Denmark leg.

The trail work is part of a \$6 million project to extend the Munda Biddi Trail from Nannup to Albany, supported by \$1.5 million of Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme administered by the GSDC.

The project is under the management of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

DEC project coordinator Kerstin Stender said the Denmark shelter was the only Munda Biddi Trail shelter to be located in karri forest.

"Other sections of the trail pass through karri forest but the shelters are in different forest or bush settings or the day's ride is from town to town," Ms Stender said.

"This shelter is in a beautiful location and will accommodate up to 24 cyclists inside, and there is tent space for more outside."

Ms Stender said a second shelter would be constructed about a day's ride out of Walpole towards Denmark.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said progress on the trail extension was good news for the region.

"Businesses that can offer products and services to Munda Biddi Trail riders are becoming much more aware of the opportunities," Mr Manning said.



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“Each step in the construction of the trail brings us closer to being able to welcome a new group of visitors to enjoy the wonderful environment of the Great Southern.”

A Noongar advisory group is to recommend suitable names for the new shelters.

The Munda Biddi Trail extension is due for completion in summer and will connect Albany to Mundaring on a 1000km route taking in bush tracks, old rail forms and minor roads.

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