

# BHP Billiton supports Wadjemup Walk Trail project on Rottnest

Rottnest Foundation

The Rottnest Foundation has partnered with BHP Billiton to roll-out the next stage of the Wadjemup Walk Trail on Rottnest Island.

The Wadjemup Walk Trail comprises five separate sections totalling 50 kilometres. Each section boasts individual charm and unique experiences, enhanced by the construction of new facilities, beach access and interpretative elements that provide an exploratory narrative, connecting visitors to the Island's breathtaking natural features, abundance of wildlife and rich cultural heritage.

The trail also offers a strategy to minimise the pressures of tourism on the iconic Island destination by formalising access and directing foot traffic to visit different bays to take the pressure off over-populated sites during the high season.

As the trail is built, damaged natural areas and informal trails will be revegetated utilising volunteer support, reducing erosion, environmental degradation and increasing habitat for island wildlife.

Interpretative signage will foster appreciation of the cultural significance, multiple histories and environmental dynamics of Rottnest

and encourage visitors to better understand, protect and respect the island.

The Rottnest Foundation not-for-profit organisation, established in 1985, focusses on encouraging community involvement and raising funds to support projects that 'Conserve the Essence of Rottnest' and has been actively sourcing funding to implement the Wadjemup Walk Trail project.

The foundation also chairs the Walk Trail Steering Committee which consists of representatives from the Rottnest Island Authority and community groups; Rottnest Society, Winnit Club and Conservation Volunteers Australia who jointly manage the project.

BHP Billiton funds will enable the Wadjemup Hill section to be constructed, which consists of 10.6 km of walkable trail, including the construction of beach access at Narrow Neck, Catherine Bay and Armstrong Point.

This trail section incorporates Aboriginal heritage and connection to the Island, with funds allocated to the creation of a sculpture depicting an Aboriginal Dreaming Story designed by a Noongar artist and an audio sign exhibiting a story told by a Whadjuk Aboriginal Traditional Owner.



For further information please visit [www.rottnestfoundation.org.au/](http://www.rottnestfoundation.org.au/)

Salmon Bay view from boardwalk. Photo by Aaron McCreath

A mini surfing documentary focused on the popular surfing spot at Strickland Bay will also be added to signage, linked via QR Code.

The Wadjemup Walk Trail will greatly enhance the Rottnest Island experience by providing a new outdoor educational platform for

school kids and generate new cultural and environmental tours, events and opportunities to be enjoyed by the community of Western Australia.

**The Rottnest Foundation welcomes other partners to join them in delivering this exciting project.**



Lakes section of boardwalk at dusk. Photo by Aaron McCreath



Cathedral Rocks seal viewing platform (West End Section). Photo by Heather King