Making the West Macs Even Better

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Karl Hampton today unveiled 2 new facilities in the West MacDonnell National park; a second viewing platform at the Ormiston Gorge Ghost Gum Lookout and an upgrade to the Simpson Gap Bike Path.

“Every year more than 120,000 people visit the magnificent West MacDonnell National Park, and by investing in our parks we are able to ensure visitors have a unique experience while we protect our environment,” said Mr Hampton.

“Here at Simpson’s Gap repairs and upgrades to the Bike Path Bridge are now complete, leaving us a safer bridge for riders with a great natural aesthetic.

“In keeping with our government’s commitment to sustainable development, the bridge is made from recycled plastic decking or ‘Replas’, saving landfill, trees and ensuring a longer life with less maintenance.”

The 17km track meanders through bushland between Flynn’s Grave and Simpsons Gap and is popular with locals and visitors alike.

“Alice Springs has a great bike culture and with the upgrades complete, residents can enjoy a short ride after school or work or a longer weekend explorations, while tourists can get to know and enjoy the natural environment around the town in a unique way," said Mr Hampton.

Mr Hampton also welcomed the completion of a second viewing platform at the Ormiston Gorge Ghost Gum Lookout.

“The rich red walls of Ormiston Gorge are one of the many spectacular sights walkers can experience along the Larapinta Trail.
“Besides the spectacular geology, the Ormiston Gorge Area contains fascinating array of native flora and fauna, including the re-discovered Long-tailed Dunnart and Central Rock Rat.

“This second stage of upgrades will allow for larger groups to experience the magnificent views of the Gorge whilst protecting the Ghost Gum and surrounding area from degradation.

“The West Macs are a great asset to Centralians and these new projects will allow more Territorians and tourists to experience their charms,” said Mr Hampton.

The projects were both completed by local contractors at a cost of $330,000 and are part of the Henderson Government’s $8 million tourism stimulus funding package

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