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Attention: News Editor

## Munda Bididi Trail pushes ahead

Construction crews have crossed South Coast Highway as they push the Munda Bididi Trail along old rail formations between Albany and Denmark.

Their work is part of the \$6 million extension of the off-road touring cycle trail from Nannup to Albany, including \$1.5 million funded by Royalties for Regions through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

The project is also supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the Munda Bididi Trail Foundation and further Royalties for Regions funding through the South West Development Commission (SWDC).

DEC project coordinator Kerstin Stender said sections of the trail had recently been constructed between Torbay and Youngs Siding and the trail had now crossed the highway on the way to Denmark.

"These sections are not yet ready for cyclists but the trail is definitely taking shape," Ms Stender said.

"A long section following the old rail formation has been established alongside Lower Denmark Road in the Bornholm area and construction is now taking place beside South Coast Highway near Youngs.

"Bridges will soon be put in over various watercourses, and trail users will cross the Hay River at the road bridge," Ms Stender said.

Concrete pylons are still intact at a former railway bridge over a creek near Sleeman Road, providing readymade support for steel and timber decking for the cycle trail bridge.

Other watercourses will be spanned by prefabricated steel and timber bridges.



**Construction supervisor Brett Trouchet and assistant Peter Horsington clear sleepers from an old railway bridge near Sleeman Road.**

Ms Stender said the Albany to Denmark section of the trail should be open to cyclists by the middle of the year.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said work was proceeding at the Nannup end and a section from Nannup to Manjimup was now open.

“Extending the Munda Biddi Trail involves a sound partnership between the GSDC, the SWDC, DEC and the foundation,” Mr Manning said.

“Construction crews are working from Nannup and Albany, and it will be a great moment when the two trail ends meet in Walpole.”

The first section of the trail completed in the Great Southern, an eight-kilometre stretch from Torbay townsite to Elleker, was opened in July 2011 as the Torbay Rail Trail, a partnership section with the Torbay Catchment Group.

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