



ACT NATURE AND HERITAGE TRAILS STRATEGY

This project had its origins in the ACT Nature-Based Tourism Strategy 2000, which recommended:

"...the development of a comprehensive and integrated trails system to promote the sustainable use of our natural and cultural environment and enhance the health and well-being of Canberrans and their visitors".



The Brief for this Project went on to explain the need for a 'Strategy' in the following terms:

"The ACT provides a variety of recreational trails and nature based opportunities for Canberrans and visitors. Trails extend through urban, rural and bush lands, and across government agency and private tenure boundaries. The 4 key agencies responsible for managing open space are Canberra Urban Parks and Places, the National Capital Authority, ACT Forests and Environment ACT.

Existing trails have been developed by managing agencies, community interest groups or a combination of these. The current process of developing and marketing trails does not consider the trail within the broader scheme of an ACT trail network and how each trail fits within the spectrum of recreation opportunities offered."

The Brief confirmed that the study area included the whole of the ACT, with a primary focus on Environment ACT land. The four key goals of the project were nominated as being to:

- ◇ Identify trails across the ACT representing a broad spectrum of trail opportunities for users.
- ◇ Identify the demand for recreation trails in the ACT
- ◇ Identify linkages between and amongst trails to increase the number of loop trails
- ◇ Identify linkages with natural and cultural heritage sites to create thematic trail systems

The Brief for the project established three clear outcomes:

1. Key demand and supply report including:

- ◇ A comprehensive and detailed report on existing trails within each land management area in the ACT
- ◇ A comprehensive report on current and potential demand for recreational trail opportunities in each land management area in the ACT

2. A system for classifying and prioritising trails.

3. A framework for the Heritage and Nature Trails Strategy including, but not limited to:

- ◇ The approach to developing the Strategy
- ◇ Issues to be addressed in developing the Strategy
- ◇ Opportunities for loop and thematic trail development

This Study has established a valuable body of work upon which the full ACT Trail Strategy can be based. It has identified significant areas of demand; it has listed existing trails, and it has provided the mechanism for sorting and prioritising those trails. Further, it has raised a series of issues to be addressed during the full Strategy, and has provided a clear framework for the development of that Strategy. The ACT has outstanding natural attributes upon which to base a trail network of quality – and this project has established a firm foundation for that network.



The Namadgi National Park in the ACT provides numerous trail opportunities.



Numerous trails exist throughout the ACT - in National Parks and many throughout the urban bushland.