



**Transport SECTOR MEETING  
Wednesday 9 September TCA Boardroom**

Meeting Commenced 10:02 am

**ATTENDANCE:** Peter Grigg (TCA) Wayne Goslen (P&WL), Chris Martin (TNT), Steve Shearer (Thrifty), Jo-Anne Harkin (TNT), Myles McClure (APT) Don McDonald (Asp Airport), Harry Osborn (Ossies 4wd Tours), Phil Taylor (Wayoutback), May Taylor (MVR)

**APOLOGIES:** Warwick Rock (APT), Jill Catchlove (P&WL), Pieter Bosch (Adven Tours), Brett Hill (Adven Tours), Anita Meyer (OnTour) Wayne Thomsson (Dysons), Ann Jacob (DPI), Henry Szczypiorski (DPI),

**CHAIRPERSON:** Peter Grigg

**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 August 2009 meeting were accepted.

**Moved:** Steve Shearer

**Seconded:** Don McDonald

**Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**3d.** Phone list still to come

**3e.** Component pricing – GM still getting enquiries

**3f.** UKTNP Online Course: Martin Bollmeyer and Morag McGrath are an apology but will be in attendance at the October meeting.

Myles (who has done the course) reported just finding time to do the exercise.

Guide courses should be run in conjunction for cost affectivity.

Another alternative is the CD and course on offer from

which would suit individuals - See Peter for further information?

Phil advised Top End offering generic program 28 day course at a \$5000 cost. Consistency of The programs content and its relevance to the Central Australian Guiding industry was questioned.

Decided to promote the Uluru Guides Accreditation through the Desert guides program also

**3g.** UKTNP Draft Plan Listed on the TCA Website:

Some points noted: Support for the climb to remain in its current form.

Bulk discount tickets to be reinstated as a 10% Administration fee.

Addressed environmental issues, toilets etc.

Recognised a more determined effort needs to be put in place by Parks Australia in providing Indigenous employment opportunities.

**3h.** Bulk purchase tickets built into response above

**3i.** Survey response – 82% members support Uluru Rock Climb to remain open

57% okay support uranium exploration

Will make responses avail at our general meeting next week.

**3j.** Re: Adam Giles and Gerry McCarthy invitation to attend a TS meeting, Peter is meeting Minister McCarthy this afternoon. Invitation still open for both Giles and McCarthy to attend.

**4c** As Rocky is away cannot present report on Commercial Passenger Vehicle Meeting in Darwin.

**5c** Acknowledge Alice Springs has done very well with recent events in town

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Mereenie Loop**

Peter advised he has spoken with Minister Burns' office re: the appalling condition of this road.

At the ARTN Conference recently, Minister Burns stated: "we need to accept the fact that the Mereenie Loop will not be sealed and we are looking for alternatives."

There was stunned response from all NT Tourism attendees. GM advised he later spoke to Minister Burns and advised him of the critical need for major repairs and maintenance to be put into this road. GM informed the Minister that the road, coupled with drivers unfamiliar with the road conditions will lead to someone being badly hurt or killed on the road. The Minister offered to come down and drive it – date yet to be determined.

Members agreed that the upgrading to the Red Centre Way is a number one priority for TCA

Steve Shearer stated whilst personally not in favour of sealing of this road (because in hire car business), he agrees the road is in a disgusting state and falling apart. Repairs on vehicles are astronomical because clients drive on this road.

There is nowhere on that road to pull over. Also finds it astounding Transport & Works putting a toilet at the Lambert Centre as not a very popular spot.

Harry Osborne advised monies are being spent on Arltunga, Ruby Gap roads which are not as widely used but nothing on the Mereenie!

Jo-anne Harkin advised because of previous plans for 4x4 promotions, monies were allocated to these other roads around Alice for that purpose.

Jo-anne advised Hermannsburg to Ipolera and to Namitjira Drive inner loop being done.

Need to Invite Anne Jacobs (in Tony Renshaws absence) to reiterate our concerns as Tony appeared to be getting things done and need Anne to continue the support.

Need to relay these concerns to Mccarthy and get his support. Road conditions safety issue and prioritising road needs

**Action:** Will progress this after Peter talks with Minister McCarthy  
Peter requested support from tour operators, safety conditions, costs, vehicle damage etc of driving over the RCW. Support from operators vital to support a TCA push.

**Carried**

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**4.1** Uluru Guides to be invited to next meeting

**4.2** TCA on how to split \$5000 for Uluru Guides subsidy – Exec to decide

**4.3** Membership Invitation to the opening of the new viewing area at Uluru. GM will forward more information on to members as it becomes available. On 9 October, the old sunrise viewing area will be closed to all sunrise viewing opportunities

**4.4** GM advised he has received a report of an operator that has been fined/cautioned for not having TV plated vehicles and moving clients around in a private car and directed the question to May Taylor (MVR) Peter enquired from May (MVR). May advised that Transport Inspectors have to catch offenders before they can be fined, this also includes interstate operators. Operators usually report these people to MVR and MVR investigate. In some instances MVR has to consider where the tour starts and finished before a charge can be laid.

**4.5** Phil Taylor enquired of May re: PTB or other state licences to drive tour vehicles – allowable for a 3 month temporary period. Is it possible for exemption for an extension on a shorter period? May advised an operator can apply for an exemption on a case by case basis and suggested apply for an H endorsement if outside the allowed 3 month stay.

Query on arrangements with NZ licences - May to check.

Concern over criminal history checks state to state regarding cost and time delay-is on the national agenda and it would be advantageous to have state comparisons.

Discussion on mutual recognition on a National Drivers licence, re: medical, driver ID, training certificates, Police checks and disqualifying offences should be uniform around the nation.

**4.6** Phil Taylor commented on the Tourism NT Strategic Plan supports the Red Centre Way as a priority and this is also indicated in the West Macs Development Plan. Dept. ENRITA

**4.7** Harry Osborne complimented Tourism NT on their advertising efforts as the Binns track and Andado roads are really churned up because of increased traffic!

**4.8** Phil advised Newhaven bird sanctuary is definitely on the map with interest from visitors.

**4.9** May advised she is going on extended leave for 7 weeks from 24 Sept - 16 Nov. Karen will be her replacement. Peter requested email on this so that he can distribute to members.

## **ROUND THE TABLE:**

**Next Meeting:** 14 October 10:00 TCA Boardroom.

**Meeting closed at** 11:40 am