

Centennial Trail Submission

Don't miss the opportunity to establish a first class trail



ACTERA understands that the Centennial Trail is primarily for hikers and cyclists, but excluding horse riders and those who wish to travel the trail with the assistance of a pack animal is a missed opportunity.

ACT Endurance Riders Association

Submission - ACT Endurance Riders Association

Introduction

The ACT Endurance Riders Association (ACTERA) welcomes the ACT Government initiative of committing \$3.3 Million to the development of the Centenary Trail project, and appreciates the opportunity to comment on the feasibility study conducted by Anthony Burton & Associates.

About ACTERA

ACTERA is a community organisation of marathon horse riders, representing members in the ACT and surrounds. ACTERA's principal activity is to encourage horse riders of all ages to enjoy the Canberra surrounds by helping out and participating in regular horse riding activities ranging from 5km through to 160km rides. Endurance is one of the world's fastest growing equine sports, and Australian endurance horses and riders have established themselves amongst the elite, generating regular and substantial investment from the Middle East in particular.

Endurance riding in the ACT

The ACT is home to some of Australia's leading junior and senior riders - this sport draws together people from all walks of life in a healthy, fun, social and vibrant community. These riders rely on networks of trails that are continuous, as they regularly train up to 80km a week. ACTERA holds between one and three rides in ACT each year, attended by up to hundreds of people from ACT, Victoria, NSW and sometimes internationally.

ACTERA's membership base has been increasingly airing concerns that as horse riders, they feel discriminated against by the ACT planning authorities, when compared with other recreational users such as cyclists. ACTERA members consistently express a willingness to ride in designated areas, and to share these areas with other recreational users. As endurance riders, riding on the sides of bike trails, and roads is part of our daily life.

Horse riding – a reasonable proposition for the Centennial Trail

ACTERA understands that the Centennial Trail is primarily for hikers and cyclists, but it is our strong position, that it should be possible for horse riders to use the trail also. ACTERA considers that a decision to exclude horse riders and other people who wish to travel this trail with the assistance of a pack animal, as an unnecessarily narrow minded approach to the development of a multi-user trail – and a missed opportunity in making this facility a first class attraction in the ACT – the bush capital of Australia.

