



Paul Toole
Deputy Premier
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MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING BOOST FOR BRIGHT IDEA TO TAKE ORANGE WINE REGION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

A walking and cycling trail linking wineries and specialist food producers in the Orange region could be a step closer thanks to a grant from the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the \$270,000 grant from the NSW Government's Business Case and Strategy Development Fund would allow the Orange Bicycle Users Group to develop a concept that was ready to roll.

"We're backing bright ideas like the Regional Wine Trail with the funding needed to take them from concept to construction ready," Mr Toole said.

"Thousands of people already travel here every year for a taste of Orange – and this concept could encourage them to get out and see even more of what local vineyards and producers have to offer, either on foot or two wheels.

"It capitalises on two of the fastest growing components of the visitor market in Orange – outdoor recreation and food and wine activities – and could deliver a boost to the local community for years to come.

Mr Toole said the Business Case and Strategy Development fund received an overwhelming amount of applications across NSW.

"Any successful project starts with evidence-based planning, and this fund is helping turn great ideas and concepts into a reality, not just for individual organisations but for entire communities," Mr Toole said.

Orange Bicycle Users Group Secretary Virginia Flanagan said the organisation was delighted to receive the NSW Government grant, as it will help realise the vision of an Orange Regional Wine Trail that will boost the regional economy.

"Our proposal is for trails that link our food and wine venues and to ensure these trails are separated from motor vehicles, providing both cyclists and walkers a safe and year-round tourism opportunity," Ms Flanagan said.

"With the help of this grant, we can comprehensively assess the benefits to the region, consult widely and scope the best routes that recognize both community and business needs.

"This funding from the Business Case and Strategy Fund will help take our vision to the shovel ready stage."

The Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund is part of the \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund and will help create a pipeline of investment-ready projects for future funding opportunities.

Photos available [here](#).

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