



WADANDI TRACK

The Wadandi Track showcases the heritage of the former Busselton to Flinders Bay Railway plus the industries and communities which it served from 1884 to 1957.

Open to walkers and cyclists, the track provides opportunity for people to experience the diversity of the Margaret River Region including the rich local history, Aboriginal and heritage values, natural environments and local industries.

Users are treated to spectacular sights and sounds along the track including pristine forests, plantations, vineyards, agricultural land and granite outcrops.

Located in one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, the track is an excellent place to see some of the range of rare and significant flora and fauna of Australia's South West.

HISTORY

The railway line was built in the 1880s by prominent timber businessman M. C. Davies, who laid a number of lines to take timber from his mills to jetties at Hamelin Bay and Flinders Bay for export.

By 1916 the timber industry had declined and the railway from Augusta to Margaret River was bought by the WA Government.

It was extended to Busselton by 1925 to service the remaining timber industry, the original group settlements, farming and domestic passengers.

As the road network improved, more of the cartage was done by trucks and the Busselton to Flinders Bay branch railway eventually closed in 1957, after which most of the rail line and sleepers were salvaged for other uses. A handful of sleepers and rail line can still be spotted today and some major elements of the railway infrastructure remain in place. These include the original railway formation; cuttings; embankments; and many of the bridges and culverts.

Since the closure of the railway, several roads and some public facilities have been constructed on the trail reserve.

Some parts of the reserve were leased to adjoining landowners. While all of these leases have lapsed or were terminated, some of the activities that were permitted under the conditions of these leases are still taking place within the reserve – including grazing, plantations, dams and quarrying of local resources.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Vehicles and motorcycles are prohibited.
- Horses are currently not permitted on the track.
- Ride or walk only on formed tracks/trails.
- Share the trail – keep to the left, cyclists give way to pedestrians, give clear warning before passing and give way when entering or crossing the track.
- Keep dogs on a lead and clean up after your dog.
- Control your bike and travel at a safe speed.
- Start clean and stay clean to avoid spreading weeds or plant diseases. This includes your bike and/or your shoes.
- Never disturb or scare animals.
- Leave no trace.
- Leave farm gates as you find them.

SAFETY FIRST

- Plan your ride or walk.
- Carry sufficient food and drinking water.
- Ensure you are healthy and fit for the activity.
- Notify someone of your start and finish location and times.
- Carry basic first aid supplies.
- Be aware of snakes.
- It is recommended you carry a mobile phone with emergency numbers stored should the need arise. It is strongly suggested it is fully charged at the commencement of your journey.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Wadandi Track, contact the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

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WADANDI TRACK

Experience the diversity of the Margaret River Region including European and Aboriginal history, natural environments and local industries.

MASTERPLAN

The potential for a trail along the abandoned Busselton to Flinders Bay railway line first came to notice in the early 1970s. The former railway line passes through spectacular scenery, offering recreational opportunities for people of all ages and fitness levels while conserving and interpreting the significant heritage values (natural, Aboriginal and historic) of the corridor.

Since 2010 the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, City of Busselton and the National Trust of Australia (WA) have been working in partnership to develop a Masterplan for the rail trail, with Lotterywest contributing funding for the project.

In 2013 it was formally named the Wadandi Track in recognition of the traditional owners of the land. The word Wadandi translates to mean 'People of the Sea'.

In the future the track could act as a spine for other trails including possible extensions on former railway lines to Capel and Nannup; loop trails to key sites; and links to major trails such as the Cape to Cape Track and the Munda Biddi Trail.



TRAIL SECTIONS AND DISTANCES

Construction of the Wadandi Track between Cowaramup and Witchcliffe is now complete. Construction was undertaken entirely by the Shire, except for the section from Rowe Road West to Redgate Road, which was constructed by volunteers from the Witchcliffe Progress Association. There are four discrete sections that can be traversed:

	COWARAMUP-CARTERS ROAD 11.0km
	CARTERS ROAD-MARGARET RIVER 3.4km
	MARGARET RIVER-GNARAWARY ROAD 4.1km
	GNARAWARY ROAD-WITCHCLIFFE 4.6km

FITNESS LEVEL REQUIRED

EASY. Sections that run along the former rail way line average an approximate gradient of 1%.

Walkers and cyclists should note that the gradient may vary for short sections where the track is not constructed on the original railway alignment.

FACILITIES

Parking is available at the following locations:

- Cowaramup – next to the Fire Station
- Carters Road – formal car park
- Margaret River – off Clarke Road next to former Goods Shed
- Gnarawary Road – formal car park

Public toilets are available at the following locations:

- Cowaramup - next to the Fire Station, in Pioneer Park and Cowaramup Hall
- Margaret River – Rotary park, Old Settlement, Memorial Park, Fearn Avenue
- Witchcliffe – Bussell Hwy

KEY

	Wadandi Track		Keep dogs on leash
	Cape to Cape Track		No fires
	Parking		No camping
	Toilets		No vehicles
	Picnic area		No horses