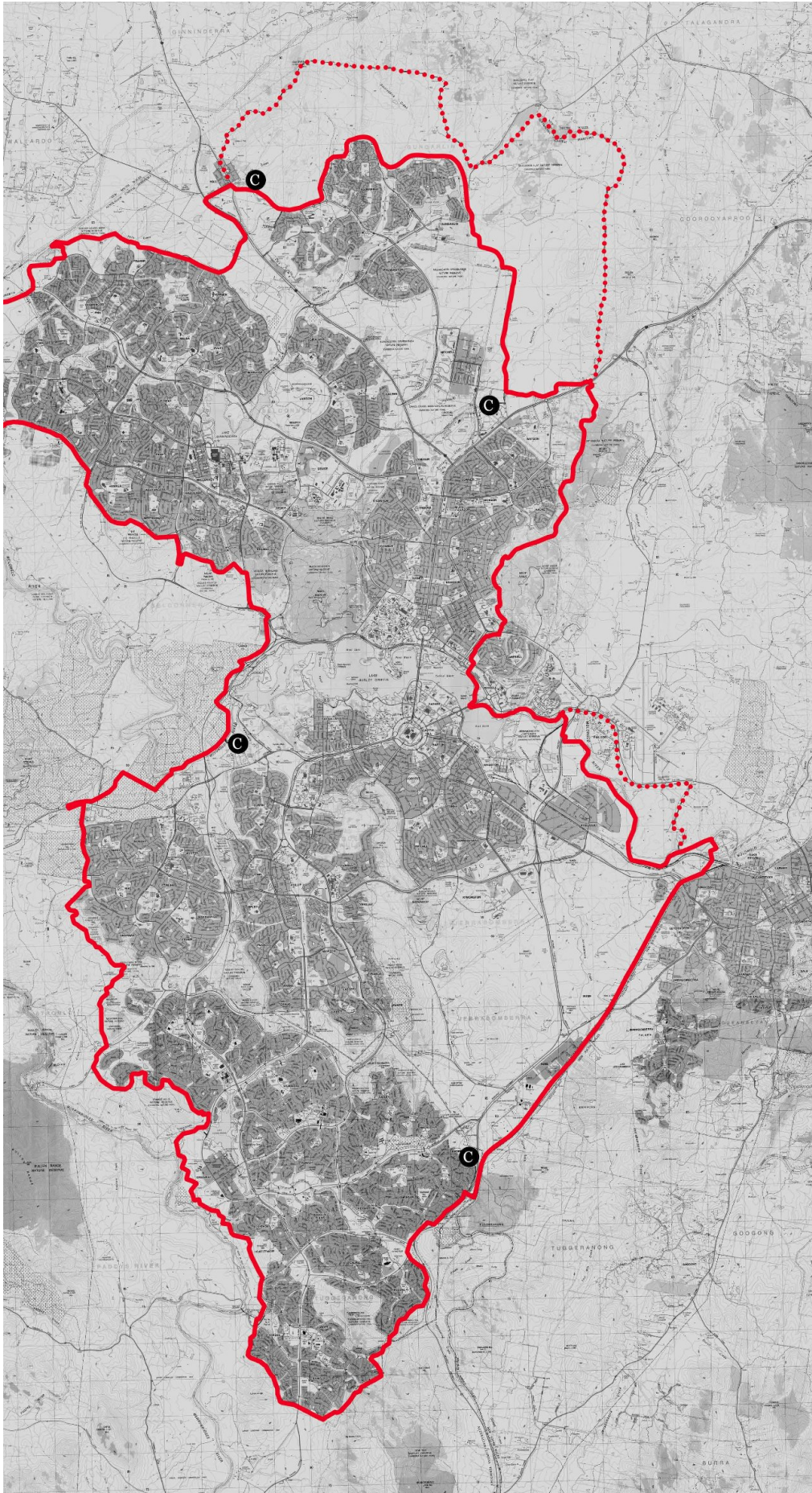
There are already pre-existing successful examples of shared trails through the ACT, including the Bicentennial Trail, the Pinnacle Nature Reserve, Mt Majura and Isaacs Ridge to name just a few.

Ongoing support

ACTERA would like to extend our support to provide further information on the ease with which this trail could be adapted (without additional cost), to enable animal transport to be used. For example, we are willing to highlight trail route alternatives (see map next page), to explain and discuss any concerns about multi-user trails (eg: trail width) and generally support the development of this project in any way possible.

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C is for major campsites

Dotted line is for possible alternatives

This map is a meld of 1:25 000 maps for Hall, Canberra and Tuggeranong.

Four maps are available on request for a more detailed appraisal.

Umburra is not included in this map but is available.

Explaining the map:

This is a preliminary outline for a 100 mile (160km) Centenary Trail around Canberra, accessible to all expeditioners, hikers, bikers and equestrians. This is designed to compliment the proposed 138km Trail by extending it to 100 miles. The distance is not exact yet and there are other ideas for more distance if required.

1. West side: Hall to Point Hut

1:25 000 Maps: Hall, (Umburra), Canberra Tuggeranong

This part of the trail uses the Bicentennial Trail, which is an established horse, bike, hiker shared trail.

It is currently being modified due to the building of north Belconnen and the Molonglo area with freeway.

Nevertheless, this trail remains open due to the agreed premise that there will be a trail from Cooktown, Qld to Omeo, Victoria.

Highlights en route:

Fabulous views

Historic Hall

Dunlop grasslands

Strathnairn (café)

Vineyards

The Pinnacle

Mt Painter

(Possibly Black Mountain if horses can be allowed in?)

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Arboretum (café pending)

Canberra Bushfire Memorial

Stromlo Observatory (café)

Cooleman Ridge

Tuggeranong Wall

Pine Island

Point Hut

(Possibly Lanyon Homestead if the trail can be extended on to the homestead?)

