



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

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FUNDING TO BOOST KING ISLAND FOOD BRAND

King Island's world renowned food and recreation is to get an \$188,100 boost from the Rudd Labor Government, says Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom.

Mr Sidebottom said that he had confirmed the approval for the funding for the King Island Recreation and Food Trails project under the Better Regions program, with Mr Gary Gray AO MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia.

He said this was one of a number of promises made to the people of King Island during the 2007 election campaign, and something that would have long-term benefits for the island.

"Many of us are lucky enough to have experienced the fabulous food and hospitality available on King Island, and this project is all about building on that tremendous reputation," Mr Sidebottom said.

"The King Island Council and its partners have been working for some time to combine the food and recreation advantages which they have, and this project will be very important in that respect.

"Developing a high value market like this will be a major benefit to the Island's economy and its future in tourism."

The project will cover a variety of needs in a number of stages, and includes training for tourism, hospitality and retail operators and staff to raise the standard and consistency of service and product presentation.

The Island's nine best walking trails will be upgraded to become part of a suite of great walks on the island, complete with markers and interpretation panels.

Mr Sidebottom said that as well as improving the local economy, the project would have health and well-being benefits for the local community.

“It’s great to see something that will have such widespread benefits for so many people on the island and visitors as well, and I’m very happy to support it.”

The project forms part of the Australian Government’s Better Regions program, which will deliver \$176 million over four years.

Better Regions will provide regional Australia with much-needed community facilities and services and honour a range of regional infrastructure commitments which were identified by local communities as priorities for their regions.

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