

**THE HEART.
THE SOUL.**



THE CENTRE.

**Transport SECTOR MEETING
Wednesday 14 July 2009 TCA Boardroom**

Meeting Commenced 10:05 am

ATTENDANCE: Warrick Rock (APT), Henry Szczypiorski (DPI), Anita Meyer (OnTour), Wayne Thompson (Dysons Group), Phil Taylor (Wayoutback), Rob Cowan (Rock Tour), Gary Weir (P&WL) Chris Martin (TNT), Jill Catchlove (P&WL), Peter Grigg (TCA)

APOLOGIES: Harry Osborne (Ossies Outback Tours) Kevin Reid (Central Car Rentals) Brett Hill (Adventure Tours), Tia McMullen (Adventure Tours), John Stafford (TNT), Andy Hood (TNT) Don McDonald (Alice Springs Airport)

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 June 2009 meeting were accepted.

Moved: Phil Taylor **Seconded:** Jill Catchlove

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

3b. Garden of Eden, P&WL looking at putting in receptacles for cigarette butts and doing some water sampling. Industry consensus at June meeting was to stop swimming. Rob Cowan from The Rock Tour advised it was still their intention to allow the option to swim to clients in line with education around the swim. P&WL putting out a feedback proposal for distribution to TCA members

3c. Tour Operator Permit system discussion points

- Reduction of fee costs for under 6 visits
- Accredited operators excluded from fee charge
- Signage to reflect the requirement of a permit requirement so ignorance is not an excuse.
- Ongoing discussion regarding following up on illegal operators in Parks with no permit.

3d. Palm Valley Road trip took place recently with Henry, to check out road. Henry advised the trip was valuable to discuss the complaints re vehicle damage and experiences of travellers. Needs to stay as a 4x4 road to ensure safety. Henry to organize some areas of repair on the road as discussed. Need to clear some areas to ensure larger buses can get through but road needs to remain as natural as possible. DPI supervisors need to visit areas more regularly with regular reports from operators still beneficial. Henry intends to examine more roads. Discussion on 4x4 driving techniques and expectations. 4x4 driving instruction signage a suggestion.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS:

4a. Tourism Accreditation :

Accreditation will provide a number of incentives for TCA members supporting accreditation providing Govt continues to advertise why it should be in effect and benefits to operators

4b. Emergency Services Contact Numbers:

Suggested a spreadsheet of all after hours emergency services and industry contacts
Confirm with Brett (Adventure Tours) this was his intention.

Action: Peter to arrange a list of emergency numbers to send out to members.

4c. Damage of Lilliput Rim Walk, Watarrka National Park:

Gary advised site is becoming very damaged. Proposed the interpreter sign to that area again be removed to take focus off the area and asked if any impact with operators? Suggested local industry would support that action.

Rocky asked Gary if Rangers are on duty during school holiday trips. Gary reported patrols are Daily but difficult to keep tabs during the entire day with various groups.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5a. Peter advised a “Component Price Advertising” evening was held recently. Impact on advertising pricing structures under the new law requirements. Website available for information on this.

5b. Rocky advised the Uluru Kata Tjuta compulsory “Online Course” to be launched shortly. Briefings in Asp on 23/24 July at 7:00 pm Desert Lantern regarding how the course is run. Cost is \$160 with an 18 month window to complete the 40 hour course.

Rebate is available - ie TCA has \$5000 for first 100 people enrolled. Discussion on the actual content of the course ie in relation to Kakadu course and consistency is required. Peter queried the operators having to pay for their staff - guides should pay for their own as a responsibility for those wanting to work, to get their licences.

Action: Email to be sent to members to advise of this evening.

5c. Rocky spoke to Chris at P&WL – number of operators being refused entry at Gate for carrying firewood in so a note to all operators to advise their Guides this is an illegal practice

5d. Rocky - Uluru Plan of Management is presently in draft form.

Seeking opinions particularly on suggestion of the closure of climb. Everyone to read and present comments to National Parks.

Peter sees this as a great opportunity to ensure the walk is maintained and taken to next step as a guided walk with an indigenous guide to control the climb, also limiting numbers and addressing safety issues etc. Could charge a fee. Great opportunity for indigenous people to engage in the idea of conducting another area particularly in sensitive areas. Income may offset the banning of bulk purchase tickets. Could be one direction TCA can present.

5e. Bulk Park Tickets - from Jan 1st, 2010, operators will lose discount on ticket purchases. Goes to Uluru board meeting in October. Suggested TCA to submit one last attempt with evidence to advise we are providing a service for them. As yet the online system has not yet been developed and would like to see their decision deferred until all arguments put forward and online system is available.

Encourage all operators to write to present to Parks

Action: TCA to check figures of tickets distributed to operators

5f. Peter advised re Uranium debate was originally presented to TCA Exec whose stance was that every TCA member would have their own opinion. At the last General Business meeting in June, Peter tabled a survey that Wayoutback ran which had interesting statistics and this survey is available to other operators.

Agreed that TCA would put together a survey to the bulk of our operators and run through VIC centre also for other input so we could gather statistic percentages. If other operators are interested in doing this survey, to contact Phil Taylor. Engage our members to see what their concerns are.

5g. Wayne advised was speaking with Adam Giles recently and Adam is very interested in the Fatigue Management matter. Adam would be interested in attending Transport meeting. Peter advised of previous conversations with Adam and cannot see a problem with Adam attending.

Action: Send invitation to Adam Giles and Gerry MacCarthy to attend separate meetings.

ROUND THE TABLE

Next Meeting: 12 August 2009 10:00 TCA Boardroom.

Meeting closed at 12.15 pm