Possible camp sites:

Hall Showground

Belconnen Pony Club, Parkwood Drive

Equestrian Park, Cotter Road, Curtin

Blue Gums, Stromlo Forest (no power)

Kambah Pony Club, Hake Street, Kambah

Cnr Athllon and Pine Island Road (no power or water on site?)

2. South side: Point Hut to Gilmore

1:25 000 Map Tuggeranong

This part uses the fire truck and utility access road behind the houses.

Presumably this trail will be upgraded although it is ready to use now.

Highlights en route:

More fabulous views

Tuggeranong Hill

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Possible camp site

Tuggeranong Pony Club Lawson Cres, Gilmore (club closed but power and water and composting toilet on site)

3. East side: Gilmore to Federal Highway

1:25 000 maps Tuggeranong, Canberra, Hall

Trail uses the Monaro Highway underpass at Gilmore then along the old Canberra Cooma Railway track, which has a good dirt road/trail beside it already.

Jerrabomberra Creek crossing at Hume needs work. Bikes and walkers could use bridge but the horses would find that a bit too exciting. There is a lot of chicken wire and degraded road in the creek at this point.

The trail continues south side of the Molonglo River under the Monaro Highway at Canturf. There are some plans to make the Molonglo River part a safer commuter option for Canberra/Queanbeyan commuters?

Trail joins Diary Road and crosses Molonglo River.

There are two options here, using underpasses for Parks Way and Fairbairn Avenue via Anzac parade or crossing roads and using Mt Pleasant easement to get to Mt Ainslie?

Next part is established horse trails around Mt Ainslie and Mt Majura to the Federal Highway and the underpass at Bendora.

Highlights en route

More cool views

Tralee Station (property)

Environa property with amazing stone gateways visible from trail

Historic railway (explanatory sign up already)

Jerrabomberra Grasslands

Alexander Maconochie Centre!

Harman

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Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Lake Burley Griffin

Carillon

Blundell's cottage

Anzac Parade

War Memorial

Possible camp sites

Hume horse paddocks (no power)

Oaks Estate Horse Paddocks (no Power)

Kayak sheds picnic area on lake opposite Duntroon

Cnr of Constitution Ave and Anzac Parade (no power or water)

Hackett Horse Paddocks (no Power)

4. North Side: Federal Highway to Hall.

1:25 000 map Hall

Trail uses equestrian trail, then the fire truck and utility vehicle road behind the houses in Gungahlin and North Belconnen. At the moment the road is a work in progress as there is still a lot of building going on. Even so it is already possible to get through to Hall. This will improve as the building finishes over the next few months.

Preferably the new trail proposed north along the border to Hall via one Tree Hill will include horses. This would be a far nicer ride.

Horses will have to by pass Mulligans Flat Reserve. Cats and dogs are banned from there so it follows that horses will not be acceptable. Although they won't attack the wild life.

The trail could join the Bicentennial Trail after Nicholls or with permission go across to Hall via the communications tower.

Highlights en route

Amazing views

Wells Station

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Mullangarri Grasslands

Mulligans Flat

Possible camp sites

Exhibition Park

Hall Showground

Summary of Recommendations

ACTERA has one recommendation, supported by three propositions in response to this study, and the subsequent development of the trail:

- Recommendation: There should be 100 miles (160km) of Centennial Trail which is accessible to horse riders, and hikers who use pack animals to support their journey, should they choose to use it (eg: donkeys, alpacas etc).

This recommendation is based on the following propositions:

- Proposition one: Encouraging equine and pack animal use of this trail will have a positive impact on the ACT community members, and the ACT economy.
- Proposition two: Horse riders who use trails, are accustomed and comfortable with using multi-user trails, and do so currently, throughout the ACT via the Equestrian Trail network.
- Proposition three: 100 mile (160km) provides a wonderful platform for endurance events in many sports

Contact

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