

Recreation User Stakeholder Group (RUSG)

Minutes

20th July 2016

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Stromlo Headquarters

500 Cotter Rd, Weston ACT

Attendee List

Chair	Daniel Iglesias	Director, Parks and Conservation
	Jasmine Foxlee	Manager, Community and Visitor Programs
	Fleur Flanery	Director, City Services
	Jenny Priest	Director, Active Canberra
	Rebecca Kelley	Deputy Director, Active Canberra
Secretariat	Alesha Brown	Program Officer, Active Canberra

Recreation Users Group Representatives

Christine Lawrence	ACT Equestrian Association
Jonathon Miller	ACT Rogaining Association
Rosemary Parker	ACT Veterans Athletic Club
John Harding	Australian Mountain Running Assoc
David Wardle	Brindabella Bushwalking Club
Patricia Ashton	Burley Griffin Canoe Club
Lorraine Tomlins	Canberra Bushwalking Club
Oliver Story	Canberra Climbers Association
Brendon Mulloy	Canberra Off-Road Cyclists
Shane Jasprizza	Capital Region Fishing Alliance
Mathew Boorman	Light Car Club Canberra
Graham Scully	National Parks Association of the ACT
Geoff Wood	Orienteering ACT
Polly Templeton	Triathlon ACT
Pete Burns	YMCA of Canberra
Peter Thomson	YMCA of Canberra Runners Club

1. Welcome and Introduction.

- Daniel Iglesias opened meeting, welcomed everyone.
- Daniel Iglesias notified group of ACT Parks and Conservation Services recent transition to Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD). Parks and Conservation now reports to Conservator of Flora and Fauna.
- Daniel Iglesias informed group on the recent retirement of Odile Arman, previous Manager of Community and Visitor Programs and introduced Jasmine Foxlee who is acting in this position.
- Fleur Flanery explained to group the new name change from TAMS to Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). The diverse directorate is responsible for transport,

urban parks and spaces and licensing and compliance services such as permits for public land space.

- Jenny Priest explained to group the recent name change for Sport and Recreation Services to **Active Canberra**. Active Canberra currently sits within the Economic Development portfolio of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.
- Jenny Priest informed group that the recent name change relates to the new Canberra brand (CBR). Territory Venues have changed to Venues Canberra, in line with already existing Visit Canberra and Access Canberra.

2. Key activity from Government.

Event approval model

- Fleur Flanery briefed group on the changes to the **Public Unleased Land Act 2013** that now allow permits for temporary land use to be issued for up to three years.
- A summary of the proposed/new permit approval process include:
 - o if the circumstances around the event remain the same as with previous events, and the only substantial change is the date, it is highly likely the existing risk plans can be used.
 - o A **priority ranking system** will be developed to develop a future calendar of events and give conditional approval for the future event. The priority will be given to recreational groups with good safety and land management records who've organised their events on public land/Nature Reserves.
 - o These groups will be contacted or can provide a summary of their future activity for the next two to three years.
 - o The process will only work if there is a spirit of sharing amongst the groups so that other groups may also use the space ie scheduling events in parks so it an area can be used for one event in the morning and the other in the afternoon etc.
- Brendan Mulloy (CORC) raised issues around delay of approvals by Access Canberra.
- Noted that various groups have experienced similar issues for event approvals.

Action

- Fleur requested groups let her team know if they are experiencing any problems with Access Canberra's approval and she would try to assist.

Gate opening and closing

- Noted that her area was looking into the opportunity for automated gate openings and closings as the issues with issuing and returning keys was time consuming and costly. Parks and Conservation noted they were also looking to automate gate opening/closing using a PIN code method.
- Further advice will be provided when ready.

Action

- Summary of the approval process to be uploaded to Active Canberra website.
- Recreation users to send any event approval problem to Fleur's team.

Sport and Recreation Funding Programs

- Alesha Brown informed group that Sport and Recreation funding opportunities will be available mid/late August.
- Graham Scully (NPAACT) asked if funding supported inclusive participation programs.
- Jenny Priest explained that there is an Inclusive Participation Funding Program which opens in February each year. The funding programs open for applications in August support the growth and sustainability of physical activity opportunities for the ACT community.

