



# BRISBANE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL



[www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au](http://www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au)

# On the right track

Esk to Toogoolawah  
19 km



Queensland Government

# Trail summary

## Location

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, when completed, will be a 148 kilometre recreation trail from Wulkuraka to Blackbutt. It will follow the old Brisbane Valley railway line and provide walkers, touring cyclists and horse riders with an opportunity to experience the history and landscape of the Brisbane Valley.

The 19 kilometre Esk to Toogoolawah section of the Brisbane Valley Rail is northwest of Brisbane along the Warrego and Brisbane Valley Highways. The township of Toogoolawah is approximately 120 kilometres from the Brisbane CBD.

## Landscape heritage

This section of the trail travels adjacent to Camp Creek and crosses Cressbrook Creek, a tributary of the Brisbane River, at Toogoolawah. The trail extends through farmland including lucerne, other pasture and small crops that are important to the local economy. Both townships have many sites of historical interest including churches, buildings and the Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield near Toogoolawah where various events are held throughout the year.

## Use

The trail is for walking, cycling and horse riding only. The trail surface is gravel and unsuitable for road bicycles or personal mobility vehicles. No motorised vehicles of any type are allowed.

Sections of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail are classified:



Easy grade: even surface



Moderate grade: surface may be rough



Advanced grade: rough surface

On trail signage indicates classifications between Esk and Toogoolawah. The distance and trail facilities make this section suitable for people with a moderate to high fitness level. There are no drinking water or toilet facilities between Esk and Toogoolawah. Walking shoes or light hiking boots are required and horses must be shod.

## Distance

Esk – Ottaba: 12 kilometres

Ottaba – Toogoolawah: 7 kilometres

## Heritage—Indigenous

Toogoolawah is derived from the Aboriginal words 'dhoo' (a generic term for tree) and 'goo/lawa', meaning 'crescent shaped' or 'bent like a crescent moon'.

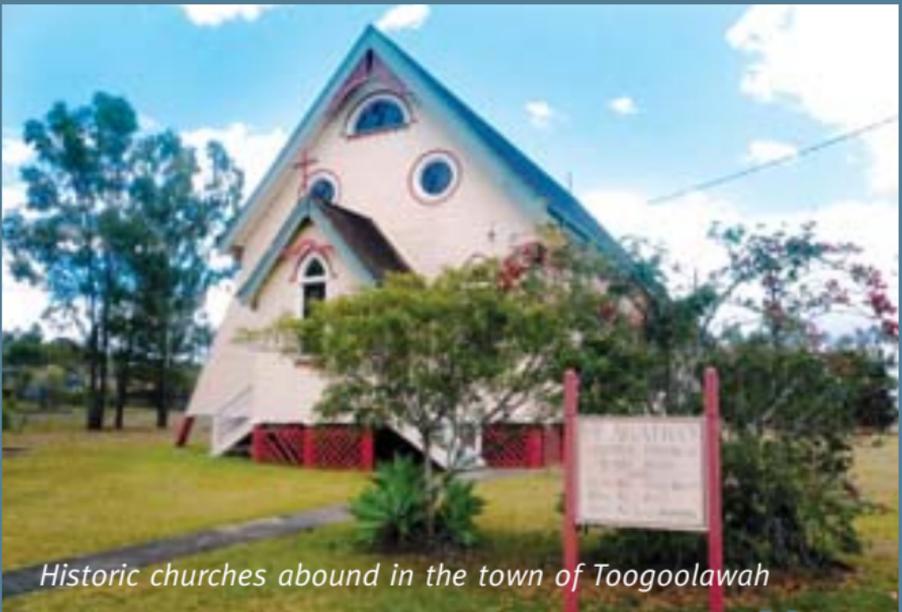
Yuggera and Ugarapul peoples are the traditional owners of the Toogoolawah district. Prior to European settlement in 1824, the landscape of South East Queensland (as elsewhere in Australia) was influenced and protected by millennia of Aboriginal stewardship. Indigenous use and management of the landscape maintained a balance between the land and human needs. The South East Queensland Traditional Owners Alliance now oversees archaeological research into the Indigenous heritage of the Brisbane Valley.

## Heritage—European

The first European settler in the Brisbane Valley was David McConnel, who took up the Cressbrook run in 1841. In the late 1880s his son James established a condensed milk factory on Cressbrook Creek and subdivided a large part of the run into dairy farms and the township of Cressbrook Creek (later Toogoolawah).

The McConnel family was deeply involved in Toogoolawah's economic and social development, encouraging cultural, religious, sporting and economic activity. They employed a contractor to build homes for their farmers, donated land for church purposes, and promoted a variety of district clubs, organisations and societies. Expansion of the town coincided with the rail connection to Ipswich in 1904 and the purchase of the factory by the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company in 1907.

Toogoolawah lays claim to one of the most significant events in Queensland history. In 1873, Queen Victoria sent a small herd of red deer as a gift after Queensland was named in her honour. The deer were released at Cressbrook Station in Toogoolawah and descendants of those deer can be found throughout the region today.



