

# Media Release

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## Rail Trail petition shows opposition

NSW Farmers' Association Vice President Alan Brown says a petition with over 150 signatures of adjoining landholders shows a clear majority oppose the proposed Wagga to Tumbarumba Rail Trail.

The petition was this morning handed to local Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire, and Tarcutta farmer Alan Brown says over 95% of the people affected don't want it to go ahead.

"The Department of Transport has indicated to landholders that this proposal will only proceed with the concurrence of those adjoining the corridor," he said.

"The people who signed the petition are not only farmers, but also life-style blocks owners and home owners," Mr Brown said.

"They all recognise that this proposal will greatly affect their lives and is also a very poor use of scarce public funds," he said.

The proposal would see a fenced corridor running through the middle of farms, many of which are cropping and grazing enterprises. The disused rail lines cross a number of paddocks of prime agricultural land, and would need to be fenced before they can be turned into bike trails.

"Farming issues aside, this route doesn't provide the ideal tourism experience, with an obvious lack of shops, towns or tourist stops along the way, compared with other models," Mr Brown said.

"As we have seen with popular rail trails in Victoria, cyclists enjoy stopping along the journey to see what the area has to offer. This proposal doesn't highlight the best our area has to offer," he said.

"Beyond doubt this Rail Trail is an ill conceived idea, and any hasty decision making could cost the taxpayers over \$6 million and untold maintenance costs foisted on local councils and rate payers of tens of thousands of dollars per annum," Mr Brown concluded.

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