

Wakatipu cycle trails receive \$1m from trust

By **JOHN EDENS** in Queenstown

A \$1 MILLION grant had brought a planned 87km cycle network a step closer, the Wakatipu Trails Trust chief executive said yesterday.

The Central Lakes Trust grant brings the funding for trails between Queenstown, Arrowtown and the Gibbston Valley to more than \$3m, which will allow the plan to proceed to the tender stage.

Last month the Wakatipu Trails Trust signed a contract with the Queenstown Lakes District Council and the New Zealand Cycle Trail after receiving a \$1.83m government grant.

The project needs almost \$5m overall.

Wakatipu Trails Trust chief executive Kaye Parker said she was confident another \$2m could be raised.

Discussions with landowners continued and the extra funding meant the Trust could start the tender process by the end of the year, she said.

"We will make it happen," she said.

The planned cycleway was



Kaye Parker

the first to reach phase two of the national programme.

Central Lakes Trust chief executive Paul Allison said the decision

to grant a whopping one million was to safeguard government funding.

"This is one of the leading projects of its type in the country and there has been a huge amount of effort," he said.

Wakatipu Trails Trust patron Sir Eion Edgar, who is also chair of the Central Lakes Trust, said he was delighted with the grant.

Sir Eion and Lady Edgar pledged \$100,000 towards the project and the Queenstown Lakes District Council stumped up \$300,000.

The Trust aims to start trail development this summer and finish construction by September 2012.

There are 13 cycle trails proposed nationwide.

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