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Rail Trail Bill halt win for NSW

The NSW Farmers' Association welcomes the State Governments decision to not progress the Rail Trail Bill, saying it's a win for farmers concerned about transport infrastructure for the future.

However, NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says the Government should withdraw it completely, as the Association won't be backing down.

"The Government has committed to not progress the Bill at this stage, citing a heavy amount of legislation on the Government agenda and the lack of support from country NSW, a decision we are happy with," Mr Armstrong said.

"However, we won't rest until this proposal is well and truly dead in the water, and at this stage we don't have a commitment that it will be fully withdrawn," he said.

"While the Government may be tempted to reintroduce this legislation next year, we would strongly advise against this as our position won't change, and we will continue our fight against any such move.

"We are concerned that the Bill provides the executive power to the Minister for Transport to close a railway line without the oversight of Parliament, and with the option to disregard community concerns.

"Rail lines are too important for transport in regional NSW to allow this to happen," he said.

The Association is also opposed to the development of rail trails without the approval of landowners adjoined to the proposed trail.

"Rails increase the risk and cost to adjoining farmers without any guaranteed benefit to regional communities, so we believe rail trails should only be created with the approval of land owners adjoining the proposed trail," Mr Armstrong said.

"While we believe the Government has made a sensible decision to not try and push this legislation through, we strongly urge them to commit to a full withdrawal," Mr Armstrong concluded.

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