

\$2.7 million to build one-of-a-kind Mallanganee Observatory

The Mallanganee lookout will be transformed into unique observatory that will showcase the beauty of the landscape as well as the awe-inspiring night sky thanks to a \$2.067 million Regional Tourism Activation Fund grant from the State Government.

Kyogle Council also will contribute \$690,000 to the project which will see an observatory inspired by an armillary sphere constructed off the northern end of the current lookout site on the top of the Richmond Range.

It will be built out of metal and concrete and will be semi-enclosed, providing the perfect vantage to enjoy spectacular views across the Richmond Ranges to the Border Ranges and Wollumbin during the day and the breathtaking celestial views overhead at night.

And with the observatory lying on the precise latitude where the centre of the Milky Way crosses directly overhead every day, it is expected to generate plenty of interest from tourists around the globe.

The project will also include the construction of new public toilets and carpark on the site, upgrades to the access road from the Bruxner Highway, development of a walking track through the Mallanganee National Park and landscaping.

Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Kylie Thomas said the concept plan for the observatory was developed after Council and the community identified the need to upgrade the lookout during work on a Plan of Management for the site.

“The observatory’s incredible design will allow people to enjoy the site’s astonishing views both day and night,” she said.

“As well as attracting visitors to the area, it’s hoped that it will generate economic development and possibly inspire new events and activities. This is an incredible opportunity to create something that is unique to Mallanganee and I would like to thank the State Government for working with Council on this wonderful project.”

The observatory is expected to welcome its first visitors by the end of 2023. In the meantime, further work will take place to refine the concept and develop the attraction – including a proposed augmented reality installation. Further community consultation will be carried out at all key stages of the project.

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