

Canberra Nature Park Draft Reserve Management Plan Team
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Canberra Nature Park Draft Reserve Management Plan

Pedal Power ACT commends the Parks and Conservation Service for this very comprehensive draft plan. While Pedal Power ACT supports the conservation and environmental aspects of the draft plan, this submission focuses on the recreational aspects.

Every week many of Pedal Power's 7500 members appreciate the close proximity of Canberra's nature reserves and use them for recreation and commuting. One of our regular weekly recreational rides enjoys the reserves most weeks.

Pedal Power endorses the goals of the draft plan, in particular:

Canberra Nature Park makes a significant contribution to the liveability of the city and health of the community.

and its related key outcomes:

- Nature-based experiences, including recreation and tourism, are enhanced through the provision of contemporary facilities, programs and information.
- Accessibility is increased through the use of innovative technology and enabling facilities.
- Canberra Nature Park provides a key venue for activities and experiences that improve community physical, emotional and social well-being

Our comments on the key elements of most relevance to Pedal Power ACT follow.

Infrastructure

Table 6.2 sets out the infrastructure policy for the reserve management zones 1 and 2. The policy on Management trails should include existing as well as new trails, with similar wording to walking and multiuse tracks: May be redesigned and constructed to improved standards utilising lowest impact methods. Many of Pedal Power's recreational rides use management trails. Improving them would benefit both users and the reserve itself.

Nature-based experiences

Pedal Power supports strongly:

- the Healthy Parks Healthy People approach, p 74
- the proposed **review of tracks and trails**, p75 – this should be a high priority action, and produce a clear list and map of what is a walking track and what is a multiuse track.
- contributing to the ACT 2020 Tourism Strategy outcomes by providing information on management trails and multiuse tracks as well as the example cited 'helping self-guided tours that utilise a range of interpretive tools', p75

The Management Plan should make it clear that management trails are also used extensively for recreation and commuting. While that is noted on p 82 and in the detailed sections on each nature reserve, it is not in the general narrative at p 77.

The draft plan, at p 77, refers to:

'Sealed cycle paths (shared use) are designed and constructed to cycleway standards and maintained by Roads ACT.'

It would be more accurate to say:

Sealed shared use paths for cycling and walking are designed and constructed to active travel standards and are built and maintained by Transport Canberra and City Services.

The draft plan notes:

Canberra Nature Park has an extensive network of management trails and multi-use tracks where cycling is permitted. Cycling and mountain biking are not permitted on walking tracks.' There is currently little indication in the Park of what is a walking track and what is a multiuse track, other than a 'no bike riding' infographic on some tracks. The proposed review of these tracks and trails should clearly identify each type. Pedal Power ACT considers that there is greater scope for more tracks to be classified as multi use. Our members are willing to assist in identifying tracks which should be clearly identified as multiuse.

The considerations for development of new of the use tracks should include connections with unsealed multiuse tracks and shared use sealed paths.

Pedal Power supports the cycling and mountain biking best practice dot points in box 4, p 83.

Pedal Power does not support 'cycling not permitted' in Jerrabomberra West Grasslands, table 7.1, p 84. We appreciate the need to protect the Grassland Earless Dragon but submit occasional cycling should be permitted on the management trail in the Grasslands to enable Canberrans to appreciate this reserve.

Reserve Complexes

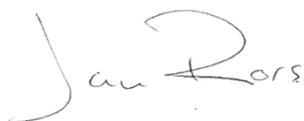
Without going into detail on each reserve of (as is done in the draft plan), Pedal Power ACT submits that the Management Plan should make it clear that the proposed review of tracks and trails should:

- identify and clearly delineate walking tracks and multiuse tracks
- provide scope to change classifications where appropriate
- recommend an action plan for design and construction for tracks that have multiuse potential.

Conclusion

Pedal Power looks forward to the finalisation and implementation of the Management Plan and to assisting Parks and Conservation Service as a relevant user group of the Canberra Nature Park.

Yours Sincerely



Ian Ross
CEO, Pedal Power ACT

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