

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Albany to explore trails future

Albany will investigate its potential as a 'trail town' at a free community workshop on Thursday 31 May.

Trail towns are population centres that are accredited destinations featuring high quality trails for outdoor experiences, supported by appropriate facilities, signage and services.

According to the Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence (GSCORE), establishing an identity as a trail town can create jobs, grow the regional economy and build communities.

Tasmania is an acknowledged leader for Australian trail towns, with its Blue Derby mountain bike trails, but Western Australia has no accredited trail towns.

Information about Tasmania will feature at the community workshop, which is on Thursday 31 May from 9am to 12.30pm at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

A trail building workshop follows in the afternoon (limited places and a registration fee) and there is a trail building session on Friday 1 June.

GSCORE project director Dr Lenore Lyons said although the community workshop was free, registration was necessary.

"We have more than 70 registrations, but there is plenty of room and I invite anyone with an interest in the trail town concept to come along," Dr Lyons said.

GSCORE is supported by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), the Albany Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the trail town concept had exciting potential.

"Becoming an acknowledged trail town could bring more people to explore and enjoy the attractions that we know and love in our region," Mr Thornton said.

"Trail town activity could strengthen the Great Southern economy and provide jobs for regional residents."



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

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More information about the trail town activities is available through gscore.com.au.

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