



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### CYCLE TRAIL PLANS UNFOLD

By 2012, off-road cyclists will be able to enjoy a 1000km bush cycle trail from Perth to Albany.

The Munda Biddi Trail now runs from Mundaring to Nannup, and a new stage from Nannup to Manjimup is due to open soon.

Recently-announced Royalties for Regions funding will enable the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation (MTBF) and the Department of Conservation to complete the remaining sections through to Albany.

The project proponents gained \$3 million through the Regional Grants Scheme, including \$1.5 million over three years through the Great Southern program administered by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

MTBF executive officer Crystal Reed visited Albany recently to inspect progress on the trail extension.

"We have set up an office and project team, and completed community consultations in Albany, Youngs Siding, Denmark and Walpole," Ms Reed said.

"We need to get a few approvals in place and we will start construction next year in staged sections."

Ms Reed said prison labour would be used for the trail construction.



**Munda Biddi Trail project coordinator Kerstin Stender (left) and MTBF executive officer Crystal Reed check the chart at the cycle trail terminus, the Albany Visitor Centre.**





Munda Bididi Trail project coordinator Kerstin Stender said the final alignment of the trail was still being finalised.

“We know it will finish at the Albany Visitor Centre,” Ms Stender said.

“We prefer to take the trail through bush areas and it will include a variety of environments.

“Much of it will use existing roads, tracks or railway formations and it will connect to other cycling opportunities,” Ms Stender said.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the trail extension would expand the market for active tourism in the Great Southern.

“Riding the Munda Bididi Trail from Mundaring to Nannup is already popular,” Mr Manning said.

“Extending the trail to Albany will attract cyclists from within Western Australia along with national and international visitors.

“When completed, the Munda Bididi Trail will be a world class cycle trail that enhances the profile of the Great Southern’s tourism product,” Mr Manning said.

