

# How the project has been developed



**2010-2013**  
Project initiation

**2013-2016**  
Project feasibility

**2016**  
Concept design and preliminary Master Plan

**2018**  
Draft Master Plan

**2018-2019**  
Funding and procurement

**2020-2021**  
Planning approvals and EES process



## Community and stakeholder engagement

- 2010: Cyclists raise mountain biking hub idea
- Warburton Integrated Cycling Hub focus group formed, including Yarra Ranges Council, Victorian Government, business and resident groups

- Project Steering Group, representing stakeholder and community views, established
- Online survey receives 1300 responses, seeking community views on:
  - Cycling participation and mountain bike tourism habits
  - Mountain bike trail preferences and expectations
  - Current and future Warburton visitation

- Community and stakeholder consultation to inform concept design explores sensitive areas to avoid and opportunities to utilise existing features
- Preliminary Master Plan consultation includes:
  - Individual meetings and phone interviews
  - Two information sessions
  - Two online surveys

- Draft Master Plan released for community consultation April-October 2018.
- Engagement includes:
  - 100** face-to-face meetings
  - 444** online survey responses
  - 350** calls, emails and letters
  - Mail out to **75,000** homes
  - Five** information sessions

- Consultation is part of the formal Environment Effects Statement (EES) process
- Community input will be sought to develop EES and ask for feedback on:
  - Any unidentified potential impacts
  - Suggested improvements to minimise or avoid potential impacts
- Information distributed to all local homes and businesses
- The community can get involved by:
  - Accessing interactive map with built-in survey questions
  - Attending a virtual information session
  - Completing a hard copy feedback form.
- Once the EES has been drafted, documents will be released for public comment
- Written public submissions will be considered by the Panel Inquiry



## Project planning and development

- Newly created Yarra Ranges Mountain Bikers group researches cycle tourism and develop trail infrastructure plans
- Successful application to Parks Victoria funding for a feasibility study

- Feasibility study led by World Trail defines:
  - Attributes of a successful trail network
  - Network length and configuration
  - Expected visitation and economic benefits
  - Development and operational costs
  - Project development recommendations
  - No-go zones for development

- Council establishes Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Master Plan project
- Project Reference Group (PRG) formed to oversee design process
- October 2016**  
Concept design defines trails across Mt Bride, Mt Donna Buang, Mt Little Joe and Mt Tugwell - PRG endorse
- 'Ground-truthing' - detailed on-the-ground assessment of trail alignments
- May 2018**  
Collaborative design review to refine trails and prepare Draft Master Plan - PRG endorses

- Community feedback and detailed planning refines trail alignment:
  - Trails moved away from homes
  - Old Warburton Cemetery avoided
  - Trails through Old Warburton removed
  - Old Warburton Road crossing modified
  - More trails added to Mt Donna Buang
  - Impact on Mt Donna Buang Wingless Stonefly and Leadbeater's Possum habitats minimised
  - Use of old road cuttings and existing informal trails maximised
  - Cool Temperate Rainforest protection increased

- \$11.3m funding secured:
  - Yarra Ranges Council (\$2.7m)
  - Australian Government (\$5.3m)
  - Victorian Government (\$3m)
  - Warburton and Upper Yarra Community Bank (\$0.3m)
- World Trail appointed to finalise design and construct network

- As part of EES preparation, detailed specialist studies will assess potential impacts on:
  - Environment, habitats and biodiversity
  - Waterways and catchments
  - Social, economic, amenity and land use, including transport
  - Cultural heritage
- Panel Inquiry will assess EES and prepare report for the Minister for Planning
- Once planning approvals have been received, the Master Plan will be updated to address the requirements of the EES decision