

# Recreation User Stakeholder Group (RUSG)

## Minutes

15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Stromlo Headquarters

500 Cotter Rd, Weston ACT

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Chair	Jenny Priest	Director, Active Canberra
	Stephen Alegria	Director, City Presentation
	Daniel Iglesias	Director, Parks and Conservation
	Jasmine Foxlee	Manager, Community and Visitor Programs
Secretariat	Alesha Brown	Program Officer, Active Canberra

### *Recreation Users Group Representatives*

Christine Lawrence	ACT Equestrian Association
Beth Stone	ACT Equestrian Association
Wayne Gregson	ACT Rogaining Association
Andrew Welsh	ACT Walking for Pleasure
John Harding	Australian Mountain Running Assoc
Peter Ford	Brindabella Bushwalking Club
Matt Elliston	Canberra BMX Club
Zac Zaharias	Canberra Climbers' Association
Graham Scully	National Parks Association of the ACT
Geoff Wood	Orienteering ACT
Carol Ey	YMCA Runners Club

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## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Daniel opened meeting, welcomed everyone.

## 2. Key activity from Government

### I. Share the trails – targeted education videos

- Group previewed series of short films that will be launched during Canberra Walk & Ride Week (17-24 March).
- Videos will be shared online via social media and websites.
- Rec Users Groups are encouraged to share videos.
- Daniel Iglesias explained PCS are open to video suggestions from RUSG members.

### II. Mountain Biking Strategy/Cycle tourism strategy

- Jasmine Foxlee explained the Mountain Biking Strategy has not progressed as PCS are waiting to learn more about the recently announced cycling tourism strategy which will sit with Visit Canberra.

- Daniel Iglesias explained Government currently has a commitment to nature-based tourism and a recreation strategy is not at a level of readiness.
- Noted the concerns RUSG members have in relation to a tourism strategy jeopardising access and quality of trails.
- Daniel reassured members ACT Government is committed to protecting interest of all.

### **III. E-bikes – the rules, regulations and recommendations**

- Discussed an upcoming opportunity for Recreation Users Group members to receive an E-bike (Pedalec) mountain bike demo.
- Jasmine Foxlee briefly outlined current rules and regulations of e-bikes and access to reserves (wattage of 250 defined as bicycle; beyond 251 classified as motorised).
- Jasmine explained Parks and Conservation are currently working with the mountain biking community and Stromlo. There are future plans for an educational campaign.

#### **Action:**

Alesha to send E-bike demonstration invitation to RUSG contacts.

### **IV. ACT Parks and Conservation facebook site**

- Jasmine Foxlee shared the recently launched ACT Parks and Conservation Service facebook page information with the group.
- Link <https://www.facebook.com/ACTParks/> or look up ACT Parks and Conservation Service in facebook search

### **V. Active Travel Week**

- 17-24 March is the ACT Government's inaugural Canberra Walk and Ride Week.
- Group was briefed on various activities happening throughout the week and encouraged to share information with members.

### **VI. Activation EOI proposal**

- Stephen Alegria briefed group on an upcoming pilot project for an EOI approval process to activate public spaces. The community can select from a menu of potential sites with amenities and click through a set of criteria to book at site for an event.
- Noted opportunities this will allow for recreation sector to host events

### **VII. Inclusive Participation Grants Program**

- Active Canberra's Inclusive Participation Grants Program opened last week and will close 11am Monday 10 April 2017.
- Jenny Priest explained that the objective is to increase participation opportunities in the sport and recreation sector for four identified target groups: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people; Older Adults; and people with a Disability.
- Groups are encouraged to apply to support new, or improve existing programs, enhance the capacity and usage of recreational facilities or to improve education and training opportunities.

#### **VIII. Nature Play CBR passports**

- Alesha Brown handed out physical passports to the group and explained that over 5000 have been distributed to families, schools etc since the launch in January.
- Nature Play CBR continues working towards developing a cross-directorate approach to promote the importance of nature play.
- Canberra Nature Park rangers are handing them out to families in CNP's and families can also collect copies at the Arboretum, Tidbinbilla and Canberra Visitors Centre.

#### **3. Issues and opportunities**

- John Harding questioned the importance of Recreation User Groups attending and contributing to ACT Government feasibility reference groups given funding is not available to support all of the strategies.
- Daniel Iglesias explained that although 'big-ticket items' such as Arboretum, Stromlo and Centennial Trail do generally take priority, the feasibility forums and consultation groups do provide leverage when reporting to Ministers.

#### **4. Schedule next meeting**

Mid June 2017