

CANBERRA CENTENARY TRAIL

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Centenary Trail?

The Centenary Trail is a 140 kilometre self-guided, non-motorised loop trail for walkers and cyclists that will showcase Canberra and take users on a journey between urban and rural environments past iconic sites and hidden treasures.

The Centenary Trail will have a symbolic start/stop point within the parliamentary triangle, and be divided into daily legs, spaced to service walkers and bike riders. Users will also be able to join or leave the trail in many locations.

The Centenary Trail is proposed to be:

- a **seven day walk**, averaging 20 kilometres per day; or
- a **three day ride**, averaging 45 kilometres per day.

Given the layout of the trail, it will also be able to achieve shorter trips. In particular, the existing paths along Lake Burley Griffin can be utilised as a 'short cut' to allow users to complete either the northern or the southern loop.

The trail makes use of existing fire trails, walking tracks and shared paths. Some of these may require upgrading. Approximately 20 kilometres of new trail will be constructed.

2. Why is it being developed?

The idea for a Centenary Trail arose from community submissions received in 2009 as part of the Canberra 100 call for project ideas. It has gained significant community support as an enduring means of acknowledging and celebrating Canberra's Centenary.

The Centenary Trail will provide a high profile community asset for locals and interstate visitors and will boost nature-based tourism in the region. It is expected there will also be economic gains from additional tourist visits generated by the trail.

The Centenary Trail will provide the community with a sustainable, environmentally friendly recreational and educational opportunity that encourages healthy activity.

3. What makes the Centenary Trail different from other 'self-guided' journeys?

The Centenary Trail can provide a semi-urban, nature-based experience within easy reach of the general public. It will be conveniently linked to accommodation and support services to allow walkers and cyclists to eat, sleep and enjoy Canberra within their budget.

4. Who will use the Centenary Trail?

Users of the Centenary Trail will be low intensity recreational walkers, runners and bike riders.

Low intensity walkers and runners enjoy the outdoors and may have experience walking and running in a range of settings and terrains but do not necessarily have the specialist skills or equipment necessary to undertake unassisted walks or runs in remote or challenging locations.

Similarly, low intensity bike riders will typically have basic riding abilities but may not have the skills, bike or equipment to negotiate steeper, more difficult terrain or technical trail features. These riders prefer trails which are designed to help maintain a consistent, controlled speed and minimise difficult ascents and descents.

Whilst the Centenary Trail will be designed to cater specifically to the identified target users, this will not be at the detriment of other potential users. The trail will be family friendly and encourage use by people with varying interests and a range of abilities, fitness and experience levels. It is important that the trail will allow for flexible use and that it segregates potentially conflicting user groups wherever necessary.

5. Is the Centenary Trail for extreme sports enthusiasts including mountain bikers?

Whilst it provides access to 'extreme' sports areas, the Centenary Trail itself is not intended to be extreme. It is proposed to be a safe, achievable and interesting journey.

The Centenary Trail aims to provide a recreational resource not currently available in the ACT, a multi-use natural surface trail which can be shared by both walkers and bike riders to the benefit of all users. Rather than a mountain biking facility, the Centenary Trail aims to offer a low intensity exploration of Canberra visiting the destinations that make Canberra great and interacting with their surroundings and other users.

6. Will the Centenary Trail impact negatively on other users of Canberra's open spaces?

The Centenary Trail should not be detrimental to other users of Canberra's open spaces. Rather, it should complement existing activities, either through the use of segregated trails, or limiting where the Centenary Trail goes to avoid excluding users from areas they currently value for their recreation potential.

There are locations where the trail will utilise paths shared with horse riders. This is only proposed where other options are not viable. Of high importance is maintaining access for equestrians to areas they currently utilise, notably the Bicentennial National Trail and equestrian trails in Canberra Nature Park. Horses will not be introduced into new open space areas as part of the Centenary Trail project.

7. Will the Trail impact negatively on sensitive areas?

The proposed route will be subject to an environmental assessment as part of the planning approval process prior to any new paths being constructed. Areas of high conservation value will be avoided.

Signage and a comprehensive code of conduct will be developed to encourage appropriate behaviours and avoid adverse impacts on sensitive areas. This includes where the trail passes through farming operations on private leases and nature reserves.

8. What will the Centenary Trail be made of and how wide will it be?

The trail will utilise natural, unpaved surfaces. Typically, the trail will follow fire trails as they offer a smooth track suitable for most users. Where new sections of trail are required the intention is to incorporate the soils and materials which are locally available. If local soils are unsuitable it may be necessary to import materials to provide stability and enhance the sustainability of the trail.

Sections of new and upgraded trail are proposed to be 1.2 metres wide and will incorporate features and vistas along the trail to encourage users to slow down.

9. What will the Centenary Trail project cost?

The ACT Government has allocated a total of \$3.3 million to the Centenary Trail project over three financial years.

This funding will cover required approvals; trail corridor refinement; construction of new sections of track; the upgrading of existing tracks as required; marketing, signage and other trail infrastructure; trail maps and, the development of a GPS based information and guidance system.

10. When will the Centenary Trail project be completed?

Construction of the trail is expected to commence mid-2012 with completion of the trail in Canberra's centenary year, 2013.

11. What is the proposed management method for the Centenary Trail?

It is proposed that the Centenary Trail will be managed by an independent volunteer board supported by paid administrative staff and ACT Government.

12. Is it too late to comment of the proposed Centenary Trail corridor?

No, the alignment shown in the *Canberra Centenary Trail Feasibility Report* (CB Richard Ellis, January 2011) was a first attempt at defining a trail route and was based on aerial photography and advice from land managers and potential users. This alignment was then tested in the field to arrive at the preferred alignment.

The consultation on the preferred alignment as documented in the *Centenary Trail Ground Truthing Final Report* (Anthony Burton and Associates, August 2011) closes on **Friday 10 February 2012**. The route will be further refined following community and stakeholder feedback.