

Building our Regions

Blackall's Pathway to Health

 Funding*	
Total project cost	\$500,000
BoR funding	\$440,000
Council funding	\$60,000

A 2km-long asphalt pathway has brought the residents of Blackall closer together.

Not only does the new path link the Blackall Hospital and existing pathways with camp grounds at the other end of town, it has given children and families a way to get active and catch up with other townfolk.

“Two thumbs up!” was the verdict from local mother-of-three Cassandra Adam, who says her family has never been so active since Blackall-Tambo Regional Council completed the town’s Pathway to Health.

According to Cassandra, the pathway has provided a focal point for the community.

“I’ve noticed more and more people out walking dogs, jogging and riding bikes,” she said. “It’s a very social outing and a safe place to take little ones to ride through the parks without worrying about the traffic.

“I never felt safe taking them on the roads and footpaths around town. This new path is definitely a bonus for the town.”

Mayor Andrew Martin agrees. “It was fantastic to see people jumping on and using it. It’s been really excellent.”

With an exercise station, shade structures, seating and solar bollard lighting to be installed, Cr Martin believes community health and tourism benefits will deliver long-term gains for Blackall.

Home to the real “Black Stump”, legendary shearer Jackie Howe and a centre for grazing, Blackall, located 950km north-west of Brisbane, can now boast its own brand of fun and fitness.



Blackall's Pathway to Health, looking towards the campgrounds



“We’re looking to expand our 10,000 Steps-A-Day program,” said Cr Martin. “It’s just great to see people out and about using the path and enjoying time with their family.”

The pathway also provides pedestrian access to the local hospital and an opportunity for patients, including those with mobility aides, to include outdoor exercise in their recovery and rehabilitation.

According to Cr Martin: “It’s been a good project, delivered quickly and well-received by the community right from the get-go. The path is wide, safe and flat so that everyone can use it and take in some of our parks and native landscape along the way.”

The project will also deliver jobs to the town, with two gardener positions to be added to support and maintain the adjacent parks and gardens.

Due to Blackall’s remoteness and small ratepayer base, the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council relies heavily on funding from other levels of government to build new infrastructure.

With \$440,000 from the Queensland Government’s Building our Regions program and a \$60,000 contribution from Council, the pathway was constructed in just a few weeks, ready for local families and visitors to start pounding the pavement.



A Blackall resident walking his dog along the new pathway

* Funding amounts referenced are as approved.