NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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Alice Springs could soon become a mecca for mountain bikers around the globe, with the opening of a new world-class trail network at the Telegraph Station.

The Country Liberals Government provided $150,000 to build the new trails, which have been constructed to international standards.

“The new mountain bike trails are the perfect way to explore the beauty of Central Australia,” said Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Bess Price, who officially opened the new network today.

“The heart of Australia is renowned for its dramatic landscapes that provide the perfect backdrop for adventures like mountain biking. Many people who live here are passionate about mountain biking and now enthusiasts from around the world can experience the wonders of our region too.

“The Country Liberals Government committed $150,000 to help formalise and upgrade trails at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station for beginners, intermediate and more experienced riders.

“The trails have been developed with local expertise and whether you are a local or a visitor, have days to explore or just a few hours there is something for everyone.

“Two local workers from the Tangentyere Council were employed to help develop the 31 kilometres of trails, which will take riders through some of the Central Australia’s most stunning landscapes in an area rich with Indigenous and settlement history.

“The new trails are a part of the Giles Government’s plan to make our parks more accessible, inviting and a better experience for all.”

Minister for Tourism Matt Conlan said the Government has already started to promote the trails to potential holiday makers and mountain bike enthusiasts to boost tourism in the region.

“The Government has been working with the local Central Australian Rough Riders Club to promote a new mountain bike event, Easter in the Alice, which will be the first event using the new Telegraph Station trail network,” Mr Conlan said.

“This event has already attracted over 40 interstate riders while the Ingkerreke Commercial Mountain Bike Enduro in May will also bring more visitors to Alice Springs helping to establish the Centre as a must-visit destination for mountain bike riders.”

The four new trails have been given traditional names for local animals in the area by the reserve’s joint management partners, the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation. The names are: Illentye (Galah), Arrwa (Black-footed Rock-Wallaby), Tyape (Witchetty Grub) and Apwelantye (Black Kite).

For more information on the trails go to: www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au

Media Contact:
Lauren Crawley (Minister Price) 0417 145 050
Lisa Andrews (Minister Conlan) 0401 579 963