

22nd June 2008

The Standing Committee
Planning and Environment
ACT Legislative Assembly

RE: Submission to Draft Territory Plan 281.
Horse Trails through new development of North Weston and Molongo.

With reference to Structure Plan Molongo and North Weston document 5.6 Open space and recreation point 65:

“ Horse trails are to be incorporated into the development. The trails shall link to existing facilities including the National Horse Trail, the Pegasus Disabled Riding School, Forest Park Riding School, the public Equestrian Park in Yarralumla, pony clubs and agistment facilities . The trails shall also connect to recreations trails in the International Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park.”

The current North Weston, Coombs and Wright Concept Plans do not show any evidence of providing equestrians with any of the above links. The Bicentennial Trail is a National Trail for Equestrians, Walkers and Cyclists. It extends from Frankston in Victoria to Cooktown. It is 5,600 kms in length and attracts many local and overseas tourists. It is important it is provided with the safest and most scenic routes thru Canberra with access to water points for horses and people and designated camping areas. It is also used by the Canberra community and links to cycle paths and interconnecting equestrian trails, green spaces and agistment facilities are essential.

I would like to make a submission that the Bicentennial National Trail be re routed leaving the existing trail to Stromlo Forest Park.

New Diversion route

Starting at the T section of Eucumbene and Warramanga Drives. From Eucumbene Drive, following within the open green space on the northern side of Warragamba and Dixon Drives behind the Stromlo Village. This area will be a most safe and attractive route in the future when the trees grow. The other factor is whether the trail would then have to cross the Weston Creek via a footbridge and continue to what appears to be an underpass under the Cotter Road near the junction of Streeton Drive on the plan and follow in the green space near the bicycle path around the proposed pond. The existing new footbridge could then be used to recross to the pond and gain access to the Clos Bridge and continue on the existing trail and Equestrian Park.

This option would then be able to link up a well used unofficial horse trail from Iloura, Yarralumla and Curtin Community Horse Paddocks thru a green space under the Tuggeranong Park way at Heysen Street and following north behind the CIT School land up the Parkway on a very wide green space and down the green space under which appears to be an old pipeline coming out onto the bicycle path on Streeton Drive. Some

fencing would be required up above the parkway to ensure horses do not run onto the parkway for the short distance it follows above the parkway.

Another option re routing the BNT to incorporate other trails.

I would like to make a submission to re route from the T section of Eucumbene and Warragamba as described above following down opposite the ACT Forestry crossing the road preferable with an underpass and accessing the new suburbs of Coombs around the green space on the edge of the pond following down and crossing the Molongo River to on the existing Clos Bridge to the existing trail and onto Yarralumla Equestrian Park facility.

This option would also be able to link up eventually with the trail described above at the existing new footbridge.

I also would like to suggest that equestrians would also be able to ride the proposed parkland around the perimeter of the Coombs and Wright suburbs along the Molongo River and re-enter Stromlo Forest Park at a safe point. The ability also to use the other existing bridge across the Molongo and what looks like on the plan a new bridge at Misery Point would also make some interesting riding loops within the green spaces.

The above options would then be able to join up all the equestrian facilities down the Cotter Road with the existing trails of Eucumbene and Stromlo Park. The trails of Tuggeranong and Equestrian Complexes in that area. The agistments of Curtin, Yarralumla and Illoura and Equestrian Park.

Bicentennial National Trail be a much more safer route not being alongside the Cotter Road or going thru a busy construction site. It would provide an opportunity to promote the existing Equestrian Complexes and Agistment facilities in the area and provide interesting loops and safe riding away from vehicle traffic for the ten agistment facilities and Equestrian Park and the New Stromlo Recreational Park in the area.

The equestrian trails and agistment facilities are very unique in Canberra. Immediate Southside agistments are as within a 6km or less radius or one hours ride to the new development.

The community horse paddocks of Yarralumla, Illoura, Curtin, Arawang and Mt Neighbour.

The private agistment down the Cotter Road and at Duffy, Canberra Equestrian Centre, Stromlo Equestrian Centre, Milapuru Equestrian Centre, Kerribee Equestrian Centre and Riverview Equestrian Centre. The new Stromlo Forest Park and the Equestrian Park.

There are five more community horse paddocks within two hours ride away further into Tuggeranong.

The facilities cater for hundreds of equestrians of all age groups. They provide healthy outdoor activities from young children to the elderly. The horse owners have a huge input into the Canberra Economy with all related services required and attract many events to

Canberra. It is essential to incorporate connecting trails in the new plans to compliment the existing trail network.

I am an equestrian and ride right thru from Kosciusko National Park to Hall on the Bicennntenial National Trail as well as other connecting equestrian trails and thru our green spaces that connect areas. I know and understand the need to ride in a safe environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Costin

Section Co-coordinator Bicentennial National Trail Gundaroo to Mt Clear.