

Recreation User Stakeholder Group (RUSG)

Agenda

9th November 2016

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Stromlo Headquarters

500 Cotter Rd, Weston ACT

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

Recreation Users Group Representatives

Christine Lawrence	ACT Equestrian Association
Stephen Coggs	ACT Rogaining Association
Rosemary Parker	ACT Veterans Athletic Club
Andrew Welsh	ACT Walking for Pleasure
John Harding	Australian Mountain Running Assoc
Peter Ford	Brindabella Bushwalking Club
Patricia Ashton	Burley Griffin Canoe Club
Lorraine Tomlins	Canberra Bushwalking Club
Matt Elliston	Canberra BMX Club
Oliver Story	Canberra Climbers Association
Brendan Mulloy	Canberra Off-Road Cycling
John Armstrong	Capital Cycling
Geoff Wood	Orienteering ACT
Pete Burns	YMCA of Canberra

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Fleur Flanery opened meeting, welcomed everyone and invited group to raise any issues.
- Noted that group have seen a difference in Access Canberra's event approval process
- John Armstrong complemented Access Canberra's willingness to facilitate event approval process.
- Noted that the NCA approval process is still an issue with groups

Action

- Fleur to arrange for NCA members to be present at a 2017 RUSG meeting
- Fleur to speak offline with Equestrian members and Active Travel staff in relation to horse riding in the active travel space.

2. New Government

I. Administrative arrangements

- Fleur briefed group on the new Ministry
 - o Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS)
 - Minister for Transport and City Services is Meegan Fitzharris MLA
 - o Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPD)
 - Minister for the Environment and Heritage is Mick Gentleman MLA
 - Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability is Shane Rattenbury MLA
 - o Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development (CMTEDD)
 - Minister for Sport and Recreation is Yvette Berry MLA
 - Minister for Tourism and Major Events is Andrew Barr MLA
 - Minister for the Arts and Community Events is Gordan Ramsay MLA
- Noted the difference between major events and community events. Major Events – Floriade, Enlighten etc.

II. Parliamentary agreement

- Fleur Flanery listed following agreement points.
 - o Raise the profile of the Active Travel Office, and through the Office coordinate the rollout of \$30 million in additional priority footpath maintenance, cycling and walking route upgrades, and age-friendly suburb improvements in our shopping centres and existing suburbs.
 - o Facilitate the establishment of bike hubs by the private sector (such as those operating in Brisbane).
 - o Roll out micro parks in urban areas and establish an ‘adopt a park’ scheme to increase amenity and usage of local open spaces.
 - o Undertake a feasibility study into establishing a new northern Canberra region National Park, including existing nature reserves around Mount Majura, Mount Ainslie and Mulligans Flat.
 - o A cycling tourism strategy and new Belconnen Bikeway to promote cycling and make riding a bike easier around the Belconnen town centre.
- Noted that the feasibility study is an opportunity to look into a park on the northside of Canberra and information regarding a reference group will be provided to the RUSG.

3. Key activity from Government

I. Australian Adventure Activity Standards

- The feedback received as part of the recent public consultation on the core standards is now with the Common Content Technical Working Group of the AAAS for review.
- Noted there was a lack of consultation of the need of the standards amongst recreation sector.
- Canberra Bushwalking Club raised concerns over insurance and fear the standards will be imposed on groups to take up thus affecting existing insurance arrangements.
- Rebecca Kelley explained that the AAAS will not be mandatory
- It was suggested RUSG members visit the AAAS website or contact the Secretariat Murray Irwin at Outdoors Victoria – contact details on website.

Update:

- *Outdoors Victoria is working with Bushwalking Australia to allay the fears of the Bushwalking Community.*

II. Mountain Biking 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.
- Noted a cycling tourism and eco tourism strategy could have benefits for multi user groups given its intention to drive tourism towards natural environments, places of interest and recreational pursuits.

Action:

- Keep mountain biking strategy as an ongoing agenda item.

III. Park and Reserves

- The Lower Cotter Catchment Management plan will be released for public comment in January 2017. There will be public information sessions following its release. RUSG members will be notified via email.

4. Policy development for the use of pedelec bikes (colloquially called e-bikes) in Canberra Nature Parks

- Jasmine Foxlee explained that the use of e-bikes in Canberra Nature Parks is currently being discussed within ACT Parks and Conservation Services and further information can be provided at the February RUSG meeting.

Action:

- Place e-bikes on Agenda for February meeting

5. Strategy for and role of Parks and Conservation / Active Canberra / RUSG members in Visit Canberra development around (specifically) eco-tourism and cyclo-tourism.

- Noted Parks and Conservation and Active Canberra will be involved in the development of the Cycle Tourism Strategy.

6. Role of Nature Play and its extension into Canberra Nature Parks

- Alesha Brown explained the ACT Government is promoting the importance of unstructured self-directed play in urban open spaces as well as Canberra Nature Parks.
- Fleur briefed group on the recent natural play spaces competition run through TCCS to establish three natural play spaces to complement existing playgrounds in O'Connor, Barton and Tuggeranong. Designs will be presented to the community in early 2017 and construction is expected to start by mid 2017. Further information can be found here <http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/home/news-items/natural-play-spaces>
- Jasmine Foxlee explained that Parks and Conservation services will be trialling some child centred events in Canberra Nature Parks in 2017 and will be promoting the upcoming launch of the Nature Play passports within Tidbinbilla, Namadgi and Canberra Nature Parks.

7. Update on the plans for upgrading the summit area of Mt Ainslie. When will work on this commence, how long is it expected to take, and will it impact on people walking or running up the walking trail from the War Memorial?

- Fleur briefed group that Mt Ainslie design competition announced in early 2016 will not be happening this year. Funding has not been included within the recent election commitment budgets.
- Noted the walking tracks behind the summit will not be affected.

8. Update on the Majura Pines Recreation Area, currently closed indefinitely because of fallen and unsafe trees.

- ACT Parks and Conservation Services explained that although the cycle route was open, the remaining area had been assessed and there is still work to be done before it is safe to the public. It will most likely open in December.

9. Schedule next meeting

Suggestion: Wednesday 15th February