

Key endorses benefits of cycle trail

ACEY ROXBURGH

Zealand Prime Minister Key has promised to “don mycra” and experience parts of the New Zealand Cycle Trail (NZCT) first hand, once the km network around the country is complete.

“I’m really looking forward to [going] out there myself. I think we are going to be absolutely amazing.”

Hilton Queenstown yesterday, Mr Key, also Minister of Tourism, was greeted by about 1000 people at the Queenstown Wakatipu

area who were excited to see the Prime Minister as a cyclist. “I’m really looking forward to [getting] out there myself. I think they are going to be absolutely amazing.”

The NZCT is a \$50 million Government start-up project that will see the Queenstown network, which will link Queenstown, Kelvin Heights, Hayes Estate, Arrowtown and Gibbston valley.

Key told the cyclists and tourists that the tourism benefits of the trail will be significant.

behind the 150km Otago Central Rail Trail, which “blazed a trail” and was the genesis for what the Government hoped to replicate across the country — “core business and lots and lots of small business and enterprises being established.”

Also at yesterday’s event, where the first seven “official partners” of the Queenstown Trail were announced, was NZCT ambassador Sarah Ulmer.

Ulmer, who rode a small section of the Queenstown Trail outside Hilton Queenstown, said it was an “amazing initiative” and a project which would bring the community together, on every level, becoming a meeting place “where mums can take kids in buggies.”

“It is an absolute no-brainer for me to be involved with the New Zealand Cycle Trail. “Having access to some of literally the most spectacular parts of [New Zealand] by bike is brilliant.”

NZCT programme manager John Dunne said the construction of the trail will be a significant benefit to the region.

