



# TOURISM CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

## TRANSPORT SECTOR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 2<sup>ND</sup> December 2009  
Meeting commenced: 10.03 am

**WELCOME** to all present with a special welcome to Marty Bollmeyer who will be presenting on the CDU On Line Guide Course

**PRESENT:** Henry Szczypiorski (DPI), Brett Graham (SEIT), John Stafford (Tourism NT) Brett Hill (Adventure Tours), Warwick Rock (APT), Peter Grigg (TCA), Darrin Smart (AAT Kings), Anita Meyer (OnTourNT), Pieter Bosch (ATA), Phil Taylor (Wayoutback), Tania Little (DUT), Jill Catchlove (P&WL)

**APOLOGIES:** Jo-Anne Harking (Tourism NT), Harry Osborne (Ossies 4WD), Wayne Thompson (Dysons), Don McDonald (Asp Airport), May Taylor (MVR), Morag McGrath (CDU), Chris Hannocks (P&WL)

**CHAIRMAN:** Warrick Rock (APT)

**MINUTES:** Merrilyn McIver (TCA)

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TRANSPORT MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were dispersed to the meeting's attendees. A motion was put forward that minutes of the October 2009 meeting be accepted.

**Moved:** Peter Grigg

**Seconded:** Brett Graham

**Motion carried.**

- Presentation by Marty Bollmeyer on the CDU On Line Guide Course
- CDU is in charge of Assessment
- Parks have responsibility for who has to have accreditation, when coming into place and how they will police it.
- Cut off date is February 2011
- If enrolling in or after August this year, only have to do 5 assessments
- Designed to be an online accreditation but can have the course printed off (287 pages) and CDU will accept hand written assessments. Re RPL Process – oral assessment can be done for long term guides
- Course consists of 11 written assessments and 1 verbal Q&A
- Marty will be available on 10 & 17 December to speak to anyone re assessments and is available to businesses to talk to guides
- Between 40 – 80 hours course involvement
- Course consists of:
  - Cultural Awareness
  - Park History
  - International Significance
  - Joint Management Consultation
  - World Heritage Listings

Compliance – Acts  
Exploring the Park – area specific  
Where services are located ie accom, fuel, washing facilities  
Park Regulations  
Scenarios  
Natural & Cultural Values  
Oral Q&A

- Senior First aid is NOT part of the accreditation but a requirement of Parks
- \$2.00 per nominal hour of the unit for all NT residents, \$2.00 X 80 hours = \$160.00  
Interstate and overseas residents will be at Fee For Service at approximately \$8.00 per nominal hour, \$8.00 X 80 hours = \$640.00  
2011 fees are unknown but subject to government funding.
- Noted that Tour Operator Workshops held at Ayers Rock is not conducive with the course and needs to be lined up to compliment each course.  
Rocky suggested needs to be modified and to have more workshops throughout the year to accommodate the turnover of guides.
- Marty suggested students send a covering letter/sheet with their details as he has received 20 assignments with no names. Provide a header if doing online. Student numbers are on the statement they receive.
- CDU has extra staff/lecturers to deal with assessment workload
- Transport operators can have a staff member as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party lecturer to deliver to their guides. Contact CDU if interested in this.
- Lively discussion took place regarding difficulties and changes made to this course

### **3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- 3.1 Emergency phone list still to come  
Collection of wood notifications – code of conduct & ethics – illegal to collect  
Action: Peter to send out emergency list plus reminder regarding wood collecting ethics – Operators to print out and display to their staff.
- 3.2 UKTNP Draft Plan – there has been a Board of Management meeting discussions which will be delivered in due course. 170 submissions received
- 3.3 Anne Jacobs unable to attend this meeting but will be an ongoing invitation
- 3.4 Criminal history checks continuing at a reasonable pace
- 3.5 Larapinta trail review on workshops  
Jill Catchlove (P&WL) advised an update of 2 x 1.5 hour sessions being arranged for next week. Email invite to go out

#### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

##### **4.1 Update on roads network:**

Henry Szczypiorski (DPI) reported:

###### *Red Centre Way :*

Govt have design for inner loop 95% complete. Depends on access to gravel and water with CLC

NT Govt has to deal with AAPA re sacred site existence. Aboriginal land has to be dealt with the CLC as a separate exercise for access on to land. Royalties may have to be paid. CLC have identified themselves as a one stop shop which has put Govt in difficult situation on who to deal with. Whole issue of sacred sites being identified.

Henry distributed a West MacDonnell Range – Tourist Loop Roads map and explained the various shaded areas and layout.

Need a guarantee of access to areas of water and gravel which can be frustrating in the planning stages.

Storm damage last Oct on *Namitjira* Road – repair work being undertaken within next 5-6 weeks.

Inner loop some implications on completion - No actual time frame for completion.

###### *Other issues:*

Larapinta and current maintenance:

In the last 3-4 weeks \$1m has been allocated to Larapinta Drive for specific maintenance works plus \$550,000 for works outside Kings Canyon

Remaining \$450,000 will be allocated in best possible priorities.

