2026 Rail Trails Conference

Exploring Successes and Opportunities of Rail Trails

Rail Trails Australia (RTA) is bringing its national Rail Trails Conference to Canberra in 2026!

This national event will bring rail trail managers and proponents from around Australia together and inspire the prospective NSW rail trail groups to keep persevering with their efforts to develop and enhance rail trails.

You'll hear about how rail trails around Australia have developed from concept to product; their different styles of management, and what's being done to improve the rail trail experience for those who love to use them – from adding art, to linking nearby businesses.

Our Friday program includes keynote speakers, expert-laden panels and discussions. There's time set aside for networking, and after RTA's AGM join us for conference drinks and dinner at a nearby venue.

On Saturday, you can show your support for rail trail development in NSW with the "Rally for the Rail Trail" ride, a special event taking place on the Monaro Rail Trail in Queanbeyan.

Your conference ticket includes refreshments, lunch, and a free 100% Altis Gravel Helmet for the first 50 registrations.

The conference is limited to 150 attendees, so be sure to register now and join Australia's biggest rail trail conference!

Early bird registrations open 31 July.

Date

Friday 6 November 2026 (Conference)
Saturday 7 November 2026 (Rail trail event)

Location

Daly Room, Canberra Labor Club
51 Chandler St
Belconnen, ACT

Price

$115 (Early bird price)
$130 (Full price)

To register for this event, scan the QR code or click here.

Supporters

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Conference program

Day one
Friday 6 November

9.00-9.10 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, and Opening

9.10-9.40 **Opening keynote: Exploring successes and opportunities of rail trails**
Hon. Steve Whan, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education

9.40-10.05 **Keynote 1:** The Tumbarumba and Wagga Wagga Rail Trail Success Story
Cr Julia Ham (Mayor), Snowy Valleys Council

10.05-10.30 **Keynote 2:** Wadandi Track Tourism Opportunities Report
Lenore Lyons, Concept 2 Strategy

10.30-11.00 Morning tea

11.00-11.20 **Keynote 3:** The Riesling Trail Success Story
Allan Mayfield, Riesling Trail CoM

11.20-12.20 **General presentations**

- Developing the Great Southern Rail Trail as a premium rail trail (Penni Elliot, South Gippsland Shire Council)
- Northern Rivers Rail Trail: Beyond the Ribbon Cutting – How the Northern Rivers Rail Trail continues to evolve and grow (Dean Cooper, Northern Rivers Rail Trail)
- Volunteers improving rail trails (Emma Stone, Landcare)

12.20-1.05 Lunch

1.05-1.25 **Keynote 4:** National view on ebikes and support to get more people cycling
Stephen Hodge, We Ride Australia

1.25-2.35 **General presentations**

- NSW Rail Trails: Developments in the Framework and Approvals Process (Ian Jordan, Transport NSW)
- Overview of All Active Rail Trail Groups in NSW (Dennis Puniard)
- Monaro Rail Trail Progress (Andrew Carter, Monaro Rail Trail Inc. Committee)

2.35-3.00 **Panel discussion 1:** Roundtable on Council Issues

3.00-3.25 Afternoon tea

3.25-3.45 **Rail Trail Resilience Launch**
Damian McCrohan, RTA

3.45-4.20 **Panel discussion 2:** Rail Trail Service Businesses

4.20-4.30 Conference closing

5.00-5.20 RTA Annual General Meeting

Day two
Saturday 7 November

11:00-5:00 Special Event: Rally for the Rail Trail

Follow Rail Trails Australia...