

# Media Release



8 November 2024

## Amy Gillett pathway celebrates a historic turn today

The new extension of the Amy Gillett pathway is branching away from main roads to follow the historic railway line through fields and vineyards between Mt Torrens and Birdwood. The first 400 metres have been completed and this initial stretch will be marked with a sod turning ceremony at the work site in Mt Torrens today.

The new section will follow the old train track route between the original Mt Torrens Railway station and the Birdwood Railway station, both now demolished. However, original features remain along the route and have been revitalised by Council, including 100 year old stone drains and hand poured concrete pipework.

### Quotes attributable to State Member for Kavel Dan Cregan MP

*“The Amy Gillett Bikeway is a much-loved community asset and it is a big win to see the next stage of the project taking shape.”*

*“Sustained advocacy has achieved all levels of government coming together to finally deliver the extension.”*

*“It’s another step in honouring Amy’s legacy and offers a safe and off-road bikeway for anyone visiting or living in the Hills.”*

### Quotes attributable to Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie MP

*“They say all good things come to those who wait. I started advocating for stage 4 funding in 2016 and finally secured \$2.6 million in 2020. Here we are in 2024 ready to start construction, so it’s been a long wait but one that is worth it.”*

*“Stages 1 to 3 of the Amy Gillet Bikeway have been a huge success and I’m pleased stage 4 is ready to commence. Activity tourism is growing and there is no better way to participate than on a bike in our beautiful Adelaide Hills.”*

*“Named in honour of cyclist Amy Gillet, who was tragically killed in 2005 during a training ride with the Australian women’s cycling team, the stage 4 extension is a fitting legacy to an athlete whose career was cruelly cut short.”*

*“The Amy Gillet Bikeway provides a safe path for the young, the old, and everyone in between to enjoy on a bike or a leisurely stroll.”*

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## Quotes attributable to Adelaide Hills Council Deputy Mayor Melanie Selwood

*“The Amy Gillett pathway is a treasured part of our community. The new section will be picturesque as it winds through grazing properties, grapevines and native bush still showing signs of the devastating Cudlee Creek bushfires.”*

*“We have been able to support local businesses by employing local contractors for the construction of this section and have connected with local history groups regarding ways to celebrate the history of the old railway line and stations.”*

*“Two new public car parking areas will provide access along the pathway at Mt Torrens and by the heritage Burford Hills Rail Bridge, allowing riders and walkers more places to experience the pathway.”*

The project will extend stage four of the Amy Gillett Pathway from its old end point in Mount Torrens at Oval Road, taking it through to the intersection with Onkaparinga Valley Road in Birdwood, adding 5.7 kilometres to the overall length of the bikeway

Federal and State Government funding of \$2.6 million each and a Council contribution of \$500,000 have made the extension possible.

## Media call Friday 08 November 2024, 1:00pm

The media are invited to a sod turning ceremony with our government funding partners and stakeholders to celebrate extension of the Amy Gillett Pathway from Mt Torrens to Birdwood.

Amy Gillett Pathway, Oval Road Mt Torrens – along the new pathway extension just past the Mt Torrens Oval (see attached map over).

## VIP guests

- Minister Dan Cregan, Special Minister of State, Member for Kavel
- Rebekha Sharkie MP, Federal Member for Mayo
- Deputy Mayor Melanie Selwood, Adelaide Hills Council
- Mayor Bim Lange OAM Barossa Council
- CEO Greg Georgopoulos, Adelaide Hills Council
- Mary and Denis Safe, Amy Gillett’s parents

## Location notes

Amy Gillett pathway, 430 metres from the car park and accessible by normal car, unless it is raining in which case there is only 4WD access. There is limited space to park cars along the bikeway at the

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sod turning site (red dot on map). The carpark is located just inside the gate off Oval Road (see beginning of red line on map below).

Recommendation is for non VIP or media attendees to park in the carpark and walk in.



## Media contact

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