Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Tourism

Bess Price
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

**NT on track to become world-class mountain biking destination**

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The Northern Territory is on track to become the mecca of Australian mountain biking following the release of the NT Government’s Mountain Biking Master Plan.

“Our Mountain Biking Master Plan will establish the Northern Territory as the adventure riding capital of Australia,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“From the dramatic landscapes and red dirt of Central Australia to the tropical reserves of the Top End, the Territory is the perfect backdrop for mountain bike riders.

“Our new master plan will help us grow this niche tourism market and attract even more holiday makers to the Territory, which will have positive spin-offs for local businesses.

“The master plan identifies the commercial and social opportunities that will help establish the NT and Alice Springs as a mountain-biking destination of genuine international standing.”

The master plan was developed collaboratively by government agencies, land managers, the tourism industry and community groups.

Feedback was taken into consideration and implemented in the final master plan, which all stakeholders have endorsed.

The single-track trails in Alice Springs are considered among the best in the world, with the added feature of being set in a unique, scenic, desert environment.

Alice Springs hosts two nationally recognised mountain biking events each year.

Parks and Wildlife Minister Bess Price said the Parks and Wildlife Commission had been leading the development of mountain biking experiences in the Territory.

Mrs Price said the NT Government understands the value of this lucrative niche tourism market and has delivered $1.33 million over two years to upgrade mountain bike trails across the Northern Territory.
There are now professionally designed and constructed trails at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, Charles Darwin National Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve.

“Through the master plan, Alice Springs’ potential to become a truly world class mountain biking destination will be fully developed, with a range of trails and events suited to local, national and international tourist markets,” Mrs Price said.

In the 2016 Budget, the NT Government has allocated $200,000 for trail development in Alice Springs in 2016-17 and $250,000 in 2017-18.

Priority will be given to consolidation and improvement of the existing trail network in the Telegraph Station, West MacDonnell Ranges and the Westside and Eastside areas to build a world-class network.

As these plans come to fruition it is intended to pursue Ride Centre status, as recognised by the International Mountain Bike Association.

Other Budget provisions for developing mountain bike experiences in Territory Parks in 2017-18 include:

- $300,000 for Nitmiluk and Litchfield National Parks;
- $150,000 for Darwin Parks including Charles Darwin National Park;
- $180,000 for the West MacDonnell National Park;
- $250,000 for Watarrka National Park.

“These trails will deliver health and social benefits for Territorians and contribute to a stronger tourism economy,” Mrs Price said.

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Mountain biking master plan