



<b>R E P O R T</b>	<b>TO</b>	PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
	<b>FROM</b>	CHRIS HALE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
	<b>FILE REF</b>	06 502 999 – 00197496.rtf
	<b>DATE</b>	06 JULY 2004
	<b>SUBJECT</b>	HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL

Councillor Mike Hayden has addressed Council at the June meeting regarding the work being carried out on a Walking and Cycling track to follow the old railway line between Thames and Waitoa, in particular, the line between Thames and Karangahake, a lot of which falls into the Hauraki District.

A Steering Group has been formed and includes representatives from Sport Waikato, Dept of Conservation, Waikato District Health Board, Target Te Aroha, Tourism Coromandel, HDC Eco Dev, Iwi and others.

The Group is currently being incorporated and has received support both verbal and written from Sandra Goudie MP and Martin Gallagher MP and Environment Waikato.

A number of meetings have been held with parties who either border or utilise the old rail corridor and the responses have been supportive. There are still a large number of issues to be worked through and it was agreed that funding to enable work to be done on the feasibility of the project be sought.

As there are three District Councils involved and Regional Council plus other Regional organisations, a sum of \$1000 each would provide funding to do the initial assessment. Should this prove positive then an application would be made to SPARC, Transfund through Councils and Waikato District Health Board to progress the project.

In view of the wider profile the area will gain and our Economic Development role to increase visitor numbers in the District, some assistance could be provided from the Economic Development budget for project assistance.

Increased visitor numbers in the area would have economic spin off and it would help to develop a new visitor attraction for our District.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**The report be received and that \$ 1000 be provided to the Rail Trail Project once the Group are incorporated.**

Chris Hale  
Economic Development Officer