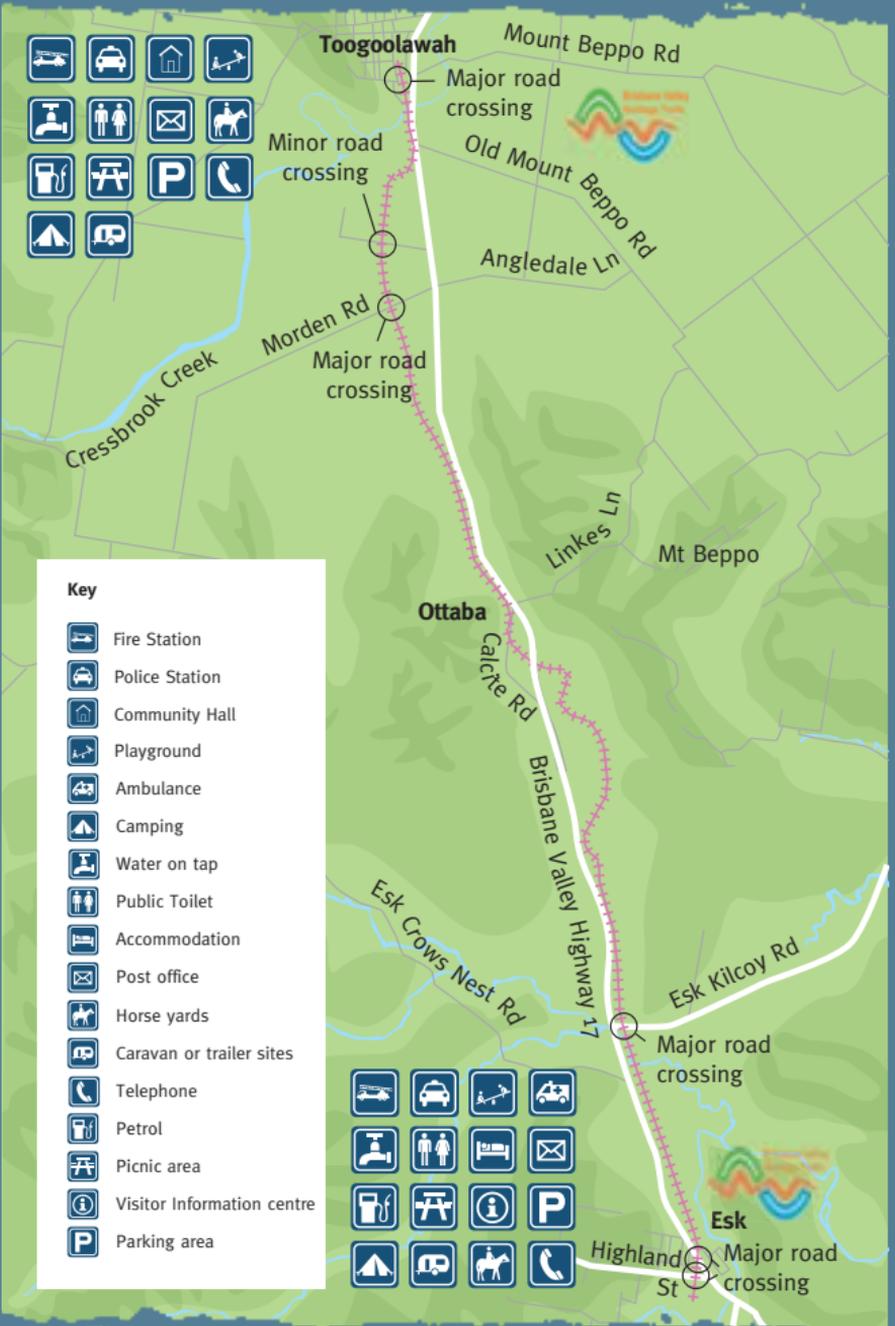
*Historic churches abound in the town of Toogoolawah*



Esk trail station

## Services

Public toilets, picnic facilities, post office and convenience stores are located at Esk and Toogoolawah. Trail users have many accommodation options in and around Esk and Toogoolawah. Horse accommodation and facilities are available at the showgrounds in Esk and Toogoolawah. Mobile phone coverage is good.



# Code of conduct

Do your part by modelling appropriate behaviour and leaving the trail as you found it. Please respect other users, the natural environment and the privacy of adjacent landholders. Before you use the trail, make sure you educate yourself and obtain trail maps and information, check the weather forecast and plan clothing, equipment and supplies accordingly.



## Sharing

- Park cars and trailers in designated areas.
- Please leave all gates as found.
- Observe local signs and regulations.
- Do not obstruct the trail. Cyclists must alert other users on approach and pass at a reduced speed.
- Approach horses with care.
- Keep dogs under control and on a lead.

## Environment

- Keep on the trail.
- Do not interfere with native plants or animals.
- Please dispose of all rubbish and animal waste appropriately.
- Do not light fires.
- Clean bikes, walking boots and other equipment after your trip to minimise the spread of plant and animal pests and diseases.



*Trail head and station grounds at Esk*

## For your safety and comfort

- Be cautious at all road and creek crossings.
- Cyclists and horse riders must wear approved safety equipment and ride in control.
- Do not approach or feed pets or livestock in adjacent properties.
- Carry drinking water and light snacks.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the conditions.
- Maintain your equipment, and carry repair and first aid kits for emergencies.
- Where possible, don't travel by yourself.
- Let a responsible person know where you are going and when you expect to return before you go.

## Emergencies

Call 000

## For more information

Blackbutt Visitor Information Centre  
Hart Street, Blackbutt 07 4163 0633

Esk Visitor Information Centre  
82 Ipswich Street, Esk 07 5424 2923

Fernvale Futures and  
Visitor Information Centre  
1483 Brisbane Valley Highway, Fernvale 07 5427 0200

Ipswich Visitor Information Centre  
14 Queen Victoria Parade, Ipswich 07 3281 0555

South Burnett Energy and  
Visitor Information Centre  
Corner Drayton and Henry Street, Nanango 07 4171 6871

[www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au](http://www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au)

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is one of three regional recreation trails funded by the Queensland Government until 2012 and being delivered through a partnership between the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Ipswich City, South Burnett and Somerset Regional Councils.

Through Growth Management Queensland, the Queensland Government is protecting more land for public recreation to help shape tomorrow's Queensland.

