

**THE HEART.
THE SOUL.**



THE CENTRE.

**Transport SECTOR MEETING
Wednesday 14 October TCA Boardroom**

Meeting Commenced 10:05 am

ATTENDANCE: Warwick Rock (APT), Jill Catchlove (P&WL), John Stafford (TNT), Steve Shearer (Thrifty), Kathy Graham (SEIT), Peter Bosett (Adventure Tours), Jonathan Vea (P&WL), Brett Graham (Desert Tracks)

APOLOGIES: Peter Grigg (TCA), Phil Taylor (Wayoutback), Wayne Thompson (Dysons), Anita Meyer (On Tour), Ron Johnson (Palm Valley Tours), Jo-anne Harkin (TNT), Brett Hill (ATA)

CHAIRPERSON: Warwick Rock (APT)

MINUTES: Merrilyn McIver (TCA)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were dispersed to the meeting's attendees. A motion was put forward that minutes of the September 2009 meeting be accepted.
Moved: Steve Shearer **Seconded:** Kathy Graham
Motion carried.

Jonathan Vea from Parks & Wildlife

Presented the Watarrka & West MacDonnell National Parks Joint Management Draft Plans Distributed some hardcopies and CD's and can also download from website.
www.nt.gov.au/nretas/consult/

Invited and welcomes input and views from members. Submissions close on 3 November 2009. Jonathon explained how the Draft was developed in consultation with Traditional Owners, CLC staff and Parks & Wildlife Service staff.

Focus of plans is on shared decision making. Couple of points mentioned:
Proposal on possible name change of West MacDonnell to Tyurretye.
Includes alternative walks around Watarrka.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

3a. Emergency phone list still to come

3b. Marty & Morag from CDU invited to Dec meeting to speak re UKTNP Online Course. Rocky reiterated the Tour Operator workshop needs to work in with online course.

3c. Response submission re UKTNP draft plan has been submitted.

- 3d. Commercial Passenger Vehicle meeting attended by Rocky recently in Darwin.
Confusing but ongoing
- 3e. August 2010 very busy event wise – accommodation - NRTHOF + Henley-On-Todd etc +
Conferences .. Suggest keep on agenda for discussion for next year.
- 3f. Mereenie Loop vs Red Centre Way. Other alternatives being discussed - ongoing
- 3g. Steve Shearer advises toilet block now installed at Lambert Centre.
John Stafford advised of request for two toilets to be installed along Namitjira Drive.
- 3h. TCA to invite Anne Jacobs to next meeting in November
- 3i. Criminal history checks for H endorsement has now gone to Safe NT. Seem to be moving at a
reasonable pace.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 4a. Rocky gave an update on the Online course
Marty at CDU tabled various questions including when, how, where to sign up
Will email out the schedule Marty produced. Some matters included:
Tourism NT has given TCA \$5000 to distribute to Guides to do the course. Query on
distribution of these funds and Peter wants to know how many guides in CA to get
approximate idea on how to distribute funds. Enough for approx 50 guides.
Some operators are already accredited so if registered with college will only cost their guides
\$70 to do the course . TCA may be able to assist further if more than 50 guides.

RPL: need to gather evidence from traditional owners from employer etc . Marty suggests
it is better off to sign up for the course and then do a one on one interview with Marty and not
to go down track of RPL

Another suggestion re Guide doing course – if do one section of the course per week, will take
approx 3 months to do the course. Marty has arranged for two more lecturers to assist with the
workload of courses being done.

Suggestion of Guides wearing badge they have completed the course - optional

Early next year having some classroom nights to assist in Asp and Yulara. Course is free if
staff reside at Yulara.

Compliance – nothing to do with CDU who are only putting on the course. It is a compulsory
course but is up to Parks on how it will be policed.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 5a. John Stafford advised:
that DPI in discussions with Epenarra station, have advised that the
Epenarra track to the Barkley Hwy will be open to traffic. Visitors will need to check with
Epenarra homestead before proceeding, to acquire permission. As permission is still required
and the road may not be open all the time, Tourism NT is unable to incorporate this section of
the road into the Binns track until further clarification is sought.

CLC have confirmed that consultations have been completed for the northern access into Boggy Hole. This allows safety and directional signage to be installed along the route.

Reminder: Ecotourism Conference 9-12 November and Savannah Symposium 14-15 November

5b. Jill Catchlove advised P&WL starting on a Larapinta trail review for the next 5 years. Formal workshop scheduled on 12 November. Please advise Jill if wanting to attend.

Kings Canyon – doing some works on Rim Walk - maintenance in three areas commencing 20 Oct for 6 weeks. Also maintenance being done at Ormiston Gorge.

P&WL dealing with heat related incidences at Watarrka – tours taking off at midday and not appropriate clothing etc. Jill stated it is duty of care for Operations Managers or tour business to ensure all caution is taken.

Missing P&WL UHF radio may be with a tour operator. Could operators check with their Guides. Email was sent out about this by TCA previously.

5c. John Stafford mentioned wood being left on side of road dangerous, as too near the road
Note: No collecting wood on Angus Downs as now declared an aboriginal conservation area by the Federal Government.

5d. Rocky advised received reports of unprofessional behaviour by some (backpacker) operators at the Qantas baggage collection area, ie .behaviour and dress standard.

Also problem of operators exiting on way out to northern side of terminal over pole speed hump instead of roundabout - should drive out correct way. Steve advised he thought that exit was mainly out for airport workers and not tour operators. Rocky to check with Don McDonald

Rocky also expressed concern regarding reports of fuel trucks on the Luritja road taking up both sides of road on corners. Steve mentioned could be the water tanker travelling from Mereenie and dumping water in salt lake by Tilmouth Well. Rocky to check out

ROUND THE TABLE

Next Meeting: TBA 10:00 TCA Boardroom.

Invite Anne Jacobs to attend at her convenience in November

Meeting closed at 11:50 am