



**Transport SECTOR MEETING**  
Wednesday 11 March 2009 TCA Boardroom

Meeting Commenced 10:05 am

**ATTENDANCE:** Warwick Rock (APT), Phil Taylor (Wayoutback), Henry Szczypiorski (DPI), Jessica Bonanni (P&WL) Don McDonald (Alice Springs Airport),) Anita Meyer (OnTour NT), PJ Besser (DUT), Tija McMullen (Adventure Tours) Peter Grigg (TCA)

**APOLOGIES:** Denise Horner (Emu Tours), Andy Hood (Tourism NT), Wayne Thompson (Dysons), Peter Lewis (Greyhound) Ron Johnstone (Palm Valley Tours)

**GUESTS:** Dave Nixon (Parks & Wildlife NT)

**CHAIRPERSON:** Warwick Rock (APT),

**MINUTES:** Merrilyn McIver (TCA)

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to the meeting's attendees.  
A motion was put forward that minutes of the February 2009 meeting be accepted.

**Moved:** Phil Taylor **Seconded:** Don McDonald  
**Motion carried.**

Dave Nixon, Interpretation Officer with P&WL, gave an Update on Red Centre Way

- His back ground brief
- Document is avail on website  
<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/heritagelisting/values.html>
- Encompasses 4 themes of: aboriginal people, landscape, art & history
- Broken into 2 areas of Website production and Content production
- Will have a visitor centre at the Desert Park
- Interpretation of Red Centre Way will be audio only to begin with
- Celluloid and photographic archive will not be included in first stage
- iphone, sun compass, virtual visitor guides all ideas for future investigation
- Re visitor centre: up for consideration - making use inside the ASDP exhibition centre plus a commitment for CBD based Visitor Information Centre as ideal partnership for Red Centre Way and Tourism Central Australia
- Plan of Management for Parks being written at present – so interpretation of RCW being incorporated
- Proposal of two centres being the ASDP and the CBD visitor area
- Website to have linkages for bookings - Proposed late August for website launch
- Second tender will be for infrastructure tender

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

**Biofuel workshop:** 24 May meeting invitation to be distributed

**Action:** Peter to ask Jimmy Cocking to distribute

**HR endorsements:** Peter reiterated to ensure renewals action asap.

Discussion on not enough notice between receiving renewal and completing procedure.

**Action:** Peter advised he has left message with May regarding registered mail request.

Peter to request renewals be sent out 2 months in advance as not enough notice at present to get done

Rocky advised contact in Darwin is [pauline.williams@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:pauline.williams@pfes.nt.gov.au). Pauline has been very helpful to us in processing criminal history checks required for the H Endorsements. Pauline's contact details: Officer in Charge, Criminal History and Warrant Unit, Peter McAulay Centre, PO Box 39764, Winnellie NT 0821

Fee will be going up from \$30 to \$50 from the 1st April 09

<http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=128>

Peter reported the Red Centre Way opening statement of report supports sealing of Meernie Loop road

**Maps:**

Peter checked out maps available – no road name attached to some of the minor roads into Owen Springs, Palm Valley etc and topographical maps – no names on those either. Maps will also be available from Desert Dwellers for purchase

Henry advised their maps are for internal use only – his department is not a mapping authority. Vorlogs for internal use only. Maps only made available to their contractors.

Discussion again on the names and length of some roads ie Larapinta Drive from town to Kings Canyon.

Peter queried who to contact to get the Palm Valley road named the “Palm Valley” road? To be more definite on what areas of road are actually closed. There has to be a better system. Don advised of the independent body for road name changes to approach

**Road closures:**

Phil queried the road closure process and length of time of closure of roads

Henry reiterated they are happy with the way the road closures are reported. There are legal obligations of the Act on this process.

Meeting suggested Dept changes way of reporting road closures

Dept is reviewing road closure procedures to try and identify the smaller areas open

Peter advised Owen Springs and Palm Valley roads to be taken off further agendas.