Action

- Alesha to email RUSG members when applications open.
Application process can be found on Active Canberra website.

Recreation Vision

- *Adventure Activity Standards:*
- Alesha informed group common content for the activity standards are in final stages of development and will be released for public consultation shortly.
- Lorraine Tomlins (CBC) expressed concerns that volunteer based clubs could be affected.
- It was recommended RUSG members head to <http://australianaas.org.au/> for updates and further information on how the Australian AAS relates to them.

Action

- Alesha to alert RUSG members when the core standards are released.
- *Nature Play CBR launch:*
- Nature play is a concept encouraging children to spend more time in unstructured play outdoors using their imaginations in a natural setting. It aspires to ensure societal values and behaviours embody a strong love of the outdoors and associated active lifestyles for life.
- The launch and media exposure has been very successful in raising awareness of the initiative.
- The Nature Play CBR website is the initiative's central hub for information and we encourage community groups and individuals to submit events, places and articles on the website.
- Alesha explained various enquiries received after the launch related to parents wanting to find out how to get their kids outside more.
- Brendan Mulloy (CORC) expressed the importance of engaging parents to activities as well as children.

Action:

- Alesha to send groups the website user log-in information.

- Mountain Biking Strategy:
Daniel Iglesias explained that recent staffing changes and the relocation to EPD has affected the release date of the strategy.

Action:

- Parks and Conservation to release draft for consultation in the next three months.

3. 2016 Activators

- Daniel invited RUSG members to suggest 2016 activators that will sit under the Recreation Vision.
- Graham Scully (NPAACT) suggested an activator supporting inclusiveness for our parks and reserves such as wheelchair access, and disabled parking.
- Noted that way-finding would allow people to find safe places to park when accessing a nature park.
- Fleur mentioned that event approvals should consider parking and authorise temporary use of an area of land should the event require additional capacity than that provided by the existing carpark.
- Christine Lawrence (ACT EA) raised point that active travel maps don't include horse trails.
- David Wardle (BBC) asked whether Government departments need to know when community groups are out in National Parks.
- Noted that groups are to sign the trailhead papers upon entering parks and reserves.
- Oliver Story (CCA) asked whether there was any capacity for Government to use Apps or social media to alert community to road closures and updates on access to areas.
- Noted that ACT Government should investigate app/website similar to [Live Traffic NSW](#).
- Brendan Mulloy (CORC) discussed opportunities for non motorised connections "network to network connecting".
- Noted that Recreation Groups find it difficult to talk with Planning Division.
- Group discussed that Planning representatives were invited to previous RUSG meetings.

Action:

- Recreation Groups to feed collation of participation rates in activities such as scheduled bushwalks back to Government at the end of each financial year. This will help build a picture of extent of recreation use across the reserve system.
- Parks and Conservation will investigate digital technology opportunities to alert groups to current road closures, as currently used by the Fire Management Unit.
- Daniel to alert Planning Division to interact with Recreation Users Groups.

4. Issues & Opportunities.

- Group continued discussion the current challenges for event access and approval.

- Fleur suggested a future RUSG session could include NCA, Access Canberra and Roads ACT.
- Lorraine Tomlins (CBC) enquired about the progress on the Murrumbidgee River Corridor.
- Parks and Conservation currently has no information on the proposal, the outcomes or timing of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor Development.
- Canberra Nature Park draft Plan of Management will be released to cabinet after the ACT Election, expected to be released for public comment March/April 2017.
- Molonglo River Park Plan of Management will be released to cabinet after the ACT Election, expected to be released for public comment March/April 2017.

Action:

- Road ACT, Access Canberra and NCA representatives to be invited to a future RUSG meeting.
 - Brendon from CORC to enquire about the Adventure Corridor to share with the group next meeting.
 - Recreation users to alert Fleur or someone in the Land Use team if they are having problems with obtaining approvals.
5. Schedule next meeting.
- Stromlo Headquarters, Wednesday 19th October at 5pm.