

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 30 November 2017
Subject: Mountain Bike Trail
From: Mr Gerry Wood
To: Minister for Tourism and Culture
Agency: Department of Tourism and Culture

Number: 9-8

Question:

Could you tell us where on your list of priorities is the project to build a mountain bike trail along the old North Australia Railway line from Noonamah to Adelaide River?

Answer:

Throughout Australia and the world, mountain biking (MTB) has become a popular and significant sport, recreation and tourist market. In recognising the value of mountain biking to the community and tourism in the Territory, the *Mountain Biking in the NT Master Plan* was developed in 2016.

The second (of five) strategies within the *Mountain Biking in the NT Master Plan* focusses upon investigating the development of a small number of distinctive, world class adventure rides in NT's iconic landscapes to attract a range of adventure market participants.

The investigation of a multi-day distinctive ride in the Western or East MacDonnell Ranges is a high priority as it links to camping or cabin accommodation on the Larapinta Trail. It links to other key sites of interest such as Simpson's Gap, Standley Chasm, Ross River Homestead and Arltunga, and will build upon the mountain biking hub at the Telegraph Station Reserve in Alice Springs.

The establishment of a mountain bike trail along the old North Australian Railway line will be considered in 2018 as a part of the assessment process to determine future distinctive ride locations in the NT.