

Recreation User Stakeholder Group (RUSG)

Minutes

8 December 2020

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams (Teleconference)

Chair	Rebecca Kelly	Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, CMTEDD	
	Daniel Iglesias	Executive Branch Manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS), EPSDD	
	Teresa Comacchio	Senior Director, Visit Canberra, CMTEDD	
	Stephen Alegria	Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, TCCS	
	Lisa Testoni	Director, Community and Visitor Programs, PCS	
	Amelia Souter	Senior Project Officer, Land Strategy and Environment, PCS	
	Peter Langdon	Manager Forests, Fire Forests and Roads, PCS	
	Secretariat	Elle Greet	Project Officer, Sport and Recreation CMTEDD
		Lori Modde	CEO, Outdoors NSW & ACT
		Tom McQuillan	Pedal Power ACT, La Velocita
Adam Horner		YMCA of Canberra	
Alan Vogt		Kowalski Trailworks	
Christine Lawrance		Equestrian ACT	
Ken Gordon		ACT Veterans Athletic Club	
Graham Scully		National Parks Association of the ACT	
Martin Hine		ACT Government, Education	
Peter Dalton		Brindabella Bushwalking Club	
Stephen Goggs	ACT Rogaining Association		

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1. Welcome and Introduction
 2. Actions from previous meeting:
 - a) *TCCS to follow up. Signs used did not provide a solution. ACT Masters Athletics Association (Ken Gordon) would like further consultation with ACT Equestrian and ACT Government on this matter – **actioned and thank you from Christine Lawrance from Equestrian ACT.***
 - b) *Sport and Recreation/Nature Play CBR (Elle Greet) to contact Graham Scully to promote events – **actioned.***
 - c) *ACT Government to refresh RUSG stakeholder list – **actioned and ongoing.***
 - d) *Send out survey to stakeholders regarding meeting preferences – **survey sent out and meeting was adjusted to suit stakeholders needs***
 - e) *Discuss communication methods between Govt and stakeholders – **actioned through survey and meeting.***

3. Key activities:

I	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p> <p>Mountain Bike Trail Project – PCS received overwhelming support through the public consultation process. Further consultation with Equestrian ACT regarding Uriarra will continue. If there is any concern please come forward, PCS are always welcome to feedback.</p> <p>Completed Trail Bench Marking Report – the report validated the visitor experience with quantitative and qualitative data. To note, the allocated funding is purely for design, and not for infrastructure. Majority of funds needed is something PCS will have to bid for through the Treasury.</p> <p>ACTION: Christine, ACT Endurance Riders Association and Amelia Souter to catch up and discuss concerns regarding Stromlo and Blue Range – Amelia will organise a meeting to discuss.</p> <p>Canberra Nature Park Management Plan – Still no plan on the table. Legislation rights according to the law must be referred to a Standing Committee (SC). We don't have SC in the legislative committee. As soon as a SC through the legislative committee is created it will take 3 days to submit. Standing Committees can hold a public enquiry or recommend to the Minister to be accepted in its entirety. If a public enquiry is preferred, the process will take longer to progress. In the meantime, Daniel is looking to see if the revised version is online.</p> <p>ACTION: Send a link to the report from YourSay Report - <i>actioned</i></p>	Daniel Iglesias
II	<p>Transport Canberra & City Services</p> <p>Permits and easing of restrictions with COVID-19 – licensing and compliance and, permits for events have recently been updated. TCCS has been inundated with event applications. <i>Please plan and submit your event/s in advance to prevent disappointment.</i></p> <p>Increasing amount of community generated bike tracks around Canberra (increased over COVID-19 period) – TCCS are developing guidelines for public groups and people to construct tracks in open spaces such as nature parks. The guidelines will assist in providing a formal guide for community members before they construct trails/tracks.</p>	Stephen Alegria

	<p>Use of the Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) for large events – <i>Christine Lawrance</i> is keen to talk with Government agencies around how Government book the BNT. Limiting the bookings to one day a week to limit the use for horse riding. Not having a permit for more than 12 months.</p> <p><i>Tom McQuillan comment</i> – MTN bike groups and other organisations would like to discuss the comments from Equestrian ACT.</p> <p><i>Stephen Goggs question regarding lawn mowing –</i> Question: does usage get fed through to grass cutting people? Answer: TCCS may have the ability to tailor grass cutting when it's not peak season. Will take on board and consider.</p> <p>ACTION: Stephen and Christine are continuing to progress and will send something out to all groups for comment and consideration.</p>	
III	<p>Forestry</p> <p>Strong demand for events in the plantations, being used for recreation venue – the plantations continue to be used as a recreation venue/ Groups include mountain bike groups, orienteering groups, Terra in the Berra event, Kowen Trail Run event, Canberra Burners Winter Solstice event, royal military college training, Dual Sport Motorcycle Riders Association events, 4WD training organisations and rally events, Canberra Sled Dog Classic 2020 training.</p> <p>Bushfire season – hit the soft wood timber industry hard. The ACT were lucky and did not lose any of their pine plantations, however, have assisted NSW with salvaging timber lost (25%).</p> <p>ACTION: Peter to send out harvesting map to stakeholders, is looking to have improved information on the Environment website.</p> <p>Harvesting matters Kowen Forest – new maps and signs have been erected and work is underway to assist people with accessing tracks without lifting bikes. Bull dozers are currently working to create new tracks prior to planting new pine seedlings. Limited volunteer numbers have slowed the process.</p> <p>Majura Pines – the trail maintenance group and forestry team are assisting with planting native trees. The Majura Pines Trail Alliance provided feedback on the forest tree thinning and clear fall approaches. Peter will continue to progress with the group.</p>	Peter Langdon

IV	<p>Sport and Recreation Continue to work with the sector regarding easing COVID-19 restrictions –great work to the sector for their role in getting us to where we are.</p> <p>CBR Sport Awards – Congratulations to Orienteering ACT, a finalist for the Ministers Innovation Award and Rebecca McConnell who is a finalist for mountain biking for the Women’s Sport Award.</p>	Rebecca Kelley
V	<p>CMTEDD Nature Based Tourism Strategy - No longer a priority will continue to revisit and test if still relevant.</p> <p>Canberra’s Domestic Marketing Strategy - Recovery to Canberra’s visitor economy is underway. The domestic market is key to attracting visitors, leveraging events and tourism opportunities. During COVID, Visit Canberra conducted extensive research with focus groups to understand the perceptions of Canberra and visitors and are now working to promote Canberra’s recreational activities and opportunities as well as food, accommodation and retail.</p> <p>ACTION: Teresa to send out documents. Comments on either document please get in touch with her - actioned</p> <p>New platform is based around our brand as a city – experience of visitors is authentic – Canberra is welcoming, friendly, progressive. Locals know that Canberra is more than meets the eye. Discover there’s more to the city, proximity to nature, precincts etc.</p> <p>Creative campaign launched –in September 2020 - FIND MORE THAN WHAT YOU CAME FOR to target the domestic market.</p>	Teresa Comacchio
VI	<p>Outdoors NSW & ACT Introduction</p> <p>Lori Modde introduction – Outdoors NSW & ACT is about connecting people with nature. Bringing opportunities for recreational organisations and business to improve their skills and make lives easier. The organisation, in 2019 are pleased expand into the ACT, 12% of their members are Canberrans. Working with Canberra Tourism (campaigns) to promote outdoor recreation in ACT.</p>	Lori Modde

	ACTION: Elle send link Outdoor NSW & ACT link with minutes - <i>actioned</i>	
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