Meerenie Loop road: Peter has meeting with Tourism Minister end of this month to discuss.

Kings Canyon – Jessica advised Gary has drafted document to be distributed shortly

**Correspondence In/Out:**

Chris Burns has responded on behalf of Dehlia Lawrie to our letter. Phil advised his letter has been forwarded to various people and awaiting response.

**Signage:**

Peter checked out signage regarding drinking bans etc. They are in place and cannot change as it is action through intervention. Anita suggested tourism comment input may assist with replacement of softer advice. Federal Government has advised the signage is for the traveler on the road as well as access into communities.

Motion business be accepted

**Moved:** Peter Grigg **Seconded:** Anita Meyer

**Motion Carried**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **Labour Agreement:**

Anita gave an update that nothing has happened within last year

- Bus driver eligible but tour guide is not on 457 visa.
- Believe guides belong in the transport sector
- Support is zero - guides are on exclusion list
- Tourism industry and in particular, guide duties are not understood.

Immigration act needs to accept tourism guides as a profession not presently recognized.

Guides cannot be called managers to get round it ie insurance concerns

Problem is other companies are bringing in people called escorts with no skill base. Escort does not reside in Australia but on a normal holiday visa so jobs being taken away.

Difficulty in getting multilingual people to come to Alice Springs.

Peter commented on the Kakadu Guides course available on line which he will be asking Minister to remove from website as no onsite experience

Peter bringing up 5 issues during his meeting with minister later this month:

1. Still find it critical that tour guides are excluded as an acceptable profession
2. Guides vs. escort situation
3. Explain guides are not available here otherwise we would employ them
4. Minister delivered letter of support to our industry
5. Kakadu course

Will request Minister to address above matters to bring response to next meeting.

Rocky clarified that Tour Guides are definitely welcome at our meeting.

### **Driver Fatigue Management:**

Update on letter from Phil re driver fatigue.

Phil advised he had a meeting with Minister through TNT but Ministers response claims no legislation in place.

Major issue, but need more responses

Received numerous contacts from Opposition who are taking up this issue

**Action:** Peter to bring up this matter at his meeting with the Tourism Minister  
Ongoing

Owen Springs road open last week

Palm Valley road – access point past campground, reports of lot of vehicles getting stuck

**Action:** Jess to check with P&WL if their responsibility and report back

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Rocky:** enquired from Henry of reports of redirecting traffic on Heavitree/Palm. Henry replied a public meeting had been held with invitations to involved business people. He advised a scheme is being promoted that the Causeway at Heavitree becomes an access - one way from town only, to enter causeway with exit for entire area to be the bridge.

Henry advised they are now pursuing causeway to be one way traffic only. Note that previously the causeway was mooted to be removed.

New design proposed to take place within this financial year

**Action:** Peter requested Henry bring design to next meeting as need to be kept informed, as some concerns expressed.

**Phil:** expressed concern re grey nomad convoy speeds. Suggest we arrange a flyer on road etiquette in conjunction with the Police Dept, to be distributed by the police and as a PR exercise by them. To visit local camping sites, caravan parks, national parks etc to circulate such information to visitors

Flyer to also include rules on wood collection which applies to FIT travelers

**Action:** Peter to draft such flyer to distribute as above and through Visitor Centres up and down highway and include and approach caravan parks and police to be involved as a road courtesy exercise.

**Peter:** TCA trying to put together a photo gallery of promotion of our region , Suggested a competition amongst members to give opportunity to use great photos. To be displayed on our website for our use only. Asked members for their thoughts on such a proposal.

50<sup>th</sup> year of ASP show – TCA looking at putting up a huge marquee and invite all members to be involved in promotion of their product. Engage such features as vehicles, safari camps, etc. Small cost to members to be involved for space area

Like a mini trade show.

Around the table reports ..not minuted.

**Meeting closed** 12:05 pm

**Next Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009 10:00 TCA Boardroom.