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Comments:

To the Rural and Regional Committee,

Future tourism could be extended to areas outside of Ballarat that have been largely undiscovered. The locations which have potential are Linton and surrounds. The township has the potential for the following types of tourism Bush walkers, school excursions, bike riders, bird watchers, trial bike riders, artists, gold fossickers, historians and the potential introduce a small mine tours in the region. I could also see a local farmer providing tours of farm life. All this would appeal to the interstate and overseas tourist

HOW CAN THE RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE DEVELOP THE POTENTIAL IN THE AREA

- a) Future funding for bitumen surfacing on the Skipton Ballarat Rail Trail. Particularly on the section where the location of the rail trail would have greater appeal for tourism that being the section between Skipton and Scarsdale and in particular Linton. This area has been undiscovered. It is suprising that this section has not been sealed like other locations throughout Victoria. Statically the region (Ballarat and surrounds) has many bike riders more over other rail trails which have already been sealed. The beauty in this section of the rail trail is to be admired, shared and developed.
- b) Funding could be made available for a formal tourist information centre providing information on bush walks, bird locations, bike trails and mine tours etc.
- c) Funding for sewerage to enable smaller businesses and growth in the area.
- d) Funding for the government to set up camping grounds for schools (Linton is only 2 hours from Melbourne). These camping grounds would consider environmental factors and form part of education for schools. Additinally, School excursions would be affordable for parents.
- e) Swimming pool or a plunge pool which would require less water to fill.

I am aware that other locations such as Smythesdale will be potentially developed as it was considered a growth area in recent rural studies eg. 2030 Ballarat City Council, But as mention Linton and surrounds has been overlooked. Linton has greater potential for tourism because of the natural beauty, topography and available activities for many and varied persons from very young to the older.

I would be happy to be a tour guide to the committee. Furthermore if you are interested in a 62 page booklet on Linton 'A Pictorial History of Linton 1839 to 1989' written by the Linton & District Historical Society please let me know and I shall gladly supply.

Please contact if this submission has been received.

Regards Halina Sztynda