



## Transport SECTOR MEETING

**Wednesday 12 August TCA Boardroom**

Meeting Commenced 10:05 am

**ATTENDANCE:** Wayne Thompson (Dysons), Tania Little (DUT), John Stafford (TNT), Steve Shearer (Thrifty), Don McDonald (Asp Airport), Brett Hill (Adventure Tours), Tia McMullen (Adventure Tours), Peter Grigg (TCA)

**APOLOGIES:** Warwick Rock (APT), Henry Szczypiorski (DPI), Harry Osborne (Ossies)

**CHAIRPERSON:** Deputy Wayne Thompson (Dysons) in absence of Chairman

**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 July 2009 meeting were accepted.

**Moved:** Peter Grigg                      **Seconded:** Wayne Thompson

**Motion carried.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

3a. Garden of Eden – awaiting further information re feedback proposal from P&WL

3b. The meeting extends their thanks to Henry Szczypiorski (DPI) for arranging the visit to Palm Valley which proved to be most productive.  
Peter asked operators to provide a report on how their drivers have found the road since that trip and upgrades

3c. Peter advised \$25,000 available from DPI for signage. Advice on such required signage now to be compiled – attend to in General Business

3d. Emergency services phone list still to come

3e. Component Price Advertising information still avail on website – Peter available to check brochures and advise if need to talk to ACCC

3f. UKTNP Online course.

Wayne raised the need for the UKTNP Guide accreditation to include RPL as experience gained through a number of years in the guiding role.

**Action:** Peter to speak to Martin Bollmeyer (CDU) to try and clarify such requirement and invite to next Transport Sector meeting to discuss.

3g. Uluru Plan of Management closes on Sept 4 for public comment – encourage all operators to Comment. TCA submitting their comments – discuss in General Business.

3h. Bulk purchase Park tickets. Included in response to UKTNP Plan of Management and hopefully still apply enough pressure to revisit the matter.

Otherwise suggest we load up 4 buses of owners, drivers, staff to turn up at once and purchase individual tickets to show the difficulties in this process.

Peter ascertained that 75% of all people visiting Uluru are on a commercial vehicles, ie bus, on tour, hire car etc with 25% being self drive.

3i. Waiting on Chairman to give us wording for survey on uranium mining plus question on the Rock climb

3j. Adam Giles and Gerry McCarthy separately invited to our meeting but both advised otherwise engaged this week.

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

4a. Signage : \$25,000 available

Need to ascertain sites where needed of a clear indication of which roads are open or closed. Use the word "Unpassable" instead of "Closed" as Steve is concerned about the legal Act and the word "Closed".

Peter submitted suggested ideas for such road signage with discussion taking place, the outcome as per attached

Road Condition Advice (phone No)

**Action:** Peter to present to Tony Renshaw

John Stafford advised he has been working with P&WL and DPI through Bellette Media on signage and presented some mock-up designs. 1800 x 1200 in size He needs to discuss further with industry members re which message wording appropriate to each route.

4b. UKTNP Plan of Management submissions close 4<sup>th</sup> September. TCA are putting forwarding a submission including following points :

- . 75% traffic is commercial vehicle and 25% self drive
- . To be aware of implications regarding brochures, require 3 year lead in time for changes to brochures & itineraries
- . Commercial partnership – case of why bulk purchase park tickets should remain. 10%reduction is an admin fee not a discount
- . Suggest separate sunset/sunrise viewing areas for various tour companies
- . After hours opening to take advantage of other opportunities ie – full moon tour
- . Rock climb – need to gauge what industry thinks

Need comments from industry representatives by 4 Sept to include in reply.

4c. Rocky presently at Commercial Passenger Vehicle Meeting in Darwin. He advised NT Driver Fatigue legislation currently on hold at present due to National body bringing in national legislation, 2013 earliest would come in. Wayne advised categories by areas re individual exceptions in different areas being considered. He will keep meeting up to date on this. Rocky will brief Sept meeting on what transpired at Darwin meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

5a. Steve Shearer advised he had a recent trip to Kings Canyon and reported the Mereenie Loop road is disgusting. Maintenance costs are extremely high re hire vehicles on this road. Deplorable that this major tourist road has been let go as far as it is. It may be that no future Mereenie road be allowed for hire cars and other companies may follow suit which would have drastic implications for the industry. Steve submitted photos of garbage visible at a roadside lookout stop which is disgusting plus Mereenie Loop road conditions sign. Road is just not being maintained at all.

Peter advised he has been contacted by Tourism Ministers Ministerial Officer re the Mereenie Loop road. Significant dollars now needed to repatriate the road back to a useable surface. The TCA GM has offered to provide a full condition report back to the Minister's Office on the 24<sup>th</sup> August. GM requested industry support with letters from transport members re troubles, costs, dissatisfaction which is breaking transport businesses.

Peter needs to identify the small area which is under Native Title control/land issues.

5b. Wayne reminded everyone of ASTC By-law meeting this evening and encouraged members to attend and participate. 5:30pm start Andy McNeill room.

5c. Various events coming up next few weeks  
Variety Bash in town next week.  
Variety NT parade morning of Saturday 15 Aug through Mall.  
Henley-On-Todd Regatta next weekend  
Transport Hall of Fame Convention end of August.

## **ROUND THE TABLE:**

Next Meeting: 9 September 2009 10:00 TCA Boardroom.

Meeting closed at 11:40 pm