Significant increase in maintenance budget on Larapinta drive in general sense.

Allows 6 months of effective surface condition grading and targeting problem areas.

The Tourism group is identified as the main push behind the success of extra funding for works.

Construction is a delivery agency – not doing the actual work

Rocky proposed a road trip /drive out to identify problem areas.

Henry advised need to identify the actual issues as a positive– not just unsafe, dangerous terms. Anyone interested to let Rocky know and will organise with Henry in the new year.

Phil queried if a program has been set down where a grader will be run over dry roads.

Henry replied the budget allows Larapinta for example to be graded 4 times per year.

Wet grade system allows more control over efforts put into the road.

Maintenance grades can coincide with rain which make a huge difference. Increase budget may allow for an extra grade. Timing is crucial.

Peter advised Mereenie Loop left out of Parliamentary sessions last week but other roads were identified.

Focus must continue on the Red Centre Way- particularly to deal with the extra traffic due to the concentrated advertising push of this area by Tourism NT. Tourists must get from A to B in a safe and drivable manner.

Phil requested a schedule of grader work for past year from Henry.

Concern of private drivers and tour operators withdrawing from these roads because of the bad conditions. Tourism needs Henry's Department support to continue with our push for improved road conditions.

*Other Road Networks:*

Re the Ernest Giles Road – Larapinta is the preferred route to Kings Canyon. Ernest Giles will be maintained as current but not a prime route. \$.5 m spent on it in recent times.

Rocky advised we need to focus on only a couple of areas to target the Ministers as opposed to a lot of roads i.e. Mereenie Loop, the crossing near Kings Canyon Resort over Kings Creek, and the Stuart Hwy north of the Palmer River. Stick to this as our major focus and hopefully they will eventually get fixed.

Henry advised he needs actual data to support the problems ie hours closed vs days which is valuable information to build up a case

Phil suggested we approach new owners of Kings Canyon – Delaware, to support our push.

Phil queried where the new "old south road" works going ?

Henry replied sealed section right through to community on Maryvale

Phil feels it is a huge waste of money going through to aboriginal community and not into tourism.

Henry advised a vehicle count of 91 vehicles per day in both directions on this road as a point of interest

He gave other traffic indications over various roads which are pretty consistent over last 10 years

**Action 1: Peter will take this issue to Gerry McCarthy**

**Action 2: The attendees of the TSM see it vital that the Tourism Transport Sector and NT Roads Dept continue to develop improved communications and inter-actions to provide "on the ground" information to pass between both organisations such as, photographic evidence, accurate incident reports, factual descriptions of problematic areas or sections of roads and correct data in relation to operational issues. This was discussed and supported by those in attendance.**

**4.2 TCC Meeting**

Rocky stated concern over lack of TCC meetings (1 this year). No tourism person has as yet been elected to the Board who are trying to push through Draft plan without input from Tourism industry.

5 members from Tourism and 6 members from Parks sit on this Board. Tourism concerns are not getting past at these meetings.

There are major issues on acceptance of TCC advice

Need to raise our frustrations with Parks in Canberra and to meet with the new Parks Manager and construct talk with her to discuss original intent and get back to that.

Peter invited any Company to get on to Peter Cochrane at Parks Australia if they have any issues.

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS:

5.1 Rocky referred to H endorsement licences – May from MVR advised cannot drive on a NZ driver licence.

NZ Drivers licences can be kept and don't need to do a driving or theory test but need H endorsement. Medical would be recognized from NZ up to 6 months

Pieter advised he had to do the full course

**Action:** Rocky will confirm this with May or Karen at MVR

Phil advised a letter from previous NZ employer to Aust coach company will be accepted by MVR on the same licence rating.

Peter advised to address all queries on this matter to one person (Karen) at MVR so a process is in place.

If leaving NT to NZ they make you do everything all over again and start from scratch.

Criminal history check query if needed from NZ

5.2 CPV meeting was held yesterday and attended by Rocky. Re question about having it compulsory to have a first aid certificate to obtain an H endorsement - CPV committee moved a motion that not required - should be up to the company to decide on first aid certificates. Note: taxi/hire car industry first aid certificate is not required.

Peter advised it is part of park permit that Guides have to be senior first aiders. Discussion took place on expiry date. Recommended each person sit a refresher course every 3 years. Currently do one refresher course, then have to do the full certificate again.

Phil advised first aid certificate is now part of the VET training course. Not compulsory to refresh under this system as no expiry date. Suggested we tie in through H endorsement.

Suggested each company have a policy on updating senior first aid certificates every 3 years.

5.3 Phil wrote to Transport Minister on what's happening heavy transport legislation? Simon Saunders has been kept in the loop on this

5.4 Jill gave an update on the restructure of P&WL

Peter requested an outline on the alcohol restrictions in park areas

5.5 Anita expressed her frustrations with CDU and course registrations

**Action:** Peter to check with Chris Hannocks on this matter

## **ROUND THE TABLE**

Not minuted

**Meeting closed:** 12:57 pm

**Next Meeting:** 10 February 2010