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 Minister for TAMS

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URGENT

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| TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES | |
| Isaacs Ridge Mountain bike Trail Network Upgrade | |
| B15/153 | |
| DUE TO MINISTER'S OFFICE | High Priority |
| CRITICAL DATE | 20 July 2015 |

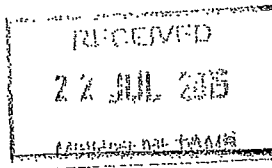
Notes:

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|-----------------|--|-------|
| Division | Infrastructure, Roads and Public Transport | |
| Branch/Section | Capital Works Design and Delivery | |
| Action Officer: | Sophie Clement | 74857 |



ACT
Government

Territory and Municipal Services



B R I E F

TRIM: B15/153

15 July 2015

To Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

- Director-General *BS 21/7/15*
- Director-General's Executive Officer *AN 21/7/15*
- Director, Finance *AKP 20/7/15*
- Executive Director, Roads, Transport and Public Transport *DA 21-7-15*
- Senior Manager, Capital Works Design Delivery *JH 16/7/15*

From Manager, Urban Parks & Reserves, CWDD

Subject Isaacs Ridge Mountain Bike Trail Network Upgrade

Recommendation

That you:

- note the information contained in this brief; and **NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**
- agree to the Isaacs Ridge Trail Network public consultation strategy - (Attachment B).

AGREED/NOT AGREED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Shane Rattenbury MLA *23/7/15*

AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Please note additional comments on press release

Critical Date

- **HIGH PRIORITY** – to allow the public consultation period to commence on Monday 27 July 2015.

Purpose

To inform you of the Isaacs Ridge Mountain Bike Trail network upgrade project and to seek your agreement to hold public consultation in accordance with the public consultation strategy attached (Attachment B).

Background

Isaacs Ridge includes an area of approximately 23 hectares of ACT Government Commercial pine plantation managed by Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) which is bordered by Isaacs Ridge Nature Reserve. The area is used by various recreational users including walkers, runners, equestrians and bike riders. This project seeks to upgrade the Isaacs Ridge mountain bike trail network to make it safe for all users and enable PCS to approve events in the area.

Issues

It is estimated there are 5+ kilometres of existing, mostly downhill, mountain bike trails at Isaacs Ridge unofficially constructed by members of the public. These trails are designed to be ridden at high speed utilising the steep, rocky upper slopes and include jumps over fire roads that do not have clear lines of sight.

PCS do not have knowledge of the surety of these trails in terms of safety, stability, suitability or environmental impact and have significant concerns with the safety of the site and potential for user conflict. Community members and groups have been utilising and conducting events on this trail network for many years and would like to formally undertake sanctioned events.

Mountain bike riding is permitted on most formed trails within Canberra Nature Park reserves; purpose built "single track" trails are largely limited in the reserves. The sport is known to be growing in popularity and community feedback suggests a strong need for more designated places within the urban landscape of the ACT, in particular for downhill style trails. Providing mountain bike trails in PCS approved areas can assist in stopping the proliferation and use of illegal trails in more sensitive ecological areas and nature reserves.

In response to these issues and ongoing approval requests from local groups to run events on the trails at Isaacs Ridge, the ACT Government engaged Anthony Burton & Associates to undertake a preliminary study on how to engage the local community and propose an approach for formalisation of the trail network.

Attachment A - Isaacs Ridge Recreation Facility Community Engagement and Concept Plan, November 2014, Anthony Burton & Associates.

Consultation

Isaacs Ridge Trail Network upgrade Communication Strategy is at Attachment B.

Formation of a volunteer group for ongoing maintenance of the trails at Isaacs Ridge may be more challenging than previous projects such as Majura Pines due to the trail type attracting majority of users from outside of the adjacent suburbs.

Financial

Funding of \$185,000 has been allocated from the TAMS Capital Upgrades 2015-16 Budget to undertake consultation and upgrade the mountain bike trail network at Isaacs Ridge.

Media

A media release is drafted at Attachment C.



Di Hill
Manager, Urban Parks & Reserves
Capital Works Design & Delivery

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