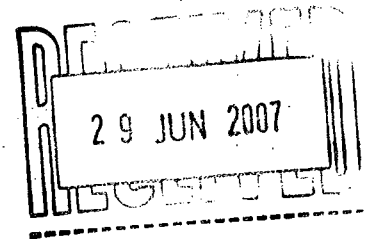


Fiona Richardson MP

State Member for Northcote

19 June 2007

John Thwaites
Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change
Level 3
1 Treasury Place
East Melbourne VIC 3002



Dear Minister,

Re: Linking the Darebin Creek and Main Yarra bike trails

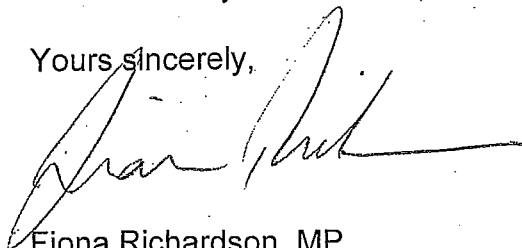
As you are no doubt aware, the southern end of the Darebin Creek bike trail is yet to be connected to the Main Yarra Trail. It has, since 2005, received over \$120,000 from the Bracks Labor Government to extend it to Heidelberg road, however, the gap between the two popular trails remains.

The Government also amended Yarra Planning Scheme to facilitate land acquisition and construction. Further, Parks Victoria has been negotiating with local government and other landholders in relation to possible routes and the necessary planning applications.

I understand that general funding has been given to Parks Victoria for the Yarra Trail but no specific amount has been allocated to the gap or to the bridge necessary to cross the Yarra River. I am concerned, along with many residents in my electorate and beyond, that the gap be completed.

As you know, the Bracks Labor Government's commitment to the trail has been significant with numerous grants dedicated over the years. With this in mind I urge you to allocate specific funding to complete the gap between Heidelberg Road and the Main Yarra, along with the construction of the bridge, as soon as possible to ensure this important initiative is delivered for the community's benefit.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Richardson, MP
Labor member for Northcote

