

Notes of Parkcarers meeting for update on the ACTG Tracks and Trails Strategy
11 June 2014

Odile Arman (P&CS) gave a general overview of progress to date acknowledging the submissions made in January and that P&CS has been working with CBRE to re-write the draft strategy.

CBRE summarized the main themes of the comments received:

- The scope – why only off-road trails? Why not urban parks? The answer is to do with jurisdiction. P&CS has jurisdiction over the non-urban reserves etc, Roads ACT has jurisdiction over the urban trails.
- Need for interdepartmental co-operation – recognized, and that P&CS needs to help other agencies understand what it is doing.
- Conservation needs to be given greater documented emphasis. CBRE advised that this had been a ‘given’ by the authors in the November 2013 draft and now recognized it had not then been apparent to other readers.
 - All existing legislation requirements have to be met when doing any work on tracks and trails. Management Plans are pretty well top of the list.
 - Need to cater for use at Kowen which may be regarded a bit as a sacrificial site.
- Decision making criteria needed to be changed. This has now been done: 1. The environment, 2. Emergency access, 3. Recreation. Also the values provided for criterion have been adjusted so that it is (practically / completely / impossible to outweigh the environment criterion unless it is the only option for emergency access). There is a simple assessment sheet of criteria for each track / trail. P&CS staff have road tested the assessment tables and consider they pretty well match their intuition.
- Need for a transparent decision making process – top priority is data collection – what tracks and trails are where, then decide on retain / remove / close, create. Also upgrade to better suit the usage and terrain.
- Timing of actions – now described as Short, Medium and Long Term, budget and other resources dependent. Also Critical, Must do, Nice to do.
- Costs – indicative \$s – showing one or more \$ signs rather than figures – defined by need for resources and timing
- Ongoing community involvement – recognized and help is likely to be sought to identify the tracks and trails.
- Recreation users feel they are being gradually pushed out (particularly (?) equestrians).
- Final report removes much of Chapters 1 and 2 which provided the context necessary for discussion.
- Process from now on – P&CS is hopeful and optimistic the Strategy will be complete in the next 2 – 3 months, ready to be used for 2015-16 Budget submissions.

The attendees seemed generally satisfied.