

**THE HEART.
THE SOUL.**



THE CENTRE.

**Transport SECTOR MEETING
Wednesday 13 May TCA Boardroom**

Meeting Commenced 10:05 am

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Bonanni (Parks & Wildlife), Kevin Reid (Central Car Rentals)
Tija McMullen (ATA), Peter Grigg (TCA), Warwick Rock (APT),
Denise Gamon (OnTour NT), Wayne Thompson (Dysons), John Stafford
(TNT), Phil Taylor (Wayoutback)

APOLOGIES: Henry Szczypiorski (DPI), Tony Renshaw (DPI), Harry Osborn (Ossies
Outback 4WD Tours)

CHAIRPERSON: Warwick Rock (APT)

MINUTES: Merrilyn McIver (TCA)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed.

A motion was put forward that minutes of the April 2009 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Denise Gamon **Seconded:** Phil Taylor

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

457 Visas – now off the agenda as is ongoing. Particular thanks to Anita Meyer for the huge amount of work she has done over many months. This matter is in the hands of Federal Govt and support will continue in pursuing the matter.

Desert Change - 180 registered guides on the Desert Guide list and this sector is driven by the local Guiding industry

Website launch – presently referred to as “West MacDonnell’s Visitor Centre (Red Centre Way)

Heavitree / Palm Circuit Road Realignment: Public meeting scheduled 23 JUNE at 2:00 pm at 1st Floor Greatorex Building DPI. All interested parties to attend.

Photo gallery – invitation going out shortly to submit photos to build an image library

Mereenie Loop not an item in recent budget but TCA will continue to lobby & matter is still on agenda. Check out 20/30 comment website: www.territory2030.nt.gov.au open for public comment

Accommodation shortage– cant create what we don’t have – use every available opportunity
Ongoing issue

Grey nomad brochures – co-op advertising with Tony Renshaw discussions continuing

TCA UPDATE:

Signage on West Macs - Tony Renshaw (DPI) has advised \$25,000 available. Peter distributed an example signage as per Oodnadatta track sign photo. Suggested road inspector plus drivers provide input on road condition update. TCA got it going - DPI need to make it work. Consideration on placement of signs was discussed. John Stafford advised of funds allocated for signage for Red Centre Way which could be integrated with these funds. Road report distribution is available to all operators.

H Endorsements – Peter continued to advise Operators to act on straight away. Difficulties expressed by operators to TCA as losing employees during the waiting time. Intention to organise meeting with Rocky, Phil and Pete to meet with NT Police rep Shaun Parnell to discuss these concerns

Crimtrak is Online. Phil advised to send documents direct to Darwin after verification. Ensure employees have correct documentation for 100 points requirements to assist in time factor.

Reminder of Ecotourism Conference in November

Reminder of Australian Regional Tourism Conference in early September. Will include field trips – John Stafford advised seeking interest from Operators shortly.

General Business meeting on 27 May at Alice Springs Turf Club - presentation will be given on the Events Sector and events scheduled for 2009 and how members can be involved via their business, ie hire cars, busses etc

Recent TCC Meeting update on 30 April:

Board has quite a few new members to be advised

Media DVD is available and soon onto website

New viewing area roadside stop on new road – has been inspected and deemed safe

Online training course CD's going to print - official launch in July

First 100 people enrolled will get it for \$70 (\$170)

Visitor surveys revealed concerns of lack of toilets at Coach sunset area and lack of drinking water as most noted. Appears to be Traditional owners vs Parks Australia on toilets. Upgrade of toilets at Kata Tjuta plus Valley of the Winds (never any previous mention of Valley of the Winds) but construction difficulties have stopped this going ahead.

Bulk ticket discount removal discussions – did not agree to a particular date until after new system is in place – stalemate at present. Discussion then took place regarding prepaid tickets, delays if purchasing from Ticket Station at Uluru if tickets not pre purchased etc.

Action: TCA to contact relevant companies to write letters of opposition to this proposal. TCA to collate and forward to the Director of Parks - Peter Cochrane (CBR). Operators to include they are licensed and permitted to work in that area

OTHER BUSINESS:

Peter advised of following diary dates:

27 May: TCA General Business meeting - invitation going out shortly for attendance. Dysons to provide bus service to Alice Springs Turf Club.

July 3 and 4: 50th anniversary of ASP Show. TCA has booked a 25 x 15 metre marquee for operators to be involved to showcase their products/services. Showcase to include large vehicles. Do not have to be there for whole 2 days although encouraged, volunteers will be available to assist. Need to fill area and make it vibrant for the public. Set up own tables and displays.

Sept 11: TCA Golf Day - reserved for 50 teams – flyers going out shortly

Desert Guides night held last week – 24 people in attendance – great night. Successful strategy from TCA and TNT

Rocky:

Review of CPV industry about to begin. Have just released a paper on 9 categories – proposed to bring it down to 3 (draft only). Presently putting together a paper in regard to response. Rocky attending a meeting at 3pm on Fri 15 May, with some of the directors of DPI to discuss bus side of things – open to members to attend.

Concern expressed on difficulties of taxi industry being integrated into transport industry because of different issues.

Parking at top of Anzac Hill signage needs to change from “coach parking” to “drop off zone” only

Action: TCA to discuss with ASTC

Power Lines - Minister Rob Knight is fully aware of issues and consulting the rural action group. Many letters of concern have been received.

Action: Peter to send out Ministers response to members

Phil: Driver Fatigue - Phil reported hitting brick wall with all avenues sourced. NTC will now only comment to those operators operating in a region where legislation has been passed. NT does not have legislation in place so we as operators, are between a rock and hard place as NTC won't pass on info to NTG. We don't want NT legislation passed but can't get answers until legislation is put in place !

Phil is worried that NTG might be doing a deal with Federal Govt behind the scenes as we cannot get any answers. Example of long hours re early mornings sunrise and late sunset evenings tours aggravate our problem but these tours are marketed right around the world. NT has major issues because of our distances and remoteness. NT Cattleman's Assoc have a different set of reasons not to be included

Action: Peter to contact appropriate agency (Simon and Stuart) who originally drafted legislation, to express our concerns of no consultation and ask them what the status is, at present.

Jessica – P&WL:

Re tour operator permit concern: Rangers come across a tour vehicle and report it – those operators are then contacted for current permit or payment. Jessica will get P&WL Permit person to contact Peter to discuss if any way TCA can be of assistance in an educational manner before outside operators arrive in the NT.

Re rental vehicles Jessica queried if any direction given when hiring vehicles on where they can travel, as Parks are coming across all wheel drives in difficult areas. Are people informed re 4WDing techniques. Members advised this advice is usually given, on where vehicles can go and insurance levels also came into play.

Park will be setting up meeting with Roads to discuss off main road tracks signage etc.

Visitor surveys have commenced again.

Round the Table Discussions

Next Meeting: 10 June 2009 at 10:00 TCA Boardroom.

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm